



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, District 1
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: A Design Competition to Make City Hall Accessible
DATE: 6-6-14

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

A directive to City staff to conduct a design competition for the purpose of altering the main entrance of City Hall to be handicap accessible. This competition should include parameters that also protect the historic façade of City Hall.

Brief Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act enacted by Congress in 1990 is a civil rights act intended to protect and further equity and fairness for differently abled members of society. Although City Hall is compliant with the letter of the law, providing ADA access in the rear of the building at the basement level, it does not conform to the spirit of the law and presents an issue of discrimination: all visitors should be able to pass through the same iconic front entrance. We have an opportunity to address accessibility in full and ensure non-discrimination for all. The City of San Antonio has, in partnership with the American Institute of Architects, successfully hosted two design competitions in the past year, both of which have yielded beautiful and thoughtful enhancements to our City. The challenges and opportunities that come with making City Hall's front entrance handicap accessible should likewise be met through another such robust design competition.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, District 1