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

TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Councilwoman Jada Andrews Sullivan, District 2

COPIES TO: Erik Walsh, City Manager; Tina J. Flores, Interim City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Emily McGinn, Interim Assistant to City Council

SUBJECT: No Choke Policy

DATE: June 17, 2020

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 request to ban the practice of the lateral vascular neck restraint (LVNR) within the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD).

Brief Background

The LVNR is commonly known as a sleeper choke hold, or carotid chokehold, and it is a general term for a grappling hold that critically reduces or prevents either air (choking) or blood (strangling) from passing through the neck of a person. SAPD allows the use of LVNR when an officer is authorized to use 'deadly force' on a person. Currently, an officer is authorized to use deadly force, which includes the practice of the LVNR, when (1) an officer believes their life or the life of another person is in imminent danger and (2) justification for the use of deadly force is determined by the facts known or perceived by the officer at the time deadly force is employed.

Yet an officer also has a duty to de-escalate their use of force when a person's actions indicate that the method of force has achieved a level of compliance. Following this principle, it should be considered unlawful to continue the use of deadly force in the form of a choke hold, carotid chokehold, and/or a grappling hold that prevents air or blood from passing through if a person has already been restrained, tied down, or handcuffed. It should also be noted that officer reliance on deadly force disproportionately affects Black people in San Antonio. According to a Texas Tribune analysis of SAPD data, Black people made up 20% of the total number of people involved in 70 recorded incidents of officer use of deadly force between 2010-2015, yet Black people only make up less than 7% of the San Antonio population. Therefore, I ask for banning the practice of the LVNR within the SAPD.

Submitted for Council consideration by:

Jada Andrews-Sullivan
Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

District

1.

[Signature] 6

2.

[Signature] 1

3.

[Signature] 5

4.

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