



# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

**Julián Castro**  
Mayor

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## **City Action Plan Sprouts from Series of Successful East Side Revitalization Summits**

City leaders unveiled a comprehensive list of initiatives Saturday aimed at improving the quality of life in East San Antonio while attracting more long-term investment to the area.

Mayor Julián Castro said the outcome from three meetings with residents, investors and government officials was a community-based blueprint that could fundamentally change the face of the East Side.

“What we’ve accomplished here today is nothing short of historic,” Castro said. “This isn’t a plan that will go on a shelf, it’s an action plan that we can get started on right away.”

Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, who represents District 2 which encompasses the East Side, said the most heartening result of the process is that it bubbled up from the community.

“We asked residents what they wanted to see happen in their community, and we listened and responded,” Taylor said. “That strategy includes short-term goals like cleaning up our community, as well as longer term projects like attracting more investment.”

At the close of Saturday’s gathering at Sam Houston High School, City Manager Sheryl Sculley pledged to accomplish several objectives in the coming months. They include:

- Assigning 24 new police officers to a community policing unit on the East Side;
- Placing a greater emphasis on code compliance issues, including securing 150 already identified abandoned structures within 45 days;
- Increasing the number of stray animals picked up by city employees by 50 percent over six months;
- Appointing Brian James, assistant director of the city’s Center City Development Office, as a point person for East Side revitalization.

Sculley’s announcement came two days after the City Council approved an Inner City Reinvestment/Infill Policy to incentivize developers and investors to take on projects in the city’s urban core, including the East Side.

That policy includes the waiver of certain city fees, a tiered structure of tax abatements, and a streamlining of the development services process.

“This process is not over,” Mayor Castro said. “We are committed to implementing these measures and to producing tangible results that over time will strengthen the core of the city, improve the tax base and make our schools better.”