

disABILITYsa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization formed to educate, advance, and engage individuals with disabilities by building connections, exchanging information, creating opportunities, and strengthening our disability community in the greater San Antonio area.

EIN: 81-4443195

Mayor Ron Nirenberg & City Council Members
City of San Antonio
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Dear Mayor Nirenberg and Council Members;

It is my honor to have served with 80+ other San Antonio residents on the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan Stakeholder Groups to formulate the strategies and recommendations contained in the SHIP plan that will be presented to City Council for approval on Thursday, December 16th. I specifically served on the Residents & Community Group.

The SHIP represents the investment of time, input, and meaningful conversations over the past 14 months that reflects a vision of what San Antonio residents can imagine for our community's future in regard to affordable housing. All too often accessibility is left out of discussions ignoring the fact that having to retrofit a house for accessibility often puts housing options outside the affordable reach of many of San Antonio's residents.

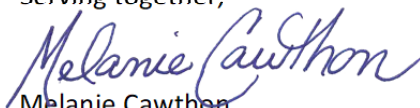
I am proud of the work we have put forward as a product derived from building off of each other's thoughts, taking into considerations barriers to housing that weren't previously considered or distinctly identified, and developing the strategies that create a community where affordable housing is intended for all members of the community who depend on this type of assistance.

This 77-page document represents the collaborative inputs of a diverse group of stakeholders who are, serve, or represent the populations most impacted by the availability of affordable housing options. Together, we developed recommendations that address barriers that we know, see, and hear about daily, that prevent people from accessing the assistance they need to survive...so that they can begin to focus on thriving in our community.

We offer this letter in support of the SHIP as a whole and know that Strategies CHS1, CHS2, CHS7, HPP3, and most importantly HPRP4 will go a long way toward providing individuals living with disabilities more equitable access to affordable housing options.

I encourage you to lean into the work that the community has put into this plan and know that you are investing in promising strategies for viable solutions. The SHIP journey has just begun and with its passage, disABILITYsa is committed to continued engagement in the process to work on individual strategies when they enter their implementation phase.

Serving together,


Melanie Cawthon

mcawthon@disabilitysa.org

Board of Directors

Jane Paccione, Interim Chair
San Antonio Area Foundation

Ryan Markmann, Secretary
Transitions Teacher, NISD

Sandy Liwang, Treasurer
Alcoa Electronic & Electrical Solutions

Pamela Kelly, Past Chair
(RET) Executive Director, RMI

Issac Shamas
Deaf Interpreter Services, Inc.

Albert Sawyer
X8, LLC

Leadership

Melanie Cawthon
Executive Director

disABILITYsa is proud to offer:

