Commissioner Tommy Calvert applauds vote by citizen budget committee, Speaks at San Antonio College plans appearances at several community events

Appearances include being honored by Union, trash cleanup, gun buyback, turkey giveaways

Yesterday, November 16, 2023, Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert (Pct. 4) provided key testimony to the Fair Bexar Budget Committee (FBBC) as it prepared to examine two letters drafted by its tri-chairs to be sent to County Manager David Smith. Speaking to a room full of concerned Bexar County residents at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Precinct 2, Commissioner Calvert detailed the impact of the County Manager’s unconstitutional decision to impose a $10.5 million cap on each Commissioner’s additional spending, focusing on the County’s failure to fund specific projects designed to protect lives and invest in jobs.

The meeting concluded with a vote to amend and approve two letters. The first letter demands a plan of action to build HALT arms at a location in the outskirts of Universal City and another in Saint Hedwig, where in October 2021, a 5-year-old girl and a 52-year-old woman tragically lost their lives due to rising flood waters. The Bexar County HALT (High-Water Alert Lifesaving Technology) system is a vital network of warning arms designed to protect motorists from the perils of flash floods.

The second letter requests full funding for the completion of the Brooks Advanced Manufacturing Training Center. Although the County had allocated $20 million to the project, nearly $3 million has already been spent on consulting costs, while the overall cost of the project has increased by another $3 million due to a request from County staff themselves to widen the Center’s footprint. The County Manager’s failure to propose additional funding, considering these changes, risks leaving the project on the bureaucratic backburner while Bexar County loses high-value jobs to Travis County. The letters are currently under review by the FBBC’s legal counsel and are expected to be released shortly.

Formerly the Bexar County Budget Committee, the FBBC is a community-driven vehicle for analysis and action aiming to remediate inequities in the Bexar County budget and the lack of
transparency in its processes. It was created following the imposition of a budget cap on the FY 2023-2024 budget by the County Manager.

“I’m heartened by the passion displayed here tonight by representatives of community organizations from all over the County,” said Commissioner Calvert. “We can’t remain complacent while the County Manager obstructs projects that are essential to saving lives and adapting our economy to the rapid changes of the 21st Century.”

A packed agenda continues...

Recent Past Events

Discussion with San Antonio College Men Empowerment Network, Thursday, November 16

Prior to yesterday’s Budget Committee meeting, Commissioner Calvert also spoke yesterday to San Antonio College students enrolled in the San Antonio College Men Empowerment Network (SACMEN). SACMEN aims to improve educational outcomes for men of color by building relationships, enhancing academic performance, and creating awareness of issues facing men of color in community college. By sharing his personal story and engaging in an informal discussion with the students, Commissioner Calvert hoped to provide a frame of reference useful to their own journeys as they graduate and build their lives.
This morning, the Commissioner also led the Texas Pledge and gave remarks at the Region IV Fall Meeting of the County & District Clerks’ Association of Texas.

Upcoming Events

Fall Social with Coalition of Black Trade Unionists – 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Friday, November 17

Tonight from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, the Commissioner will be the guest of honor at the Fall Social held by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (SA Chapter) at Tony G’s Soul Food at 915 S. Hackberry. He will offer remarks on the importance of building coalitions between labor, churches, community, and elected officials.

Salado Creek Cleanup – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Saturday, November 18

Following an aerial inspection by helicopter of the sanitary needs in Precinct 4, with Charlie Blank, Executive Director of River Aid San Antonio, Commissioner Calvert will be out to clean up trash in the Salado Creek area from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Lunch will follow at American Legion Fred Brock Post 828, 3415 Martin Luther King Dr., San Antonio, TX 78251.

Voluntary Weapons Exchange – 12:00 to 5:00 pm, Sunday, November 19

Alongside San Antonio City Councilman John Courage (District 7), Commissioner Calvert will assist in a voluntary weapons exchange at the Alamodome, Lot B, 100 Montana St, San Antonio, TX 78203. The City of San Antonio will exchange H-E-B gift cards for each weapon collected.

Meal Giveaway For the Homeless – 12:00 to 2:00 pm, Sunday, November 19

Commissioner Calvert will join ICON to ICAN and Lil Jay to hand out meals, blankets and coats for the homeless at Travis Park Church. Location: Travis Park Church 230 E. Travis St. San Antonio, TX 78205.
Turkey Drive – 9:30 am until supplies run out, Tuesday, November 21

Commissioner Calver will be helping give away 80 turkeys to senior citizens and others in need in partnership with Affordable Health Insurance Agency (AHIA) and Devoted Health Plans. Distribution will begin at 9:30 am and continue until all turkeys are gone. Location: AHIA Offices, 4614 E. Southcross Blvd, Ste 106, San Antonio, TX 78222