



**TO: City of San Antonio City Council**

**FROM: The Greater San Antonio Executive Board**

**SUBJECT: Statement on proposed baseball stadium**

**Date: September 11, 2024**

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The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the development of a new downtown Missions baseball stadium. This project is critical not only for securing the future of professional baseball in San Antonio but also for enhancing our city's sports infrastructure and advancing important community-driven initiatives to benefit our residents for years to come.

The downtown Missions stadium will provide affordable, accessible entertainment for families, especially our military families in Military City USA. Baseball remains one of the most affordable professional sports, offering a welcoming environment for families of all backgrounds to enjoy America's pastime.

***Background:***

When the City of San Antonio asked for local ownership of the Missions, our business and community leaders stepped up and invested \$28 million to keep the team fully rooted in San Antonio. This commitment is greater than preserving professional baseball—it's about creating a future where affordable, family-friendly entertainment thrives at the heart of our downtown, benefiting residents across the city and region.

Weston Urban has followed the direction of City Council in creating a sustainable financing plan for the stadium and will also stimulate and expedite development in the surrounding area. The \$1 billion impact of private development will not only revitalize the northwestern side of downtown but will also create economic opportunities and further enhance the quality of life for San Antonians.

Crucially, the Missions' ownership group has shown a deep commitment to the community's well-being by embracing a housing strategy to construct upwards of 1,500 apartments in downtown. Though not required in a market-rate development, Weston Urban is prioritizing the relocation of residents from the Soap Factory, thereby demonstrating their understanding of the need for affordable and accessible housing in our city. This commitment aligns with the broader values of the Greater Chamber—helping all San Antonians benefit from the growth and success of our city. It sets a new

standard for how public and private partnerships can prioritize community needs while advancing economic development.

As the leading voice of business in San Antonio since 1894, we recognize the power of sports and recreation in shaping the identity and vitality of a city. This new stadium will not only secure the future of the Missions but will also serve as a key element in a San Antonio master sports plan. To help us remain competitive with our sister metros—Dallas and Houston—and key mega-region partner, Austin, San Antonio must continue to invest in quality-of-life projects like this one that enhance our community's appeal, attract new talent, and ensure our city continues to thrive.

***Request:***

This Memorandum of Understanding sets a model example for how collaboration between public and private entities can achieve transformative results. We urge you to approve this project, which will not only keep our team in San Antonio but also create lasting benefits for our community through a commitment to sports, affordable housing, and regional growth.