

# Mayor in no hurry to drop city's lawsuit against police, fire unions

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A City Council Consideration Request has been filed with the city clerk calling for San Antonio to withdraw its lawsuit against the San Antonio Police Officers Association and San Antonio Firefighters Association. But Mayor [Ivy Taylor](#) is urging Council members to let the city perform more due diligence before making such a move.

The Council Consideration Request, filed by Councilman [Cris Medina](#), pertains to a lawsuit that the city filed in November asking the court to rule on whether a provision in the union contracts is unconstitutional. The provision states that, absent a new agreement, the prior pacts — which expired Sept. 30, 2014 — remain in force until Sept. 30, 2024. City officials contend that, without new agreements, the cost to provide health care for public safety workers will increase \$1.6 million per month through September 2024.

"I appreciate my colleagues' efforts and continued focus on actively pursuing a way forward," Taylor said in a statement. "However, with the election of the police union president happening in the coming two weeks and the third-party review of fiscal projections coming in this month, I believe we should wait before taking such significant actions."

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- [City of San Antonio seeking declaratory judgment on expired union pacts](#)

Former mayor [Henry Cisneros](#), who is this year's chairman of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, [held a press conference Monday evening](#) suggesting that the best way forward for all sides is to resume contract negotiations.

"During the appropriate window and armed with all the necessary information, the City Council will make a decision on how to move the process forward," Taylor said. "The Council and I will continue to work hard to create a clearer path for all parties to come to a collective solution."

City Manager [Sheryl Sculley](#) said in a statement that she agrees with Taylor about not withdrawing the lawsuit yet and that she appreciates the mayor's leadership on this issue.

"The lawsuit was filed on my recommendation with the concurrence of the City Council," Sculley said. "We will continue to act as the Council has directed."

W. Scott Bailey covers health care, tourism, sports business, economic development; he also plans and edits some special reports.

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