



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**City and police union to resume negotiations**  
*City files notice of appeal to preserve its legal options*

**SAN ANTONIO (Jan. 6, 2015)** — The City of San Antonio has agreed to six meeting dates proposed by the San Antonio Police Officers Association to resume collective bargaining negotiations. The dates are as follows:

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
Friday, January 29, 2016  
Thursday, February 4, 2016  
Friday, February 5, 2016  
Thursday, February 11, 2016  
Friday, February 12, 2016

In advance of a Texas appellate deadline this weekend, the City has filed a notice of appeal of the district court's summary judgment order. However, no briefs will be filed for 60 to 90 days, and oral arguments would not be heard for approximately 6 months.

"There is plenty of time for parties negotiating in good faith to reach an agreement," said Mayor Ivy R. Taylor. "When we agree to the terms of the contract, the lawsuit goes away. Until then, we will preserve the City's legal options and take whatever actions are necessary to protect our taxpayers."

**BACKGROUND**

Public safety expenses currently consume 66.5% of the City's FY 16 General Fund budget and are growing rapidly, threatening to crowd out spending on streets, sidewalks, parks, libraries, animal care and other important City services. The City Council unanimously directed staff to keep public safety spending at less than 66% of the General Fund budget.

In September 2015, the union walked away from an offer by the City that included 15.75% in pay increases over the next four years, no healthcare premiums for employees and an option to choose a Consumer Driven Healthcare Plan that also includes no premiums for employees' dependents. The proposed contract would have cost the City \$80 million more than the last police contract, which expired in 2014. However, when no deal was reached, the City redirected some of those funds to cover projected increases in healthcare expenses for police officers and firefighters in the FY 16 budget. Police officers and firefighters continue to receive the pay and benefits under the terms of the expired contract due to a 10-year "evergreen clause" in the contract. The fire union has not yet come to the bargaining table despite eight invitations from the City to do so.

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**One San Antonio**

*Diverse, internationally connected and globally competitive, San Antonio has a vibrant culture and economy and is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the United States. America's seventh-largest city offers opportunities in industries ranging from bioscience, financial services, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy and transportation manufacturing to healthcare. We are "Military City USA," home to crucial military commands supported by a patriotic citizenry. We welcome 31 million visitors annually who inject \$13.4 billion annually into our economy, and UNESCO recently designated the city's Spanish colonial missions as a World Heritage Site. Celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2018, San Antonio is a city with a storied past and an even brighter future. For more information, visit [www.sanantonio.gov](http://www.sanantonio.gov).*