

## Council taps Joe Krier for District 9 position

Joe Krier was longtime president of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

By Josh Baugh

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Joe Krier, a former Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce president who served in the position for two decades, has been appointed to serve for the next several months as interim District 9 councilman.

Krier, the ninth of 12 people to apply for the appointment, appeared to be the frontrunner heading into Thursday's council deliberation, after more than two hours of interviews on Wednesday. Paula McGee and Art Downey also were finalists for the position.

The North Side seat was vacated by Elisa Chan, who stepped down to run in the March Republican primary against state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels.

Before he was officially appointed, Krier told the council members that as chamber president, he was part of every major job creation project and city, county and school district bond program for two decades.

“I learned from that experience that the chamber didn't get any of those things done; we got them done because we understood that to move this city forward, we had to build a consensus and to collaborate with other groups,” he said. “And so we worked with other chambers, neighborhood associations, from time to time, organized labor, ... and when we do that in San Antonio, there's nothing that can't be accomplished.”

Appointed to represent one of the most conservative districts in the city, Krier made it clear that he plans to be collegial with all of his colleagues, even when there's disagreement.

“The citizens of District 9 want the same thing that your constituents want. They want good streets and potholes fixed, they want good police and fire, and they want a very conservative approach with their tax dollars,” he told the council. “And I view myself as a 'constructive conservative' who understands to move our city forward, we've got to work with each other to accomplish that.”

He said he believes he knows his district and will represent it well, making sure it continues to receive strong constituent services.

Each of the 10 council members on the dais took turns individually indicating which of the three candidates they supported. All but District 2's Ivy Taylor and District 10's Carlton Soules supported Krier.

Taylor and Soules both indicated Downey was their top choice. But the council then unanimously approved the ordinance officially appointing Krier to the seat.

Mayor Julián Castro said making an appointment for the interim position isn't something the council takes lightly and both complimented and thanked the 12 District 9 residents who sought the position.

Castro said the role of a councilman is a dual one. A good leader excels at both representing his constituents and the city at-large, Castro said.

Local leaders work toward moving the city toward greater prosperity, he said, and help create more opportunity in San Antonio.

“I want a partner, first and foremost, who can help us create more opportunity in the city, and that's why I'll be supportive of Mr. Krier today,” Castro said. “I think he'll do a great job on the big issues and also of representing the concerns of District 9.”

Krier was sworn in and took an active role in the rest of Thursday's meeting. He plans to spend Friday meeting with staff and getting caught up on the city's economic development efforts with City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

He will serve in the seat until next May, when the city will hold a special election for a one-year term. Krier has said he has no plans to run for the seat.

At 67, Krier now is the oldest member of the council, taking the designation from 63-year-old Ray Lopez. He is married to former state Sen. and former Bexar County Judge Cyndi Taylor Krier.

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