



For Immediate Release
Wednesday July 16, 2014

Contact: Leigh Murrin
210.215.9415 | leigh.murrin@seiu.org

San Antonio Residents Light the Night with Candle Vigil Calling for Streetlights in West Side Neighborhoods

SEIU Texas Members and their Neighbors Call for \$3 Million Allocation of City Budget for Streetlights on West Side

San Antonio – Wednesday, as part of the We're All in This Together group, SEIU Texas members stood with neighbors at a candlelight vigil to call on city council to allocate at least \$3 million towards street lights on San Antonio's west side.

"We are sick of living in the dark," said **Juanita Elizondo**, San Antonio west side resident. "Safety is something all people should have access to in San Antonio. We are asking city leaders to invest in streetlights so our children and elderly don't have to live in fear."

\$3 million would light up about 45 blocks. The area SEIU Texas members are targeting includes streets in the I-35/Hwy 90 corridor. In 2012, when the city allocated \$14.5 million to replace streetlights, they targeted main thoroughfares, not neighborhood streets.

"This is about our community," said **Jaime P. Martinez**, Chairman of the Board at San Antonio Cesar E Chavez Education and Legacy Fund. "Our community doesn't need to build more high rise hotels; we need streetlights. We need our city budget to focus on our priorities, not the businesses from afar."

In addition to increasing safety with added street lighting in this year's budget, SEIU Texas members and their neighbors are also asking the city to:

- Repair and maintain sidewalks so they are safe for our children who walk to school, especially the areas surrounding J.T. Brackenridge Elementary, Lanier High, Irving Elementary and Rhodes Middle schools.
- Ensure elderly and people with disabilities can safely navigate our Westside neighborhood sidewalks and streets with infrastructure improvements such as perpendicular curb ramps and pedestrian actuated traffic controls.
- Update our antiquated drainage infrastructure so our Westside residents are not flooded, stranded, and endangered when it rains.

more

“It’s our city and our budget,” said **Jerry Gonzalez**, SEIU Texas Public Service Sector Vice President. “We are all in this together to make sure that our priorities are put into this year’s budget.”

###

We’re All in this Together is a coalition of SEIU Texas members, other city residents, community organizations, and local businesses who believe that all residents should have equal access to quality public services. Together, they are working to make San Antonio a better place to live and work by ensuring residents’ priorities are the foundation of our city budget.