

**Intergovernmental Relations  
Council Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
Municipal Plaza Room C  
1:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Sheila McNeil, *Chair, District 2*  
Councilmember Philip Cortez, *District 4*  
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*  
Councilmember Louis Rowe, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Frances Gonzalez, *Assistant City Manager*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Fernando Guerra, *Metro Health Director*; Ramiro Salazar, *Library Director*; Florencio Pena, *Fleet Maintenance Director*; Charles Pruski, *Metro Health Assistant Director*; Noel Horan, *Assistant Fire Chief*; Flor Garcia, *Assistant Human Resources Director*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**1. Call to order**

Chairperson McNeil called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Rowe moved to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Cortez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Issues to be considered**

**a. State Legislative Program Update and Possible Action**

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

**i. Animal Care Services**

Vincent Medley, Interim Director, Animal Care Services

**- Dangerous and Vicious Dogs**

Carlos Contreras informed the Committee that Councilmember Ramos had expressed concern regarding the financial responsibility of owners of dangerous and vicious dogs. He noted that she had requested that the City endorse and promote existing legislation. He reported that

current state law required dangerous dogs to be registered and that owners provide liability insurance. He stated that new legislation had been introduced that would expand current law to include the owners of vicious dogs to provide liability insurance and registration.

T.C. Broadnax explained that a “dangerous” dog (defined) would make an unprovoked attack outside of its enclosure. A “vicious” dog (defined) had not yet caused injury but because of its physical nature or vicious propensity, would be capable of inflicting injury.

In response to Councilmember Cortez, Mr. Broadnax reported that once a complaint had been made, Animal Care Services would evaluate and make a decision regarding a vicious declaration. Councilmember Cortez stated that there should be fairness toward the owners of all pets and that no predetermined stigma was attached to any breed. Mr. Broadnax assured the Committee that all cases were evaluated fairly.

Chairperson McNeil requested information on the cost of liability insurance and the amount of pet owners that purchase insurance.

**ii. Metro Health**

Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director, San Antonio Metro Health

- **EPA Clean Air Funding – Withdrawn**

Said item was withdrawn.

- **Needle Exchange Program**

Mr. Contreras requested direction from the Committee regarding legislation that would allow a Needle Exchange Pilot Program between the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. He stated that the District Attorney had determined the program to be problematic because there was no exemption under the paraphernalia statutes to allow for City/County Employees to handle the needles.

Chairperson McNeil requested an update on the District Attorney’s view of the new legislation before providing Committee direction regarding said issue.

**iii. Public Safety**

Chief William McManus, San Antonio Police Department

- **DWI – Administrative License Revocation**
- **DWI – Penalty Enhancement**
- **Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (BMV)**
- **Collection of DNA**
- **Graffiti**
- **Penalty Enhancement for Prostitution**
- **Ankle Monitors for Juvenile/Adult Offenders**

Mr. Contreras reported that the San Antonio Police Department had requested the City’s endorsement of the above-stated Texas Legislative Bills established by the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

Councilmember Cortez asked of the plan of action that the Committee/Council would take regarding said item. Mr. Contreras replied that once the proposed bills had been assigned to a Committee, he would arrange for individual Councilmembers to testify.

**iv. Finance**

Ben Gorzell, Director, Finance Department

**- Eliminate Retroactivity of Cost of Living Adjustment – TMRS**

Mr. Contreras stated that staff recommended endorsement of the Eliminate Retroactivity of Cost of Living Adjustment in addition to legislation that would provide the City of San Antonio the ability to grant an additional payment of an amount from 25% - 100% of a retiree's full monthly check either by amending the current bill or to the City's own bill.

**- Postpone Opt Out Option - TMRS**

Mr. Contreras reported that the proposed option could effect current legislation endorsed by the City of San Antonio; therefore, staff recommended continued study of the proposed option and postpone until the next legislative session.

Councilmember Cortez moved to forward said recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**b. Federal Legislative Update and Possible Action**

Carlos Contreras, Intergovernmental Relations Director

It was noted that said item would be presented at a later date.

**c. Interlocal Agreements Discussion and Possible Action**

Carlos Contreras, Intergovernmental Relations Director

**i. Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Center for Air Quality Studies/Texas A&M University System**

Florencio Pena, Director, Fleet Maintenance

**ii. Bexar County Sheriff's Office – Asset Forfeiture Cases**

Geraldine Guerra, Asst. Chief, San Antonio Police Department

**iii. Bexar County & Local Municipalities – Designate Dr. Guerra the Health Authority for San Antonio**

Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director, San Antonio Metro Health

Councilmember Rowe moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Consideration of items for future meetings**

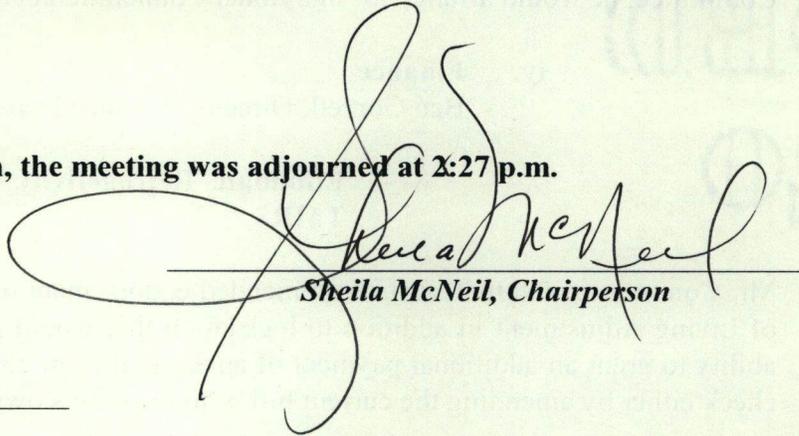
Mr. Contreras requested a Committee meeting within the next few weeks.

**5. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed**

There were no items addressed.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.



Handwritten signature of Sheila McNeil in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Sheila McNeil, Chairperson**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Handwritten signature of Brandon T. Smith in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

**Brandon T. Smith**  
**Office of the City Clerk**