

# Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2010  
Municipal Plaza Room B  
9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, *Chair, District 7*  
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*  
Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, *District 3*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*

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**Staff Present:** A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Martha Sepeda, *First Assistant City Attorney*; Jesus Garza, *Planning & Development Services Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzales, *Community Initiatives Interim Assistant Director*; Nikki Ramos, *Human Resources Assistant Director*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Stephanie Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Helen Valkavich, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Bobby Perez, *Shelton & Valadez*; Marc Rodriguez; Baltazar Serna, *Patton Boggs, LLP*; Doris Griffin, *Jefferson Outreach*; Laura Cole, *Bexar County*; Cindy Segovia, *Bexar County*; Ogden Chamberlain, *SEIU*; Edmond Keely, *City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs*; Estella Tyson, *City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs*

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## 1. Call to order

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order.

## 2. Approval of Minutes of the June 9, 2010 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Lopez moved to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2010 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ramos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Issues to be considered

### a. State Legislative Update and Possible Action

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

#### i. Discussion and consideration of the 82<sup>nd</sup> State Legislative Program

Carlos Contreras informed the Committee that staff was not seeking Committee action for said presentation and that staff would be vetting the proposed program with Delegation Members for the next 30 days. He stated that staff would return in September with possible additions or deletions and would be requesting Committee action at that time. He reported that the 82<sup>nd</sup> State Legislative Session would be difficult due to the following: \$20 billion shortfall; Redistricting; and Immigration. He stated that 30 recommendations had been received from City Departments and categorized as follows: 1) COSA Initiatives; 2) Protection of Municipal Interests; 3) Joint Community Initiatives; and 4) Endorsements.

Councilmember Ramos expressed concern with initiatives that had been brought forth during the last legislative session such as the expansion of the CPS Energy Board and zoning issues. She recommended that City Councilmembers meet with CPS Energy to determine a course of action regarding Board expansion. She also expressed interest in requesting the support of a Bexar County Legislator or Delegation Member for a local bill for Bexar County zoning including the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). She referenced City South issues and requested that the staff work in collaboration with the City South Management Board and meet with Senator Uresti and Representative Farias. She asked if staff had met with the City's Delegation Members. Mr. Contreras replied that staff will meet with Delegation Members over the next 30 days to discuss both the City's recommendations and the recommendations of the Delegation. Additionally, Councilmember Ramos spoke in support of Meet and Confer and noted her willingness to testify regarding said issue. She also requested that Representative Farias' bill regarding payday loans be included in the City's endorsements.

Councilmember Lopez asked of Protection of Municipal Interests with regard to Municipal Right-of-Way use and fees. Mr. Contreras replied that federal and local jurisdictions have overlapping responsibility. He stated that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was trying to determine if they had the statutory authority to regulate the rate that a city can charge and that the Federal Government questioned whether the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had that authority. Councilmember Lopez also asked of the process for partnering with other lobbyist teams. Mr. Contreras stated there were no limitations to partnering with other lobbyist teams to accomplish legislative gains.

Chairman Rodriguez requested that Mr. Contreras confer with Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer regarding the possibility of the City of San Antonio creating its own retirement system and report back to the Committee. It was reported that a consultant was hired to review a variety of options and that it was not in the City's best interest to create its own retirement system. Chairman Rodriguez requested feedback from the study and the benefits of remaining with TMRS. Mr. Contreras indicated that TRMS would have legislative recommendations and that staff would be reviewing those recommendations for support or opposition. Chairman Rodriguez spoke of the responsibility of owners/operators of transportation lines to abate graffiti. He requested that Mr. Contreras coordinate efforts with David Garza to advocate for an initiative that would require transportation line owners/operators to abate graffiti along their thoroughfares. He recommended that the City support any discussions on enhanced penalties. Mr. Contreras stated that the issue was very philosophical and there would be a lot of activity this session. He added that he would confer with the Delegation.

Chairman Rodriguez asked of Public Information Act Amendments along with Texas Municipal League (TML) Initiatives. Mr. Contreras stated that staff was requesting the Committee's authority to forward a resolution supporting Public Information Amendments for City Council endorsement. He noted that the deadline for submitting endorsements was September 13, 2010.

He added that TML was willing to accept the City's resolutions by September 13, 2010 along with City Council endorsement by early October.

**ii. Discussion and Consideration of Resolutions to be Submitted to Texas Municipal League for Inclusion in TML's Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Contreras reported that TML's deadline for receipt of resolutions for their consideration was September 13, 2010. He stated that there was a two part submission process: 1) Submission of Resolutions; and 2) Proof of endorsement. He requested the Committee's permission to submit recommended resolutions before the deadline and then supplement with City Council endorsements. He noted that any resolution not endorsed by the City Council would be removed from submission. He indicated that there were four resolutions for recommendation: 1) TMRS Amendments; 2) Graffiti Mandate; 3) Public Information Act; and 4) Municipal Right-of-Way Fees.

**b. Federal Legislative Update and Possible Action**  
Carlos Contreras, Intergovernmental Relations Director

**i. Update on Perimeter Rule Legislation**

Mr. Contreras thanked Chairman Rodriguez for taking the opportunity to meet with representatives while in Washington, D.C. on other business. He stated that very positive feedback received from the lobbyist team indicated that Chairman Rodriguez's efforts were very timely and helpful. Mr. Contreras reported that the City's Aviation Department had been involved in the exception to the Perimeter Rule Issue for 10 years in an attempt to obtain a direct flight from San Antonio to Washington, D.C. He noted that the large funding bill had duration of 3-4 years; was last reauthorized in 2007; and presently, in its fifteenth temporary extension. He added that the City was requesting additional slots during the consideration of said bill.

Mr. Contreras provided an overview of Appropriations requests. Baltazar Serna reported that seven of ten requests were submitted. He stated that four of the seven requests are moving through the process with a very good chance of being funded and indicated that there was \$2.5 million in process for San Antonio.

**ii. Discuss Fall IGR Washington, D.C. Trip**

Mr. Contreras provided a sample agenda recommended for the Fall IGR Washington, D.C. Trip and detailed the following issues: Appropriations; Perimeter Rule; and the Energy Regional Innovation Cluster Funding Grant. He indicated that the City was not successful in securing the Cluster Funding Grant and recommended meeting with the Departments of Energy and Commerce to acquire feedback on the submission in order to shape the submission process of other grants.

Chairman Rodriguez asked of any scheduled meetings regarding submitted grants. Mr. Contreras replied that it may be possible and he would inquire prior to scheduling any meetings. He stated the submitted grant did not necessarily have to be discussed but could discuss possible funding opportunities instead. Mr. Serna indicated that there were some agencies that abide by a strict no-lobbying policy regarding grants.

Councilmember Ramos requested an update on the San Antonio River and requested a scheduled appointment when in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Contreras presented a schedule of proposed flights. Chairman Rodriguez requested Option (2) Southwest, Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> - 12:50 p.m. (Arrive BWI, 5:10 p.m.) Mr. Contreras and Mr. Serna expressed concern with Option (2) due to the arrival time in D.C. Chairman Rodriguez asked that staff consider travel time between meetings. He stated that the schedule time was tight during that last Trip and requested a more comfortable transition between meetings.

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

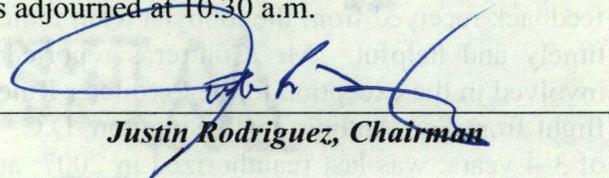
Mr. Contreras mentioned the August 24<sup>th</sup> Liaison Training  
Chairman Rodriguez requested updates on Redistricting

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

There was no Executive Session.

**6. Adjournment**

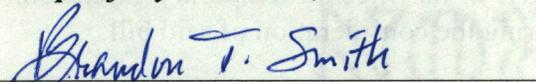
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



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*Justin Rodriguez, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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