

QUALITY OF LIFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

9:00 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B

Members Present: Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, Chair, *District 3*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*
Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*

Members Absent: Councilmember Mary Alice P. Cisneros, *District 1*

Staff Present: Peter Zandoni, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Martha Sepeda, *1st Assistant City Attorney*; Maria Villagomez, *Office of Management & Budget Director*; Gloria Hurtado, *Community Initiatives Director*; David McCary, *Solid Waste Management Director*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Melody Woosley, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzalez, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Audrey Abed, *Head Start Administrator*; Hollis Young, *Deputy City Attorney*; Enid Howard, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Denise Monday, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Jon Hinojosa, *Say Si*; Diane Lange, *CEAC*; Christel Villarreal, *CEAC*; Loretta Van Coppenolle, *Sierra Club*; Sherrika Arch, *Youth Building for the Future*; Betty Burks, *SAISD*; Rebecca Cervantez, *AVANCE*; Sylvia De La Pena, *AVANCD*; Todd Greaves, *Edgewood ISD*; Rebecca Garcia, *SAISD*; Manish Verma, *Verma Development*; Jose Mascorro, *Housing & Development Services*; Jennifer Martinez, *ESC20*; Carol Morgan, *ESC20*; C.J. Littlefield, *Housing & Community Development*

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 3.

INDIVIDUAL BRIEFING

3. Briefing and possible action on the recommendation FY 2012 Budget for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Grant Programs; Community Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Programs

Maria Villagomez, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Peter Zandoni, Assistant City Manager

Maria Villagomez reported that the Federal Budget approved on April 15, 2011 reduced the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Grant (HOME) funding allocations for the City's FY 2012. She stated that CDBG Funding was reduced 16.5% to 21% and the HOME allocations were reduced by 11.5%. She noted that FY 2012 budget allocations are expected to be received from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in late

May or mid June. She added that the FY 2012 Proposed Budget for CDBG reflected a reduction of 21% (\$3.3 million) and that if the final allotment from HUD resulted in a reduction lower than 21%; additional funding is recommended to be allocated from the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program. She stated that staff requested that the Committee propose the adoption of a budget for CDBG that is 21% less than the current FY 2011 Funding.

At this time, the Chairperson Ramos called the meeting to order and discussion ensued.

Chairperson Ramos asked of the 25 City Positions impacted by the proposed reductions. Ms. Villagomez reported that staff had of the proposed reductions and that those impacted by those reductions would be assisted with resume and interview skills to pursue qualified positions within the City Organization. She informed the Committee that eight of the 25 positions were vacant, allowing for 17 placements. Chairperson Ramos expressed concern with the facility improvement requests and noted that the same agencies were requesting funding. She spoke of developing a process that would allow new agencies the opportunity to apply for funding.

Councilmember Taylor asked of City-owned facilities receiving improvements through CDBG Funding. She spoke of policy issues and the consideration of alternative methods to City-owned facility improvements. She also spoke in support of staff recommendation to direct any additional funding, not impacted by federal reductions, toward home rehabilitation efforts.

Councilmember Medina asked of the Façade Improvement Program in relation to District 5. Brian James responded that he would research the projects and report back to Councilmember Medina regarding District 5.

Citizens To Be Heard

Jon Hinojosa, Say Si President, spoke of their request for CDBG Funding. He stated that the requested funds would allow for rehabilitation of the remaining property and expansion of the facility. He reported that Say Si has had a 100% graduation rate and 100% college placement of participants.

Jose Mascorro, Housing and Community Services, encouraged the Committee and staff to evaluate the Home Rental Rehab Budget to ensure that there were funds to support any Tax Credit Refund Projects in queue. He noted a loss of tax revenue if those projects are not completed.

Ms. Villagomez clarified that the \$1.6 million recommended for approval under the HOME project category would assist the Larisa Project and the West Avenue Project.

Manish Verma, Verma Development, spoke of the 40-year old project to redevelop and modernize the property.

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

1. Citizens to be Heard

Diane Lange, Citizens Environments Advisory Commission (CEAC), spoke of single-use plastic bags and expressed concern with the cost of plastic bags as they make their way to the highways, landfills, and the ocean. She asked that policy be considered, in addition to the voluntary program coordinated by the Solid Waste Management Department, on how to defray the real cost of plastic bags as they leave our city.

Christel Villarreal, CEAC, asked the CEAC receive all information gathered from the Plastic Bag Initiative coordinated by the Solid Waste Management Department. She expressed in providing input on behalf of the CEAC.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the April 12, 2011 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Briefing and possible action on the recommended Head Start Slot Allocation Plan, approved by the Head Start Policy Council, for the school year beginning August 2011, and briefing and possible action on the associated revised Head Start Grant Application

Gloria Hurtado, Director, Community Initiatives; Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager

Gloria Hurtado requested approval of the 2011 – 2012 Head Start Program Slot Allocation Plan and the 2011 – 2012 Revised Grant Application. She reported that the Head Start Allocation Plan would reallocate 750 slots to San Antonio Independent School District, Harlandale Independent School District, and Edgewood School District for the FY 2011-2012 School Year. Additionally, Ms. Hurtado provided an overview of the Revised Grant Application to include the following:

Revisions reflecting the re-allocation of slots
Increase staffing of Family and Counseling Support Workers
Additional Management Staff for Education Service Providers

In response to Councilmember Taylor, Ms. Hurtado explained that review of the Slot Allocation process would be conducted annually and that there would be adjustments over time.

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

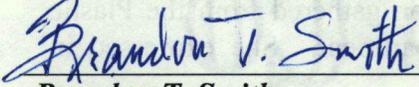
5. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.



Jennifer V. Ramos, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



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