

Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee
Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Municipal Plaza "C" Room
1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Chip Haass, Chair, District 10
Councilmember Roland Gutierrez, District 3
Councilmember Patti Radle, District 5
Councilmember Elena Guajardo, District 7

Staff Present: Erik Walsh, Assistant to the City Manager; Ray Baray, Intergovernmental Relations Manager; Dan Cardenas, Environmental Services Director; Ben Gorzell, Public Utilities Director; Emil Moncivais, Planning Director; Ramiro Cavazos, Economic Development Director; Manny Longoria, Assistant Economic Development Director; Ben Gorzell, Acting Finance Director; Ed Davis, Interim Assistant Economic Development Director; Jason Crosby, Assistant Public Works Director; Charles Pruski, Assistant Health Director; Nim Kidd, District Fire Chief; Tyrone Powers, Assistant Police Chief; Veronica Zertuche, Deputy City Attorney; Lisa Biediger, Assistant City Attorney; Barbara Prossen, Aviation; Adrian Perez, Economic Development; Anita Uribe-Martin, Economic Development; Nira Nixon-Mendez; Walter Ague, City Manager's Office; Marisol Robles, District 10 Staff; Brandon Smith, Office of the City Clerk

Also Present: James Jonas, Holland + Knight; Penelope Farthing, Patton & Boggs; Walter Serna, Serna & Serna; Jim Campbell, CPS Energy

I. Call to Order

Councilmember Patti Radle called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes for September 21, 2005 and November 16, 2005 meetings

Councilmember Gutierrez moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2005 and November 16, 2005. Councilmember Guajardo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by the committee members present.

III. Issues to be Considered

a) 2006 Proposed Legislative Program

Ray Baray referenced a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "2006 Federal Legislative Program". He noted that ninety percent of the proposed Program was complete and that there were several outstanding initiatives and endorsements to be presented at the next Intergovernmental Relations Meeting.

Councilmember Guajardo asked if the partnering agencies would assist with funding the proposed Fusion Center. Chief Nim Kidd responded that initially, agencies would be invited to share intelligence and data for analysis, not necessarily to share in funding. He noted that the Regional Fusion Center would give quicker intelligence to deter possible terrorist, agricultural, cyber and pandemic attacks.

Chairman Haass informed the committee that funds have already been allocated for the facility. He pointed out that the proposed initiative was to fund the transformation of the Emergency Operations Center into a regional hub for homeland security.

Councilmember Guajardo asked if the daily operational expenses would be paid from the City's general fund. Chief Kidd replied that a portion of the funding would come from the City's general fund. He answered that a portion of the funding requested in the proposed initiative would be used to supplement operations for the beginning of years of the facility.

Councilmember Gutierrez requested a presentation of the proposed campus to the entire City Council in a "B" Session setting.

Chairman Haass recognized all of the directors and staff representatives that had projects included in the City's 2006 Federal Legislative Program and congratulated them on a job well done.

Chairman Haass also referenced the Bulverde Road Project and stated he would like for the lobby teams to leverage private funding for the project.

Jason Crosby stated that Public Works has a draft plan for review showing alternatives and alignments along Bulverde Road from Loop 1604 to Evans Road. He noted that staff is attempting to match funds with private sector and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) funds in addition to the proposed initiative for federal funding.

Councilmember Radle referenced the Targeted Job Training Initiative and suggested additional funding for youth employment. James Jonas responded that local governments historically have received funds totaling less than \$500,000.

Jim Campbell referenced slide #15 in response to Councilmember Radle's request for clarification on greenhouse emissions reductions. He stated that he would have a technical team meet with her with an update on that issue.

Councilmember Radle noted that the City of San Antonio has a 10-year Hunger/Homelessness Plan with regard to the Municipally-Related Issues on slide #17.

Mr. Baray reported that the City spent approximately \$9.3 million on emergency food assistance last year, one-third of which was generated locally. He stated that staff will seek additional resources for the Hunger/Homelessness Program.

Councilmember Gutierrez asked if Baltimore received a \$450,000 appropriation because of the "Ex-offender Initiative." Penelope Farthing responded that it was because Baltimore is represented by a powerful member of Congress who serves on the appropriate appropriations authorizing committee. James Jonas stated that it is a combination of both who you know and the type of initiative that is proposed.

Councilmember Gutierrez stated that Mr. Jonas found a grant that his staff was reviewing for consideration. He stated that he will try to locate HDF Funds to hire a grant writer for that project upon approval from the City Manager. Councilmember Gutierrez directed Mr. Baray to investigate the cost and detail of the benefits in acquiring a grant writer.

Chairman Haass informed the committee that the City Manager has considered hiring a grant writer. He directed Mr. Baray to update the committee on the status of the position and to note that the IGR committee supports the hiring of a grant writer.

Mr. Baray stated that he frequently receives a grants newsletter from the City's two lobby teams and forwards this information to various City departments so they can determine their interest in applying for grant funds. He concurred that a grant writer would be a tremendous resource to the City.

Ramiro Cavazos informed the committee that the Police, Fire, Health and Community Initiatives departments have had great success with grants. He noted that one-third of the Department of Community Initiatives budget was subsidized with grants. Mr. Cavazos cited a need to organize existing grant writers.

Councilmember Guajardo expressed concern over the growing population of ex-convicts having difficulty attaining adequate employment. She asked if there was any federal funding available specifically for employment training and placement for ex-convicts.

Chairman Haass directed staff to present an update of all items in question in 'A' Session.

Ramiro Cavazos cited the change in leadership and additional activity in the Aviation Department and suggested Mr. Baray revisit the department for possible inclusion in the proposed Legislative Program.

Mr. Baray stated that he spoke with Interim Aviation Director Mark Webb and Barbara Prossen on the issue of airfield improvements and baggage conveyance. He explained that they would work with Patton & Boggs on the regulatory level on the issue. Mr. Baray also communicated that Mr. Webb and staff would confer with the FAA Regional Director in Ft. Worth first, and if necessary the City's delegation would be engaged at that time.

Chairman Haass directed staff to explore all possibilities and bring any necessary changes to 'A' Session in 2-3 weeks.

IV. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings

There were no items scheduled.

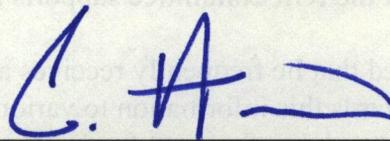
V. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed.

There were no Executive Session items to discuss.

VI. Adjournment

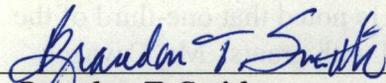
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.



Chip Haass, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



**Brandon T. Smith
Administrative Assistant II
Office of the City Clerk**