

**Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Municipal Plaza B Room**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*  
Councilmember Jennifer Ramos, *District 3*  
Councilmember Lourdes Galvan, *District 5*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Philip Cortez, *District 4*

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**Staff Present:** Penny Postoak-Ferguson, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; Roderick Sanchez, *Development Services Director*; Barry Archer, *Development Services Assistant Director*; Ramon Mendez, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Ted Murphree, *Assistant City Attorney*; Camila Kunau, *Assistant City Attorney*; Susan Guinn, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Councilmember Louis Rowe, *District 9*; Jelynn Burley, *CPS*; Laura Lopez, *TXDOT*; Frank Burney, *Martin & Praght*; Diane Hoskins, *PEPP*; Tim Anderson, *Clear Channel*; Bob Crosson, *IBEW*; Roland Olvera, *Veranda Electric*; Larry Meads; Teri Bilby, *SAAA*; Ramiro Flores, *SA BOMA*; Tomi Sue Beecham, *SA BOMA*; June Kachtik, *Scenic San Antonio*; Jill Christie, *KTSA*; A.R. Velasquez, *SA Craftsman Assoc.*; Francisco Mateo, *Electrical Board*; Henry Farias, *Electrical Board*; Les Moynahan, *NECA*; Robert Corbo, *Corbo Electric*; A.C. Draecer, *Pro Electric*; Albert Cisneros, *Cisneros Training Group*; Henry Bosquez, *Bosquez Electric*; D.J. Mora, *3D Electric*; Dimas Mora, *3D Electric*; Tony Kech, *Kech Electric*; Charles Mikolajczyk, *SAABE*; Michael Copp, *SAABE*; Michael Halvorsen, *SAABE*

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**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Cibrian called the meeting to order.

**2. Citizens To Be Heard**

Citizens were heard during corresponding items.

**3. Approval of Minutes for the September 17, 2008 Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Ramos moved to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2008 Infrastructure & Growth Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Galvan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Briefing and possible action regarding Utility Graffiti Abatement Plans (CPS, SAWS, Union Pacific Railroad and Texas Department of Transportation)**

Presented by David Garza, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Services

David Garza reported that Ivan Jaime, Union Pacific Railroad, was unable to attend and read a letter on his behalf.

Gonzalo Martinez, CPS Energy, presented an overview of the CPS Graffiti Abatement process and noted that concealing markings with paint was the quickest method of abatement and cited a 10-day turnaround. He stated that additional prevention methods included: warnings, barriers (fences), and video surveillance. Councilmember Galvan recommended that all graffiti incidents be reported and tracked through the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and suggested the use of security officers and video surveillance.

Councilmember Ramos recommended the use of video surveillance at all CPS Substations and that all utilities and external partners coordinate to develop and implement a uniform time-frame to address graffiti abatement.

John Kovsnoski, San Antonio Water System (SAWS), reported that warning signs were used as a deterrent and that paint is used to conceal graffiti. He noted that abatement process was 10-15 days but noted that the actual turnaround time was approximately 48 hours.

Larry Schilling, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), reported that a crew of two removes approximately 250,000 square feet of ground level graffiti per year and that the work order turnaround time was 10 days. He cited freeway overhead signs as a major problem regarding graffiti which require lane closures, heavy equipment, and welders. He stated that 51 overhead signs in Bexar County have been identified that required abatement and vandal-guards and requested the assistance of the community to report vandals.

Councilmember Galvan recommended the establishment of a Rewards Program and public posting of a Graffiti Offenders List.

Chairperson Cibrian requested an update on the City's graffiti abatement surveillance cameras. David Garza reported that 17 offenders have been apprehended as a result of surveillance monitoring and that SAPD was reviewing prospective systems for purchase of additional surveillance cameras.

Chairperson Cibrian cited inadequate response time by TxDOT and requested that all entities return to the Committee in three months with a schedule of response times, resources and staff dedicated to eradicating graffiti.

**5. Briefing and possible action of a request for amendment of the Unified Development Code (UDC) to address requirements for carwashes**

Presented by Roderick Sanchez, Director, Planning & Development Services

Roderick Sanchez presented an amendment regarding new definitions to different types of carwashes, as well as supplemental use regulations intended to ameliorate potential negative impacts. He noted that the proposed requirements would apply to new carwashes, while existing establishments would be grandfathered.

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

**6. Briefing and possible action regarding Chapter 10 Administrative Changes, Revision L, Electrical Code**

Presented by Roderick Sanchez, Director, Planning & Development Services

Roderick Sanchez presented the proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 10 of the Electrical Code to include the following: 1) Organizes Chapter 10 to follow International Building Code (IBC); 2) Clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the code official, the Director of Planning and Development Services; 3) Clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the appeals board, the Electrical Advisory Board (ESB); 4) Renames the ESB to the Electrical Appeals and Advisory Board (EAAB).

Councilmember Galvan spoke in opposition to the at large-board appointment process and stated that she preferred district appointments. It was the consensus of the Committee not to use the at-large appointment process for the proposed EAAB.

Diane Hoskins, Executive Director-PEPP, spoke in support of the proposed administrative revisions.

Tomi Beecham, Governmental Affairs Chair of SABOMA, spoke in support of the proposed administrative revisions.

Charles Mikolajczyk, SAABE President, spoke in support of the proposed amendments.

Larry Meads, Electrician, stated that he supported the proposed changes in principle but felt that National Electrical Code Annex H was a better document because it recommended Fire Department representation on the board.

Bob Crosson, President – IBEW, spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment. He cited concerns that the qualifications of the Code Official weren't clearly defined and that the proposed changes would provide too much authority to one individual.

Teri Bilby, Director of Governmental Relations – SAAA, spoke in support of the proposed revisions to Chapter 10.

Frank Burney, Attorney – Martin & Prught, spoke in support of the proposed revisions. He cited confusion between the ESB and its authority and the role of staff and noted that the proposed revisions brought clarity to the issue. He added that it also streamlined permitting. He recommended approval.

Tim Anderson, Vice President Clear Channel, spoke in support of the proposed revisions. He requested that representation from the advertising industry (billboards) be considered if changes were to be made to the composition of the board.

June Kachtik, Scenic San Antonio Chair, expressed concern with staff making decisions regarding billboards and sought clarification as to what entity could appeal to the board.

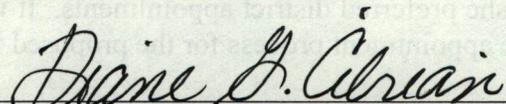
Bill Chamberlin, Vice Chairman – SA Electrical Board, spoke in opposition to the proposed revisions.

Chairperson Cibrian stated that there were additional citizens that requested to be heard regarding said issue and the time constraints would not allow further discussion.

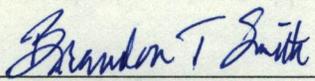
Councilmember Galvan moved to table said item to be addressed at the next Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ramos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

  
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Diane Cibrian, Chairperson

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
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Brandon T. Smith  
Office of the City Clerk