

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

**9:00 AM**

**MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Elisa Chan, *Chair, District 9*  
Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*  
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*  
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*

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**Members Absent:** None

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**Staff Present:** Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Rene Dominguez, *Economic Development Director*; Mark Brodeur, *Center City Development Director*; Troy Elliott, *Finance Director*; Ed Davis, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Alejandra Lopez, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Lori Houston, *Center City Development Assistant Director*; James Henderson, *Economic Development Manager*; Adrian Perez, *Economic Development Manager*; Barbara Ankamah, *Planning & Community Development*; Leslie Haby, *Assistant City Attorney*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Mario Hernandez, *EDF*

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**Call to Order**

Chairperson Chan called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no items addressed by Citizens.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the January 3, 2012 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Bernal moved to approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2012 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Action Items: None**

**4. Presentation Items:**

**a. External Audit RFP**  
Ben Gorzell, CFO

Ben Gorzell reported that Grant Thornton, LLP was in the process of auditing the City's Financial Records for Fiscal Year 2011 with an anticipated presentation to the Audit Committee

in March or April. He stated that said audit would conclude the contract with Grant Thornton, LLP requiring the City to undergo a new process for selection of Independent Auditors. He noted that staff recommended a contract structure to include a Prime Contractor with mandatory sub-contractor participation; Five- year maximum term for Fiscal Years 2012 to 2016 comprised of a three-year contract with two, one-year extensions. He provided an overview of the scope of services, staff role/audit assistance, and evaluation criteria for the Request for Proposals (RFP) Contract.

In response to Councilmember Bernal, Rene Dominguez stated that the City was utilizing race-based goal setting on a contract by contract basis, mandating that those goals are met. He noted that a Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) presentation would be provided to the full Council at a B Session in February. Chairperson Chan requested that staff provide individual briefings to the ECDC Committee Members regarding the SBEDA Ordinance prior to the B Session. Chairperson Chan mentioned that the San Antonio to Washington, D.C. Trip was scheduled during the same week of the B Session presentation and expressed concern that the Mayor and several Councilmembers may not be present for the briefing. She recommended rescheduling said briefing if the full Council would not be present.

**b. Consideration of updates to Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Guidelines**

Rene Dominguez, Economic Development Director

Mr. Dominguez reported that the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Guidelines help manage the EDIF Grant Program to retain and create jobs and encourage investment. He stated that most significant improvements are the alignment to the Inner City Reinvestment / Infill Policy (ICRIP) and a simplified formula to determine grant amounts. He provided an overview of the proposed revisions and noted that the purpose was to attract great job creation projects.

Chairperson Chan spoke in support of policy emphasis on corporate headquarters and the focus on the downtown inner city area. She requested a briefing regarding a Downtown Housing Policy in addition to the EDIF Policy. Mr. Dominguez stated that the Center City Development Staff would be providing that presentation to the Committee.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the incorporation of Data Centers into the proposed guidelines. Mr. Dominguez responded that Data Centers would be a separate discussion. Ed Davis stated that Data Centers are a very large investment and incorporation into the proposed guidelines would yield a generous incentive.

Councilmember Bernal asked if the living wage component would be retroactive. Mr. Dominguez responded that any offers negotiated prior to January 1, 2012 would be allowed to maintain the living wage of \$10.75. He explained that a company maintains the living wage at the time of the contract when approved by the City Council.

**5. Discussion Items**

**a. ECDC Policy Issues, Goals and Strategies Action Plan**

Mr. Dominguez stated that the Committee had identified three priorities: 1) Industry Development Mapping; 2) Small Business Growth/Creation; and 3) Market Analysis/Strategies for Downtown Housing. He noted that the priorities were being approached in two phases: 1)

Data gathering; and 2) Develop action items. He provided information on phase one (data gathering) and noted that staff was in partnership with the Economic Development Foundation (EDF) to map and describe private, public, and non-profit sectors. Additionally, industry cluster reports will be created based on the validation study conducted by the EDF. Once data has been gathered, strategies will be created around those findings. Mark Brodeur stated that staff has met with colleges and universities regarding their student housing needs and indicated that there was a definite need for downtown student housing.

Chairperson Chan requested an update on Economic Development Priorities update at every ECDC Meeting.

## 6. Consideration of items for future meetings

Periodic presentations:

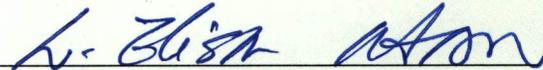
- ± SAGE and WDC
  - Eastside and Westside revitalization
  - Financial
- ± Brooks City Base
- ± EDF

Data Center Study – April, 2012

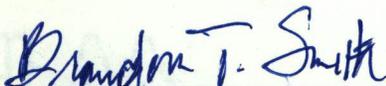
Chairperson Chan recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. She reconvened the meeting at 11:25 a.m. and announced that no action had been taken.

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

  
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*Elisa Chan, Chairperson*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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