

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

10:00 AM

PLAZA ROOM B, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING

Members Present:	Councilmember Cris Medina, Chair, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Carlton Soules, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Ray Lopez, <i>District 6</i>
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Intergovernmental Relations Director</i> ; Vincent Nathan, <i>Assistant Director Metropolitan Health</i> ; Ryan J. Cook, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Tom Downs, <i>Patton Boggs</i> ; Baltazar (Walter) Serna, <i>Patton Boggs</i> ; Sarah Vilms, <i>Patton Boggs</i>

I. Approval of minutes of the October 9, 2013 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to approve the Minutes of the October 9, 2013 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Briefing Items

- i. Federal Legislative Update [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Tom Downs, Consultant, Patton Boggs, introduced Ms. Sarah Vilms, Public Policy Advisor, who was present via telephone conference. Mr. Downs provided a Federal Legislative Update.

Councilmember Soules entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Downs reported that the House-Senate Budget Conference Committee will hold its second formal meeting regarding Top-Line Discretionary Funding for FY 2014 and a possible One-or Two-Year Sequestration Mitigation Package. He further reported that Appropriators are pushing the Committee to establish the Top-Line Budget number by November 22nd to allow them time to assemble a spending package before the Continuing Resolution deadline of January 15th. Mr. Jeff Coyle indicated that many of the City's Federal Priorities are dependent upon passage of the 12 Appropriations Bills.

Ms. Vilms ended the telephone conference at this time.

Mr. Downs reported that the Senate Majority is now questioning the Obama Administration about the healthcare.gov rollout with two hearings held this week on the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Health Insurance Exchanges. Mr. Coyle stated that the rollout has had no additional

impact on the City beyond the update that was provided to the Council during the FY 2014 Budget.

Councilmember Soules inquired if an individual is obligated to file a tax return even if they do not have a source of income. Mr. Downs stated that he had not heard any discussion regarding that situation. Discussion regarding tax returns ensued.

Mr. Coyle stated that in regards to the Federal Courthouse, the City's strategy is to seek inclusion in the President's FY 2015 Budget and to identify the need for the Federal Courthouse. He reported that a letter from Mayor Castro listing that request was distributed to the White House and Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Carlos Contreras stated that the City has entered into a land swap agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA). He noted that the City currently owns the site of the former Police Headquarters and will swap ownership of that land with GSA for the site of the current Federal Courthouse.

Mr. Coyle reported that the Early Childhood Education Improvement Act of 2013, which would legislate President Obama's plan to expand preschool education, is being unveiled. He stated that the City will work to ensure that the bill includes language allowing cities to apply for funds directly in the event that the State of Texas opts not to participate in the program.

Mr. Coyle reported on the BRAC-Tax Credit. He reported that Representative Mike Thompson's (D-CA) Legislation was filed authorizing up to \$100 million per year under the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC). He stated that the NMTC is an existing Federal Program that allows for a 39% tax credit for development within distressed communities that have had a military installation closed or realigned through a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

Mr. Coyle reported on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2013. He stated that the Bill bars discrimination in employment practices based on the actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. He indicated that the Bill has moved to the House of Representatives; however, Speaker Boehner stated that the bill would not be brought up for a vote.

Mr. Coyle reported on the Chamber's 2014 SA-DC Trip. He stated that the trip has been scheduled for February 2-5, 2014. Intergovernmental (IGR) Staff has submitted 15 priorities from the Council-approved 113th Congress Federal Legislative Program.

ii. Air Quality Working Group Status [Jeff Coyle, Intergovernmental Relations Director]

Mr. Coyle provided a status of the Air Quality Working Group. He reported that the group is made up of members from the Office of Sustainability, Health, Planning Department, Aviation, IGR, and the Office of Military Affairs. He directed Councilmembers to the timeline of the internal working group provided by IGR. He indicated that the Internal Committee is identifying existing air quality efforts currently in place and attempting to discover new pollution mitigation measures that the City may be able to implement in the future. He reported that the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) submitted a letter titled Path Forward to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) detailing efforts being made by the community. He reported that the EPA response stated that they were surprised to see that those efforts are not new based on the City's current Air Quality Status. He indicated that the EPA's response prompted the working group to include AACOG and their timeline to respond to the EPA. He reported that AACOG's

photochemical model test runs have been delayed until February 2014 due to a resource issue. Discussion regarding the timeline and the photochemical model ensued.

Mr. Coyle reported the IGR Department was recently audited and received a report of no findings.

Mr. Coyle stated that an IGR Round Table will be held for the first time to discuss Federal Priorities and to improve advocacy efforts of the Intergovernmental Committee. He stated that the IGR Round Table will continue to meet monthly and is comprised of members from the County, SAWS, VIA, CPS, Port-Brooks, and the River Authority.

Mr. Coyle reported that the South New Braunfels Gate at Ft. Sam Houston has been reopened.

Mr. Coyle stated that Representative Menendez will be convening a State Level Hearing at Brooks City Base to discuss the impact of Sequestration, and Military Budget Cuts, and BRAC Proofing. He further stated that the City is not scheduled to testify at this time.

No action was required for Item II.

III. Consideration of items for future meetings:

Next meeting Scheduled: December 11, 2013.

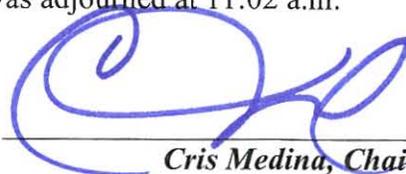
- i. Trade Mission Update

Mr. Coyle stated that he would provide Chairman Medina the Trade Mission Update at a later date.

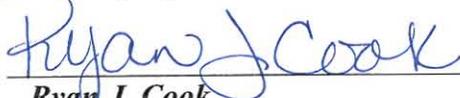
Councilmember Nirenberg inquired of Federal Funds aiding the Philippines. Mr. Baltazar Serna stated that he would provide Mr. Coyle the requested information to disseminate to the Council Committee.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.


Cris Medina, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Ryan J. Cook
Office of the City Clerk