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**Economic & Community Development Council Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, August 27, 2009

9:00 AM

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, *Chair, District 1*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember John Clamp, *District 10*

Members Absent: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Staff Present: Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Ed Davis, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Leslie Haby, *Assistant City Attorney*; Elizabeth Costello, *International Affairs Director*; Reynaldo Cano, *International Affairs Assistant Director*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Department of Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Lisa Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Belinda Gomez, *Workforce Solutions Alamo*; Ignacio Perez; Carlos Barajas, *Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office*; Ramiro Fernandez, *Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office*; Patricia Tovar, *PTAC Program Manager*; Charlie Moke, *Workforce Solutions Alamo*; Chakib Chehadi, *Workforce Solutions Alamo Executive Director*; Mark Haram, *Workforce Solutions Alamo*

Call to Order

Chairperson Cisneros called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no Citizens signed up to speak for this meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 23, 2009 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Clamp moved to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2009 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of the WorkSource Solutions Alamo Board Appointments and FY 2010 Budget Presented by Ed Davis, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department

Ed Davis, Assistant Director of Economic Development, spoke of the role of Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) as well as the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). He stated that TWC provides workforce development services to employers and job seekers in Texas through 28 Regional Workforce Centers. He noted that the WSA Board is an appointed group of 25 members whose primary role is to align, focus and set

direction for all workforce activities in the 12-county WSA area to include Atascosa, Comal, Bandera, Bexar, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Mr. Davis outlined the partnership agreements with other Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) of the WSA area, and explained how the Committee of Six was established by the CEOs. He stated that Mayor Castro and Councilmember Cisneros currently represent the City of San Antonio on the Committee of Six. He spoke of the WSA operating budget and TWC allocations, and highlighted the WSA 2009-2010 Planning Estimates. He indicated that the City Council must approve the Appointments before submission to the TWC.

In response to Councilmember Clamp, Mr. Chakib Chehadi, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions Alamo, explained how the services were distributed for the City and County, and confirmed that there were six service centers in Bexar County. He spoke of child care services provided, and the amount of funds allocated for said services. He further noted that Workforce Solutions Alamo prepared the budget, but it was reviewed by the Committee of Six.

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

4. Briefing on the Economic Development Department Re-Organization

Presented by A.J. Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager; Interim Director, Economic Development Department

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager, reported they were working with community partners and stakeholders with the goal to reduce costs and refocus dollars for Economic Development in the most effective way. She indicated that they had convened corporate CEO's from throughout San Antonio to discuss San Antonio's Economic Development and the City's strengths and weaknesses. She spoke of the work of the Mayor's Corporate Retention and Recruitment Subcommittee and noted that they would be presenting recommendations to the City Council in October.

A.J. Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager/Interim Director of Economic Development Department (EDD), provided background on the Mayor's Corporate Retention and Recruitment Subcommittee. He noted that the 30-member committee was led by CEO's, Business, and Community leaders who identified two main strengths related to Economic Development in San Antonio that included high quality of life and low cost of living. He stated that the subcommittee was created to develop specific recommendations related to Economic Development activity in San Antonio. He spoke of their progress, outlined the three phases included in the EDD reorganization, and discussed the timeline for each phase and target implementation dates.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Rodriguez spoke to the efforts of EDD to serve different communities and enhance services for their customers. Councilmember Chan encouraged staff to explore the pros and cons of decentralization. Mr. Rodriguez outlined Phase I and II implementation dates for the restructuring of EDD and the proposed restructuring of the International Affairs Department under EDD.

Councilmember Clamp encouraged the use of the Community Link Service Centers as a venue for small business individuals to receive assistance.

Chairwoman Cisneros proposed that the Westside Development Corporation (WDC) and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE) provide a letter to the City acknowledging their intent and understanding to become self-sufficient.

5. Briefing on the Fort Sam Houston Growth Management Plan Implementation

Presented by James Henderson, Interim Manager, Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office

Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager, stated that the Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office was created by the City Council in June, 2009. He spoke of the staff positions dedicated to the office, which are funded by a federal grant and presented a map that showed the targeted areas that are to be the focus of the office.

James Henderson, Interim Manager of the Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office, spoke of the Growth Management Plan and stated that the main purpose of the plan was to review the impact of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) at Fort Sam Houston. He indicated that several recommendations were brought forth as a result of this Plan. He outlined the City's \$2 million contribution to the Office through FY 2010 and how the funds would be utilized. He spoke of the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) which has also committed funds through FY 2010. He acknowledged current staff, and delineated their major roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Henderson discussed the purpose of the work plan for Fort Sam Houston Community Development Office, indicating that it would provide a foundation for a close working relationship among community partners and the military in order to develop "habits of cooperation" necessary for successful revitalization. He noted that staff would focus on implementing the Action Plan recommendations, to include economic development, housing, mobility and public safety. He confirmed that the Community Office was scheduled to open on October 15, 2009, and acknowledged that it would have a strong presence in the community.

Mr. DiGiovanni spoke to the work scheduled for Walters Street, noting that a design was already in progress. He acknowledged the recommendations of the Military Transformation Task Force (MTTF), and confirmed that discussions were occurring regarding the design to ensure that they capitalize on economic opportunities.

Mr. Henderson discussed commercial revitalization on Walters Street. He indicated that they had created a project scope to bring the area up to compliance, as well as beautification elements to enhance the area. He cited a potential grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), to which Councilmember Cisneros recognized Councilmember Sheila McNeil who played a role in the EDA Grant.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Henderson confirmed that Fort Sam was an integral part of the entire effort. He noted that one of the reasons for establishing the Office of Military Affairs was to be the single point of contact for the military to the City. He confirmed that they expected to work more closely with Fort Sam on revitalization efforts. Mr. DiGiovanni added that he and a member of the Mayor's Staff meet with Gregg Stevens from Fort Sam on a monthly basis to discuss issues that arise including those related to Camp Bullis and Fort Sam Houston.

Councilmember Clamp requested that they come back in the future to discuss their strategic goals and whether they were achieved. He encouraged them to concentrate on performance measures and to pinpoint the challenges they face and focus on the end product. Mr. DiGiovanni stressed the importance of stimulating the local economy around Fort Sam Houston in order to make this a targeted area for redevelopment. Councilmember Clamp spoke of a part of District 10 that leads to one of the major entrances to Fort Sam Houston and acknowledged plans to enhance this area over the long term. He spoke of the Austin-San Antonio Commuter Rail District's plan to place a stop around the Fort Sam Houston area.

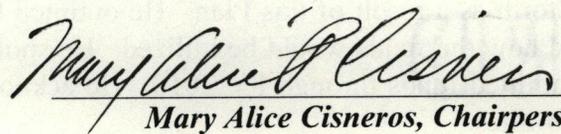
Mr. Henderson discussed details about the PR Campaign, noting that it was spearheaded by former Councilmember Sheila McNeil. He stated that they now will be focusing their efforts on re-location packets which will be provided to civilian and military personnel.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings:

Councilmember Cisneros requested that ACCIÓN present to the committee. Mr. DiGiovanni confirmed they would be bringing forth the Center City Partnership for the Committee's consideration. He added that they would bring forth the retail study regarding La Villita. Councilmember Chan requested an update on the P16 Report.

7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.



Mary Alice Cisneros, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Lopez
Office of the City Clerk