

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

9:30 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM C

Members Present: Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, *Chair, District 7*
Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

Members Absent: Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*

Staff Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Stephanie Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Megan Dodge, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Veronica Zertuche, *Assistant City Attorney*; Mark Bird, *City Arborist*; Lisa A. Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Tom Downs, *Patton Boggs, LLP*; Walter Serna, *Patton Boggs, LLP*

1. Call to order

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes of the April 13, 2011 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Ramos moved to approve the Minutes of the April 13, 2011 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Lopez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Issues to be considered

a. State Legislative Update and Possible Action

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

i. Preliminary briefing and status of 82nd Legislature (Regular & First Called Session)

Carlos Contreras reported that there was an estimated five million dollars in spending cuts that will impact the City of San Antonio. He discussed the potential impact of House Bill 1, which is related to the Mixed Beverage Tax Reimbursement by the State Comptroller to Cities and Counties. He noted that the reimbursement had been reduced to 8.2% of the collections, which equates to a \$1.2 million dollar reduction to the City's Revenue. He further noted that over 170 of the 1,400 Bills that passed in the State Legislature would affect cities throughout Texas. He outlined how various City initiatives, such as Graffiti, TMRS, and the Diabetes Mellitus Program, were affected by the actions taken in this State Legislative Session. He confirmed that the Tree Mitigation bill, Electronic Billboards bill, and the City /County Consolidation bill did

not pass. He stated that the Sanctuary Cities Bill would be discussed at the Special Session called by the Governor, and that the Mayor would be writing a letter in opposition to the Bill. He thanked the Consultants who assisted the Intergovernmental Relations Department with the Legislative Session.

In response to Councilmember Ramos, Mr. Contreras confirmed that the Bill related to Graffiti on Historical Structures did not pass. He further discussed the estimated \$6 million in savings related to SB 350 and the impact it would have on the City's budget. In response to Chairman Rodriguez, Mr. Contreras confirmed that the Special Session called by the Governor lasts thirty days, and the Governor can continue to add items up to the 29th day of the Session. Chairman Rodriguez thanked IGR's staff and the Consultants who worked to protect the City's interests during the State Legislative Session.

Mr. Contreras explained that the Sanctuary Cities Bill would prohibit a City Council, Police Department, or Department Head from adopting an Ordinance, rule or policy that would limit a Police Officer's ability to inquire the immigration status, or cooperate with the Federal Government about immigration issues. Mr. Contreras confirmed that the City currently does not have a policy that would violate the Sanctuary Cities Statute, if approved.

b. Federal Legislative Update and Possible Action

Carlos Contreras, Intergovernmental Relations Director

i. Briefing on Strategic Plan for securing Federal Funding

Mr. Contreras reported that there was a moratorium imposed by the House of Representatives and the Senate against earmarks. As a result, he noted additional strategies were devised for seeking Federal Funding. He discussed their strategic plan that follows the Congressional Year, and indicated that part of the strategic plan includes trying to obtain funding directly from the agencies, and seeking grant opportunities.

Tom Downs, Consultant, highlighted three priority Federal Initiatives which included the Federal Courthouse Relocation, Homeland Security Funding, and the Brownfields Program. He indicated that the Courthouse relocation was a huge undertaking, but felt strongly about their strategy that involves contact with Congressional and Agency Representatives. Mr. Contreras added that there had been discussions and meetings regarding this project, and confirmed that there would be continued lobbying of Congress. He stated that funding for the Courthouse would remain a priority. Walter Serna, Consultant, highlighted the executed contract with Kell Munoz Architects for the design of the Courthouse, which he noted was an indication that the project is moving forward. Mr. Downs added that one of their goals is to work with the White House and OMB to get this initiative on President Obama's Budget as early as next February. He noted that it could take two years to fund this project.

Mr. Downs discussed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Funding, and noted that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee met with the Congressional Delegation and DHS officials in March. He acknowledged the decreased funding for Homeland Security and noted that DHS focused primarily on the 31 cities they considered most at risk for terror, with San Antonio ranked at 36. As such, the City received \$1.8 million in DHS Security Grants. Mr. Downs cited the continued work necessary to increase funding for Homeland Security which is split among 64 U.S. Cities. Mr. Contreras confirmed that there is money that comes to the State of Texas for Homeland Security, but it is typically utilized for additional police officers. He

cited the relationship the City had with Nim Kidd, who is currently with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. He noted that they are able to communicate to Chief Kidd and the Governor's Office, the request that they provide direct payment to the City of San Antonio. He confirmed that there is funding up until next fiscal year, and the main concern is for future funding beyond 2012. Additionally, Mr. Downs explained that the Fusion Center is tied to the San Antonio Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and described it as a different intelligence gathering function that consists of co-locating Federal, State and Local individuals to one center. Mr. Contreras clarified that the funding requested for this Fusion Center Initiative is for personnel and equipment and outlined the regions covered by UASI.

Mr. Downs discussed the Brownfields Program, which he stated has been identified by the City Manager as a priority initiative. He acknowledged that they were preparing a memo identifying potential funding sources, and requested an update from staff as to what communities, blighted or otherwise, they felt were in need of remediation. A.J Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager, confirmed they would report back to the Committee and provide further information related to Brownfields. Mr. Downs added that the Brownfields Assessment Grant was one of the more promising opportunities for the City. Councilmember Lopez expressed some of his concerns regarding this initiative, and the methodology for identifying Brownfields in the City.

Mr. Downs mentioned there was more funding for Military projects, and felt San Antonio could capture some of that funding for transportation projects. He spoke of the possibilities with military construction projects. He highlighted some of the funding received for San Antonio Missions National Historic Park for this fiscal year, and future funding possibilities for the Missions.

Councilmember Lopez spoke of the importance of future funding for education and literacy initiatives, and noted that the SA2020 Committee highlighted the importance of seeking additional grant sources to impact literacy initiatives. Mr. Contreras mentioned the City Manager's challenge to the City's Executive Team to participate in literacy programs such as San Antonio Youth Literacy and other similar programs. Councilmember Ramos noted the importance of SA2020, and how transportation and education were top priorities for that initiative. She suggested including this verbiage in pamphlets or brochures for future trips to Washington D.C. to advocate for City of San Antonio Initiatives. Mr. Contreras responded that they have been strategizing on transportation initiatives, and it remains a priority for the City.

ii. Discussion and Consideration of State Consultant Contract Extension

Carlos Contreras reported that in the past, there were five (5) State Consultants year-round. He stated that the number has since been reduced to one (1) consultant, with others hired on an as-needed basis. He noted that the current contract with State Consultant Marc Rodriguez expires in September, but his contract can be extended for up to two years. He stated that Staff is recommending approval of the extension. Chairman Rodriguez asked of the current contract amount. Mr. Contreras explained that the costs were all inclusive, and he further explained how they developed the budget amount. Chairman Rodriguez inquired about the possibility of increasing the amount of the contract. Councilmember Ramos expressed her approval of increasing the contract amount as well.

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

iii. Discussion and Consideration of Federal Consultant Contract Extension

Carlos Contreras reported that the Federal Representation Services Contract with Patton Boggs expires September 30, 2011 and that the contract provides for two (2) one-year extensions. He recommended that the contract be modified to align the extension of the contract with the Congressional Year. He indicated that they have added a provision in the contract that would require the Consultant to participate in quarterly meetings, either in person or via conference call, with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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

4. Consideration of items for future meetings

There were no items addressed.

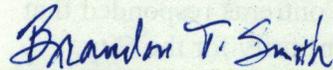
5. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate, litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed

There was no Executive Session.

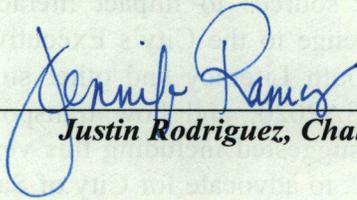
6. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa A. Lopez
Office of the City Clerk


Justin Rodriguez, Chairman