

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

A WORK SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WERE HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Work Session at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, **August 31, 2010**, Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, Taylor, Ramos, Medina, Lopez, Rodriguez, Williams, Chan, Clamp, and Mayor Castro. **ABSENT:** Cortez,

1. STAFF PRESENTATION ON THE FY 2011 BUDGET FOCUSING ON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

• INTERNATIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Rene Dominguez, Director of International and Economic Development (IEDD), briefed the City Council on the economy of the City. Mr. Dominguez stated that an Atlantic Magazine article identified San Antonio as being one of the most economically resilient Major Cities. The article noted that San Antonio was experiencing an economic boom due to its diverse economy and spending in the areas of health care, education, and military.

Mr. Dominguez stated that the Department initiated a multi-phased Reorganizational Plan in FY 2009. It was noted that the intent of Phases I and II were to focus on the core functions of the Department. The functional changes made in Phase I and those proposed for Phase II were identified. In regards to Phase III, it was noted that the Plan called for the City to collaborate with Bexar County and the Economic Development Foundation (EDF) as well as integrate new Departmental Programs and SA 2020 Initiatives into the Department's core mission. Mr. Dominguez stated that the Department's Mission Statement would be revised in September during the Department's Retreat.

As it relates to FY 2010 Accomplishments, Mr. Dominguez highlighted the companies that invested in San Antonio and noted that the total new investment made by the companies equaled \$386 million. Mr. Dominguez spoke on how the utilization of a new model of economic development assisted with encouraging InCube Labs to locate to San Antonio and would assist with boosting San Antonio's future profile in the research field.

In regard to Green Initiatives, it was noted that the City partnered with CPS Energy to approve a tax abatement that would allow for the creation of the largest solar facility in the State of Texas. Mr. Dominguez detailed the Blue Wing Solar Project and noted that the facility would generate 14 megawatts of energy annually.

Mr. Dominguez detailed the Economic Development Fund (EDF) Action Plan and noted that the goal of EDF was to enhance communication and coordination efforts with community partners by increasing recruitment, retention, marketing, and research efforts. It was noted that the Department recently created a Division with the purpose of targeting International Business Development. Mr. Dominguez spoke on the methodology for the creation of said Division, goals and objectives, and

Plan of Action. It was noted that the Division planned on working closely with the International Relations Office to leverage established relationships with foreign countries. Another FY 2011 Accomplishment highlighted was the passage of a new Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Ordinance. It was noted that said ordinance would be effective January 1, 2011 and would assist the City in helping small businesses develop. Mr. Dominguez stated that the Department had finalized a Policies and Procedures Manual and was initiating a Marketing and Awareness Campaign.

As it relates to the Proposed FY 2011 Budget, it was noted that approximately 83% of the overall Budget was allocated towards Personal Services with the balance funding Contractual Services, Commodities, and Other Services. Mr. Dominguez spoke on the personnel complement of the Department and noted that 1 position was being added while 2 positions were being transitioned out. An additional Budget Improvement proposed includes adding \$1.2 million to the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF). It was noted that said funds would be combined with CPS Energy CIED funds to attract, expand, and retain business; create new jobs; and stimulate local investment and development. Previous Departmental funding was highlighted and it was noted that the Department has been more efficient and economical over the years. As a result of cost saving measures made since 2009, the Department has been able to focus on core functions.

Lastly, Mr. Dominguez provided the Council with a short summary of the Initiatives that the Department plans on accomplishing in FY 2011. Said Initiatives include implementing Phase III of the Reorganization Plan; identifying synergies resulting from consolidation efforts; focusing on collaborative efforts in order to recruit, retain, and market San Antonio; implementing the SBEDA ordinance; and continuing to create and define the "new model" for economic development.

- **CENTER CITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager, presented the City Council with the FY 2011 Proposed Budget; personnel complement, accomplishments, and proposed initiatives for Center City Development Office. He provided the City Council with the Department's mission, marketing campaign, organizational structure, and personnel complement. It was noted that the City had collaborated with several groups and agencies to assess how Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods could be revitalized. In regards to the FY 2011 Proposed Organizational Structure, it was noted that the Department provided technical assistance to HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC), Westside Development Corporation (WDC), San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE), and Office of Urban Redevelopment of San Antonio (OURSA). Mr. DiGiovanni highlighted the structure of each entity; personnel complement; and proposed funding allocations to be made by the City and other agencies.

As it relates to the FY 2011 Budget, the Department was proposing to have a personnel complement of 9 employees. Accomplishment made in FY 2010 included the adoption of Inner City Reinvestment/Infill Policy (ICRIP), Eastside Initiative, HemisFair Initiative, and Commercial Housing and Incentives. It was noted that ICRIP encouraged Inner City Reinvestment by waiving City fees and SAWS impact fees as well as offering tax abatement incentives. Since February 2010, a total of 1,023 market rate units and 47 affordable housing units have been developed. As a result of Center City Development Office facilitating the Eastside Summit, the redevelopment of the Eastside has been sparked, the quality of life for residents has increased, and the need for the creation of a Land Bank Program to assist with the development of housing was identified. The

HemisFair Initiative was highlighted and it was noted that said Program was created in August 2009 to manage and oversee the development of HemisFair Park and the surrounding area. It was noted that the first step in the Program was to develop a Master Plan. A total of 21 proposals were received with two firms being considered for final approval. Mr. DiGiovanni stated that the HemisFair Initiative included negotiating with the General Services Administration to swap the Federal Courthouse property for the current Police Headquarters. It was noted that both contracts were scheduled to be approved by Council within the next several months.

As it relates to Commercial and Housing Incentives, it was noted that Program Incentives resulted in investments totaling \$90 million. Mr. DiGiovanni highlighted several successful projects and spoke on the impact to the community. It was noted that Center City Development Office planned on adding 3 new positions, developing a new Market Tax Credit Program, and developing an ICRIP Strategy. Other proposed Improvements for FY 2011 include funding Inner City Incentives Fund in the amount of \$2 million, funding HPRAC in the amount of \$400,000, and funding the Land Bank in the amount of \$1.5 million. As it relates to Inner City Redevelopment, it was noted that the funding would be utilized to target and develop public infrastructure, promote infill housing, make façade improvements, address traffic and mobility issues, and assist with financing. Mr. DiGiovanni stated that HPRAC funding would be utilized for office and personnel start-up costs and for managing Master Plan efforts. He noted that the mission of the Land Bank was to encourage redevelopment and revitalization of the Inner City via the identification, acquisition, management, and disposal of real property.

Lastly, Mr. DiGiovanni detailed FY 2011 Performance Measurements which included development of a Strategic Plan for Downtown that was consistent with SA 2020, finalizing contract details with the General Services Administration regarding the Federal Building land swap, finalizing the plan of action regarding the redevelopment of the Friedrich Building, developing and implementing an ICRIP Strategic Plan, working with private developers to construct residential units in the Downtown area, as well as identifying and prioritizing infrastructure improvements for inclusion in the 2012 Bond Program and other Capital Improvements Programs. Other Performance Measures identified were the acquisition of land for a Downtown grocery store; promoting Downtown residential, retail, and office development; identifying vacant Inner City property; adopting an HPRAC Master Plan, selecting a Master Developer for the Mission Drive-in Project, and focusing on Land Bank Initiatives.

- **PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

T.C. Broadnax, Assistant City Manager, explained that the Department was recently restructured and that the intent of said action was to better coordinate revitalization and community development efforts while ensuring that the goals and objectives of the Community Development Strategic Plan were followed. City Manager Sculley provided the Council with the history of the consolidation of the Planning Department over the years and the methodology for the recent consolidation with the Community Development component of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Department. She spoke of the efficiencies of the consolidation.

Mr. Broadnax detailed the mission and personnel complement of the Department and briefly highlighted the goals and objectives of the various Divisions and Programs. In the area of FY 2010 Accomplishments, it was noted that the Department updated its Strategic Plan for Community Development to assist Center City Development Office with Inner City Redevelopment Initiatives,

coordinated the 2010 Census Complete Count Initiative, completed 5 Neighborhood Plans, completed 2 Sector Plans, completed 3 New Urban Design Districts, and provided Community Outreach to various community interest groups.

The Programs undertaken by the Ft. Sam Houston Community Development Office were highlighted to include the facilitation of the Eastside Financial Summit, participation in several neighborhood events promoting community involvement, identification and remediation of quality of life concerns, and development of a Technical Assistance Center. Mr. Broadnax highlighted the success of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Program. Accomplishments included the construction of 343 new single family homes; the addition of 68 acres of new open space; the addition of \$38 million of new value to TIRZ areas; as well as the development of the Inner City TIRZ, the River North TIRZ, and the Mission Drive-in TIRZ. In regards to the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Program, it was noted that the Department facilitated the approval of 2 Revitalization contracts, participated in 11 Façade Improvement Projects, and Hosted 18 community events and business owner meetings.

In regard to the FY 2011 Proposed Budget, it was noted that the Department was requesting \$12.1 million in funding and a personnel complement of 82. Mr. Broadnax detailed the funding sources for each Program as well as the FY 2011 Initiatives scheduled to be completed by each of the 6 Divisions. In conclusion, it was noted that the Department planned on consolidating redevelopment functions, implementing an Infill and Redevelopment Program, developing a Housing Policy and a Housing Plan, and updating TIF Program guidelines.

Councilmember Cisneros spoke on the challenges of developing affordable Housing in District 1 and the Inner City. Ms. Sculley stated that the concept of developing a Land Bank was initiated by Councilmember Cisneros and that the Planning and Community Development Staff would collaborate with Councilmembers to identify and acquire vacant lots for the purpose of developing affordable housing.

At the request of Councilmember Cisneros, Mr. Broadnax stated that the City had approved NCR contracts with St. Mary's University, Tobin Hill, and Avenida Guadalupe. He continued by stating that the total NCR budget was \$560,000 and that said funding would be utilized on the 3 approved NCR contracts. It was noted that the City planned on utilizing \$1.5 million to identify and purchase approximately 15 to 25 vacant lots throughout the City as well as for Program Outreach efforts. Councilmember Cisneros requested that the Department focus redevelopment efforts within the Inner City as the need was great.

As it relates to the new Urban Design Districts, it was noted that the Department planned on developing in the Westfort Neighborhood Conservation District, the South Presa Corridor District, Walzem Corridor and Strategic Plan Overlay District, and Ft. Sam Houston Corridor District. Councilmember Cisneros requested that the Department focus on investing in the Inner City, especially within the ICRIP area.

At the request of Councilmember Cisneros, Mr. DiGiovanni reiterated the FY 2011 Proposed Budget for Center City and its personnel complement. Councilmember Cisneros highlighted the funding allocations for Inner City Incentives, OUR SA Land Bank, and HPARC and spoke on the transformation to be made at HemisFair. In regards to the Land Bank, Mr. DiGiovanni stated that Center City Development Office would be responsible for the acquisition of land in the Inner City

while the Planning and Community Development Department would be responsible for the management of the land. Together the Departments would assist with the redevelopment and revitalization of Inner City neighborhoods. Councilmember Cisneros spoke on the positive impact said efforts would have on the community.

Mr. DiGiovanni reiterated funding for SAGE and WDC and the Programs undertaken by said organizations. He clarified that commencing October 1; several current Center City Development Office employees would be transferred to the Planning and Community Development Department. It was noted that the City planned on allocating \$400,000 in seed money to HPARC; however, the HPARC Board would be responsible for creating its own Budget. Councilmember Cisneros voiced her concern with the Department not having enough personnel to accomplish identified goals.

Councilmember Cisneros also spoke to the vacant property located at Soledad and Houston and asked Mr. DiGiovanni what the plan was for said Property. It was noted that said property would be good for mixed-use development to include retail and high-end condominiums.

Councilmember Cisneros spoke on the importance of IEDD targeting Economic Development within the Inner City as well as workforce training. She spoke on the possibility of the International Business Development Division collaborating with Port SA to encourage foreign investment in San Antonio. Lastly, Councilmember Cisneros noted that the President of Kumamoto University would be visiting San Antonio next week.

In regards to SBEDA compliance, Councilmember Cisneros voiced her concerns with the City not securing enough minority vendors. Mr. Dominguez stated that the results of the Disparity Study revealed that the City was successful in assisting small minority women owned businesses in growing. He stated that the new SBEDA Ordinance incorporates ambitious goals and assists the City in developing more small businesses.

Councilmember Chan spoke on how the Proposed Reorganization Plan and inclusion of performance measures into the EDF Action Plan would assist in sparking new investment. She asked of the collaboration between the City and various other organizations to develop a database which tracked Investors. As it relates to the development and implementation of the new SBEDA ordinance, Councilmember Chan noted that the execution and monitoring aspects of the ordinance would promote small business development while leveling the playing field.

In regard to Center City, Councilmember Chan spoke in support of the Department's Logo as well as funding allocation in the amount of \$2 million for Inner City Redevelopment. She continued by voicing her concern with HPARC having 1 support staff member and asked about future funding initiatives. Mr. DiGiovanni stated that the HPARC Board was proposing to initiate private fundraising efforts in the future as well as creating a Fund Development Committee in order to be self-sufficient. It was noted that with the right development, HPRAC could possibly generate surplus funds to eventually transfer to the General Fund. In regard to HPARC expenses, it was noted that the Department budgeted supplemental funds for the Project Manager's salary, funds for establishing a new office, and funds for a marketing campaign.

Mr. DiGiovanni clarified that the \$1.5 million allocated to the Land Bank would be utilized for the acquisition of land and associated legal processes. Councilmember Chan spoke in support of redevelopment efforts and asked Mr. DiGiovanni how the department planned on soliciting future

funding. Mr. DiGiovanni noted that HPRAC land sale proceeds would go back into the HPARC Budget in order to fund future land purchases. He spoke of the personnel complement of HPRAC and added that the Executive Director of Center City Development Office would also be the Director of the Land Bank with support from a contract staff member and the CIMS Real Estate Manager.

Councilmember Chan spoke in support of the Planning and Community Development Department's Reorganization Plan. She asked for more details regarding the Development Services Fund. Mr. Broadnax stated that said fund paid for 50% of Departmental Planning activities. Ms. Sculley noted that the amount allocated to said Fund was based on new development. Mr. Broadnax provided a status on the selection of a new Department Director and noted that the City planned on hiring someone internally as the Interim Director.

Councilmember Lopez addressed future annexation plans and asked Ms. Sculley how the City anticipated funding the required capital investments. Ms. Sculley stated that most of the development being made was in the City's ETJ and that the City changed its assessment model several years ago in order to ensure that there was enough funding when an annexation was approved. She stated that the current Planning Group could assist with the identification of Capital Projects for 2012. Mr. Broadnax noted that the City recently applied for a sustainability grant in the amount of \$4 million and if approved, regional stakeholders would be tasked with identifying and prioritizing capital needs within the San Antonio Metropolitan Service Area (MSA). He highlighted the impact said grant would have on the community. Ms. Sculley spoke on the plan of action to be utilized if the grant was not approved. Councilmember Lopez cautioned the City on waiting to fund capital needs after annexation and suggested coordinating with local governments.

At it relates to the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program, Councilmember Taylor asked when new areas would be added. Mr. Broadnax replied that the City planned on adding the New Braunfels Corridor this year. Councilmember Taylor suggested that the City revisit Housing Programs as a result of the consolidation and limited resources and also asked that the City market its new approach and new Initiatives.

Councilmember Clamp requested more details regarding the personnel complement of the TIF Division of the Center City Development Office. It was noted that the 8 TIF positions were funded by revenues and taxes generated from Projects completed by the 24 TIFs. In regard to the Land Bank, Councilmember Clamp asked that the acquisition process be transparent and open to the public. Mr. DiGiovanni explained that the Land Bank was a public entity governed by the Local Government Code and all actions were open to the public. He stated that the City Council approved the Board of Directors as well as policies and procedures. Ms. Sculley noted that staff would present to Council at a later time the Land Bank's Plan of Action and Policies and Procedures. Councilmember Clamp recommended that the City target properties with tax liens. Mr. DiGiovanni addressed the possibility of changing legislation to shorten the length of time in which a property could be foreclosed on due to back taxes. Lastly, Councilmember Clamp suggested using revenues generated from the sale of City owned property as seed money for future investments. Ms. Sculley mentioned that the exception for said suggestion was when federal funding was used to purchase the land. Councilmember Clamp asked for a status report on City South Management Authority (CMSA). Mr. Broadnax noted that since 2005 the City had been assisting with the development of the Master Plan and currently funds 2 staff members for this purpose. He explained that the City was scheduled to approve a revised Land-Use Plan in September that would address many of the

concerns voiced by the stakeholders. Ms. Sculley expressed her concern on the challenges encountered with having two governmental entities imposing development restrictions.

Councilmember Ramos voiced her frustration with the direction of CMSA and stated that she had proposed to Carlos Contreras, Director of the Intergovernmental Relations Department, the possibility of giving zoning jurisdiction to Bexar County within the CMSA boundaries as well as changing the CMSA Board appointment process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Castro adjourned the Work Session at 5:01 pm.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Public Hearing at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **August 31, 2010**, Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, Taylor, Ramos, Medina, Lopez, Rodriguez, Williams, Chan, Clamp, and Mayor Castro. **ABSENT:** Cortez.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET PRECEDED BY STAFF PRESENTATION SUMMARIZING COMMENTS MADE DURING THE TEN COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARINGS HELD IN EACH CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT.

Mayor Castro called the meeting to order and stated that the required Budget Public Hearing would be conducted by the City Council to receive comments on the FY 2011 Proposed Budget. He recognized the Budget Staff for their work thus far.

City Manager Sheryl Sculley provided an overview of the FY 2011 Budget Hearings in each of the 10 Districts. Peter Zanoni presented the 2011 Proposed Budget for Human and Workforce Development Services. He reported that the Budget includes \$20.9 million in General Fund and grant resources for Delegate Agencies which constituted a 5.2% increase over FY 2010. He noted that agencies had been informed back in September 2009 and January 2010 of the potential 10% reduction in funding for the FY 2011 Budget. He stated that 24 agencies would be impacted by the funding reductions and that reductions range from 1%-10%. Lastly, he presented four alternate options for Council Consideration: A) Maintain agencies that applied at their FY 2010 level; B) Fund new categories and reduce 50 agencies by 1.5%; C) Fund new categories and reduce 43 agencies by 2.5%; and D) Fund new categories and reduce 42 agencies by 3%.

Mayor Castro declared the Public Hearing open and called upon the individuals registered to speak.

Communities In Schools of San Antonio (CIS) representatives Mark Vallejo, Judge Laura Parker and Judge Philip Kazen addressed the Council in support of continued funding for CIS. Mr. Vallejo thanked the City Council for the funding they have received and spoke of the issues facing children in schools. He noted that many teachers spend time addressing other issues instead of teaching. He stated that of the youth served in CIS, 90% stayed in school; 92% graduated or were promoted to the next grade; and 84% realized an increase in their academics. He requested that the Council continue funding CIS. Judge Parker spoke in support of the drop out prevention programs and funding from the city in FY 2011. She stated that it was important to keep youth on the right path so that they stay away from larger issues in the future. She thanked the city for their support and

recognized the importance of CIS Caseworkers in schools. Judge Kazen stated that he had served as a CIS Board Member for many years and thanked the city for their partnership. He spoke of the importance of providing a safety net for youth to keep them out of the court system in the future. He thanked the City Council for their investment in youth. A letter of support for CIS was submitted by the Superintendents of the following Independent School Districts: Edgewood, Harlandale, Northside, San Antonio, South San Antonio, and Southwest.

Carol Lozano representing the Senior Companion Program thanked the City Council for including them in the budget. She stated that their program serves isolated homebound seniors on a fixed income and provides respite care services at no cost. Edward Gutierrez spoke of his experiences with the program and stated that his mother is a widow and has dementia. She needed help and the Senior Companion Program was there to help. He thanked the City Council for funding the program.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters represented by Denise Barkhurst, CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters stated that several parents, kids and board members were present in support of the program. She spoke of her experiences with the program, noting that she had mentored an individual for over six years. She asked the City Council to invest in their organization by providing funding. She stated that she recognized that funding was limited but that organizations should be selected based on those with the greatest socio-economic impact. She reported that 87% of their participants graduated from high school or received their GED and that 60% attended college. She added that the return on investment was high and noted the positive results of the program. Scott Duffy, Past Chair of Big Brothers/Big Sisters addressed the Council and stated that he mentored two children who were at-risk of which one is attending college and the other is a senior in high school and will be attending college. He thanked the City Council for their consideration of funding.

Executive Director Anthony E. Hargrove of the Ella Austin Community Center, and Stephen Nicholas, Dr. John Sparks, and Dora Metzger of the Board of Directors spoke in support of funding for their organization. Mr. Hargrove requested that the city include funding in the amount of \$165,000 for the Ella Austin Youth Development Program in the FY 2011 Budget. Mr. Nicholas, President of the Board of Directors spoke of the many services that the organization provides ranging from Early Childhood to Senior Nutrition. He noted the at-risk environment for youth due to the lack of programs available on the Eastside. He mentioned that the after-school mentoring and tutoring programs would help keep 385 youth off the streets. He added that they are located in an area that needs great assistance and requested that funding for their program be reconsidered. Dr. Sparks stated that he was a Psychiatrist that had worked with juveniles for many years and expressed concern with the lack of funding for the Ella Austin Community Center. He spoke of the importance of prevention programs for youth and collaboration with other community organizations. Ms. Metzger stated that she had served as a Board Member for many years and requested funding for the Ella Austin Community Center. She noted that the work of some of the youth that they served was displayed at Sunset Station.

Phyllis Jendrusch, Valarie Robinson and Patricia Morin of Dress for Success, and Board Member Tim D'Antonio spoke on behalf of funding for their organization. Ms. Jendrusch stated that their organization had been very successful and served 1,200 individuals in 2009. She spoke of the services that they provide including workforce development and job retention skills. She noted that transitional services were imperative and recognized several participants of their program. Ms. Morin stated that she was honored to speak before the City Council and spoke of her experiences in

having been homeless. She noted that she was a single mother of a 17 year-old daughter and had volunteered at Dress for Success. Soon thereafter, she then became a client of the program. As she became empowered, she is now a businesswoman. She requested that the city provide full funding as requested. Ms. Robinson stated that she was a Hurricane Katrina survivor and had come to San Antonio angry and hurt. She was mentored by Pamela Taylor and had been encouraged to write. She noted that her work had been published and she had participated in Luminaria. Mr. D'Antonio stated that he served as a Board Member and that over the past three years; they had received funding from the city in the amount of \$70,000 per year. He spoke of the great return of investment that their organization provides and requested continued full funding. Pamela Taylor added that she was thankful for the funding that the city has provided to their organization. A letter of support for Dress for Success San Antonio was submitted from Meghan Garza-Oswald, Director of External Relations of Haven for Hope.

Leticia Vela addressed the Council regarding the budget changes that will affect District 5 and stated that the reduction in hours to the learning center will hurt the area. She provided demographic data of the great percentage of adults with an Educational Attainment of 8th Grade or Lower within the district and noted that every effort should be made to sustain or increase the current levels of literacy funding for the district. She expressed concern with the increase to fees at the Natatorium and the decreased amount of brush collection.

Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas stated that they partner with many of the organizations that had addressed the Council today. She noted that girls are underutilized resources and that their goal was to create a society in which every girl can reach their highest potential. Selena Mitchell, Board Member stated that she had been a Girl Scout and the experiences had helped her find the confidence to be a leader. She explained that they are there to help reach into the community to open doors for girls. Virginia Ballew stated that her participation with her Girl Scout Troop had greatly impacted her life and had learned that you are never too young to voice your opinion. She noted that the organization changes lives and requested funding from the City Council. Jennifer May Dennis stated that she was a 22-year member of the Girl Scouts and spoke of the importance of the programs they provide. She asked the City Council to support their request for funding.

Baron Herdelin-Doherty, CEO of the YMCA of San Antonio addressed the Council and stated that they needed the support of the city. He noted that they will continue to grow by all means necessary and work to improve people's lives. Anita Ibarra, a young member of the YMCA stated that the YMCA was a really good place for youth and hoped that they received funding from the city. Rose Ann Barajas and her daughter, a participant in the YMCA stated that the organization develops leadership skills and provides good, wholesome fun. She noted that the number of individuals with Diabetes and Obesity issues would be much higher if not for the YMCA. She expressed concern that the \$84,000 in reductions to the YMCA Budget would result in cuts to their programs. She spoke of the success of the children that had attended the YMCA and urged the Council to support their request for funding.

Family Service Association-Youth Against Gang Activity Representatives addressed the City Council in support of funding for their organization. Martin Sanchez thanked the City Council for their past funding and stated that he had recently graduated from Memorial High School. He noted that the organization helped him with an internship that had allowed him to assist his parents financially. Marleen Moreno stated that it was a great program and thanked the Council for giving

her the opportunity to participate. Another representative stated that the program has given her confidence and she was able to join other organizations such as College Prep Classes. She added that if you want to be successful, you need to continue to work hard for the community and your family. She added that her sister, cousin and brother had all joined because of her positive experiences in the program.

Steve Huerta spoke in support of funding for San Antonio Fighting Back, Dress for Success, Youth Against Gang Activity, Communities In Schools, and the Ella Austin Community Center. He stated that they were extensions of law enforcement in that they helped prevent crime.

Barbara Hawkins, Tamara Glenn, and Sharon Francis of the George Gervin Youth Center, and various members of the Urban Leadership Council (ULC) addressed the City Council. Ms. Hawkins thanked the City Council and city staff for their support and introduced ULC Members Britta Pierce, Maygen Brown, Selena Perryman, Sebantiana Jones, and Levi Reed. Ms. Gervin thanked staff for the funding allocated for the college readiness program and reported that they had raised \$1.5 million for college scholarships. Ms. Francis spoke of the Dropout Recovery Program that allows youth to receive a High School Diploma. Ms. Hawkins added that college readiness was critical to the success of the youth attending college and thanked the Council for their continued support.

Jim Watson with the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio thanked the City Council for the funding provided for their After School and Summer Programs over the last two years. He asked for support for their funding in three categories – Youth Development, College Preparation, and Onsite Afterschool Programs. He thanked city staff for their support on the seamless transition for the Onsite Afterschool Program within Harlandale ISD that occurred in February.

San Antonio Fighting Back Executive Director, Linda Tippins addressed the Council and stated that one of their programs was recommended for funding and another program had been greatly cut. She noted that they provided support to youth on issues not addressed by other organizations. She reported that the parents of the youth in their program had conducted over 400 hours of community service. She recognized the individuals that participated in the parenting skills programs and asked that the Council continue to fund the program. Tracy Wilson thanked the Council for their support and provided a brochure of the various programs offered by San Antonio Fighting Back. Celestina Gomez addressed the Council and stated that she was given the opportunity to write a book about her life and had been a former gang member in Los Angeles. She noted that her children were being raised in a better environment and she has become a productive mentor and member of society. A Project Assist Representative stated that right now was the time to help youth and asked that the City Council provide funding to strengthen families.

Faris Hodge, Jr. requested that the City Council provide funding to the organizations present today, noting that they could be funded by the Contingency Fund. He asked how much the city had received from the tobacco and liquor taxes. He stated that 3-1-1 should be funded 24 hours per day and that the funding allocated for Hardberger Park could be used for Delegate Agencies. He requested that the libraries be open later. He expressed concern with the increase to the City Manager's salary and stated that the Park and Airport Police Officers should make the same amount of money as San Antonio Police Officers. He spoke of the great amount of gangs and asked why COPS/Metro was funded at 100%.

Betty Eckert expressed concern that there were over 237,000 seniors throughout the city but the Senior Comprehensive Nutrition Program only provided meals to 3,800. She asked that the city increase the number of meals provided to seniors and that staff also consider increasing the meal amount. She spoke of the many city partners that provide senior services and expressed her appreciation for the Senior Task Force.

Laurie Gruenbeck stated that she worked at the Bazan Library and spoke of the importance of literacy to the community. She noted that libraries give hope to neighborhoods and spoke of her volunteer work with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. She mentioned that English classes had been held in the libraries and that most individuals were able to attend on Saturdays. She mentioned that it would be difficult to attract better jobs due to the low literacy levels in the city. She added that she would be willing to give 1% of her 2% retiree increase to address literacy issues.

Mark Perez expressed concern with hiring another Hazmat Crew and noted that he had been bringing forth issues related to hazardous chemicals for several years. He spoke of the fire that occurred at Age Refinery and noted that they were operating without a Certificate of Occupancy. He expressed concern that tanks were illegally stored at the Kimberly Clark facility located at 4702 Goldfield and at Mission Petroleum Carriers located at 3410 E. Houston.

Bianca Maldonado spoke in support of funding for streets and sidewalks within Monticello Park. She noted that many infrastructure needs could be addressed in the next Bond. She thanked city staff for their investment in alleys and the drainage issues within alleys on Kampmann Road. She recognized Solid Waste for their commitment to keeping the alleys open. She spoke in support of funding for a Building Inspector to be assigned to the Office of Historic Preservation and the increase recommended for spay/neuter services within Animal Care Services.

Rey Rios stated that he was a resident of District 3 and expressed concern with the Native American Community being misrepresented. He spoke of the organizations that disgrace Native Americans and exploit their identity. He stated that he was offended by the statue in Concepcion Park of a great Indian killer and fighter. He asked that the City Council monitor those that are truly part of the Native American Community within the city.

Sallie Scott and Bill White addressed the City Council and thanked them for all that they have done for Animal Care Services. Ms. Scott spoke of the need to address the great amount of animals reproducing and noted the importance of educating the community on spay and neuter programs.

John Yogerst thanked the City Council for their service to the city and expressed concern with the growth in city spending. He referenced the \$40 million shortfall in FY 2012 and spoke against the \$1.6 million spent on overhead costs by Project Quest. He noted that there was a great amount of uncollected account receivables that could be used to fund Delegate Agencies. He expressed concern with the delay on Fire Stations 50 and 51 and noted that there was no such thing as free money.

Celina Montoya stated that she was speaking on behalf of Literacy San Antonio, a literacy coalition working toward achieving 90% Literacy in San Antonio by 2040. She noted that lack of literacy leads to many social ills. She encouraged partners of the Delegate Agencies to include literacy in the services that they provide and spoke of the importance of investing in literacy.

Councilmember Medina thanked the individuals that were present and recognized city staff for their work on the budget. He expressed concern with the reduced funding recommended for Literacy Centers and Delegate Agencies, noting that the residents of District 5 relied on the services. He requested that the Council maintain current funding levels for programs due to the challenging economic conditions.

Mrs. Vacek reported that six written testimonies had been received in support of funding for Communities In Schools from: Velma Guerra, Mike MacNaughton, Sandra Martinez, Mary E. Flores-Garcia, Aaron J. Seaman, and Morris Camp. A written testimony was also received from Aissatou Sidime in support of funding for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other individuals registered to speak, Mayor Castro declared the Public Hearing closed. He thanked everyone that attended and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

APPROVED



**JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR**

Attest:



LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC
City Clerk