

Economic & Community Development Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Room B

Members Present: Councilmember Mary Alice P. Cisneros, *Chair, District 1*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember John G. Clamp, *District 10*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Rene Dominguez, *International & Economic Development Director*; Robert Murdock, *Military Affairs Director*; Ed Davis, *International & Economic Development Assistant Director*; James Henderson, *Military Affairs Assistant Director*; Adrian Perez, *Economic Development Manager*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Leslie Haby, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Bart Sanchez, *Brooks*; Rick Rodriguez, *Brass R E Funds*; Jim McAden, *CPS Energy*; Rick Lopez, *CPS Energy*; Richard Lujan, *CPS Energy*; Stephany Ramsey, *Port San Antonio*

Call to Order

Chairperson Cisneros called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

2. Briefing on EB-5

Presented by Rene Dominguez, Director, International and Economic Development Department

Adrian Perez reported that the City intends to leverage and attract foreign investment, particularly in targeted areas, through the establishment of one or more EB-5 Regional Centers. He stated that the City's role in this process was to designate the Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) following statutory guidance. He noted that the authority to establish TEAs is given to the Governor under federal statute but has been delegated to local municipalities. He added that per the authority granted from the Governor, the Mayor delegated the establishment of TEAs to the International and Economic Development Director. He stated that staff submitted the proposed map and methodology to the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) for review on November 1, 2010 and were informed that the map and methodology had been forwarded to the national office for evaluation. He noted that USCIS regional conference call would be held on March 17, 2011 to address questions regarding EB-5 and that staff was seeking clarification on the role of local governments in establishing a TEA.

Councilmember Chan stated that the TEA should be as large as possible and that the methodology should be as flexible as possible. She noted that a more stringent methodology could be utilized in the future. She asked of

the data used by other cities to determine TEAs. Mr. Perez responded that other cities utilized data that works best for that particular city.

Councilmember Lopez asked of a model to examine to determine TEAs. Mr. Dominguez responded that that the USCIS provided the initial guidance to develop the TEA Map and that staff took more of an aggressive approach to include additional areas through local authority. Councilmember Clamp asked of the timeline for a work session to re-evaluate the TEA Map. Mr. Dominguez responded that a work session would be scheduled after the March 17th USCIS conference call.

3. Briefing on Camp Bullis JLUS Implementation Initiatives

Presented by Robert Murdock, Director, Office of Military Affairs

Robert Murdock reported that the following initiatives had been completed: 1) Endangered Species Assessment Ordinance; 2) Sound Attenuation Ordinance; 3) Dark Sky Ordinance; and 4) Communication Notification Memorandum of Understanding between Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. He stated that the following initiatives were in progress: CPS Retrofit of Street Lighting; Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (RHCP); and Camp Bullis Migration Credits. He noted that 73% of the Camp Bullis JLUS recommendations had been completed or were in progress and 100% of all Army/Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) high-value and high-priority items had been completed.

At this time, Chairperson Cisneros recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 10:07 a.m. She reconvened the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and announced that no action had been taken.

4. Discussion on Economic Development Policies/Issues-Matrix

Presented by Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager and A.J. Rodriguez, Deputy City Manager

Mr. Dominguez provided an overview of the Economic Development Council Committee Policy Area Priorities to include: Targeted Industry Development; Leveraged City Resources Incentives to gain economic and community development; Leveraged City Purchasing Power to promote small, minority and women-owned businesses; and Support of key community partners in delivering targeted workforce development services.

Councilmember Chan requested that staff include dates in the Policy Issues Matrix. She asked of the SAGE Fund. A.J. Rodriguez responded that the City has provided SAGE and the WDC with working capital to provide incentives to small businesses.

5. Consideration of items for future meetings:

Councilmember Clamp requested a briefing on Small Business and Home-Owner Tax Incentives.

Councilmember Chan requested discussion regarding a Public/Private Regional Center Partnership. She also requested a briefing on the City's Procurement Process.

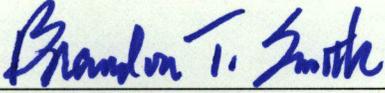
6. Adjournment

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



Mary Alice P. Cisneros, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk