

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

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010  
9:00 a.m.**

**Basement Conference Room, City Hall**

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

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*

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**Staff Present:** Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Rene Dominguez, *International & Economic Development Director*; Ed Davis, Brian James, *Center City Development Office Assistant Director*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Ray Rodriguez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Trey Jacobson

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**Call to Order**

Chairperson Cisneros called the meeting to order.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**2. Discussion on ECDC Policy Focus [Requested by ECDC Committee]**

Pat DiGiovanni presented eight potential policy areas for discussion: 1) Inner City Redevelopment/Infill Policy (ICRIP); 2) Brownfields; 3) Small Business Incentives; 4) Workforce Development; 5) Transportation and Infrastructure Needs; 6) Airport Development Needs; 7) International Business Development; and 8) Community Development. He asked the Committee of the proposed policy areas that required additional policy direction on behalf of the City Council.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. DiGiovanni explained that Brownfields were underutilized, abandoned properties that have a land issue.

Councilmember Chan requested to include "Film Industry Development" to the areas of policy focus and to work closely with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to explore opportunities for more exposure of San Antonio.

Councilmember Clamp concurred with Councilmember Chan and recommended that staff develop a matrix identifying each policy area to track goals and objectives. Councilmember Chan spoke in support of the idea and recommended prioritization of the policy areas prior to creation of a matrix.

Discussion ensued and the following policy areas were cited for inclusion:

Film Industry  
Small Business Incentives  
Inner City Redevelopment Infill Policy (ICRIP)  
International Economic Development  
Landbanks  
Hospitality (targeted for economic development)

It was the consensus of the Committee to include all of the proposed policy areas in the matrix and allow each timeline to determine prioritization.

Chairperson Cisneros asked of the City's partnership with ACCION Texas. Rene Dominguez replied that controls were in place to monitor the partnership. A.J. Rodriguez indicated that assets for the South Texas Business fund would remain in the local area. Councilmember Chan asked of the possibility to waive impact fees for small businesses. Mr. DiGiovanni replied that there were not many impact fee issues with small business. He cited façade programs and grant/loan funding as powerful tools to assist small businesses. Chairperson Cisneros also asked of the use of Empowerment Zone Funds for small businesses. Mr. DiGiovanni responded that Empowerment Zone Funding was most effective in multi-million dollar increments and cited high administrative costs. In response to Councilmember Chan, A.J. Rodriguez stated that the City does not have a specific incentive for small businesses. He noted that consultation and advice are provided through the First Point Business Office and that staff would explore additional options.

Councilmember Chan requested that after the creation of the ECDC Policy Matrix, an update be provided at each ECDC meeting

**3. Consideration of items for future meetings:**

Mr. DiGiovanni stated that ECDC Policy Matrix would be presented at the October ECDC meeting.

**4. Adjournment**

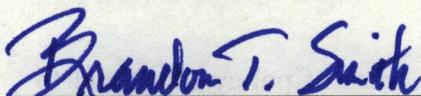
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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**Mary Alice P. Cisneros, Chairperson**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Brandon T. Smith**  
**Office of the City Clerk**