

**SPECIAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011

10:00 AM

CITY HALL – BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, *Chair, District 3*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Mike Frisbie, *CIMS Director*; Stephanie Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Gabriel Garcia, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Baltazar Serna, *Patton Boggs*; Leo Zuniga, *Alamo Colleges*; Pete Bella, *AACOG*; Laura Cole, *Bexar County*

I. Call to order

Chairperson Ramos called the meeting to order.

II. Possible Action Items

- a. Briefing and possible action on a request from Alamo Colleges/UTSA to support initiatives on Higher Education Pell Grant Funding**
Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Carlos Contreras reported that the Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees expressed concern regarding the Budget Control Act and impact to funding for higher education, particularly Pell Grant Funding. Since that time; the House of Representatives and the Senate has committed to full funding of the Pell Grant. He stated that although the initial concern regarding a reduction in funding had been alleviated, the issue was still a potential threat. He requested the Committee's endorsement in support of full funding for the Pell Grant.

Leo Zuniga reported that the Pell Grant was very important to the State of Texas. He stated that \$114 million was provided on an annual basis in Pell Grant Funding which benefited 34,000 students. He noted that funding was utilized for books, tuition, transportation, and other expenses. He added that approximately 500,000 students benefit from Pell Grant Funding State-wide.

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

b. Briefing and possible action on U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided an overview of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. He stated that the City of San Antonio was very successful in applying for the Grant two years ago and came very close to being awarded the grant. He stated that the City was cautioned regarding the issue to provide a plan more regional in scope instead of San Antonio specific. He noted that the City continued discussions with the Planning Group regarding submission for the next round and introduced Peter Bella to make a presentation on the application that had been submitted.

Mr. Bella reported that the application was submitted October 6, 2011 and that a decision was expected within 60 days. He noted that a formal Consortium Agreement was required within 120 days of the award if successful.

Mr. Contreras referenced a listing of Brownfield Grants and Timelines. He stated that additional information would be provided at the next Committee Meeting. Sally Basurto reported that the Dallas Brownsfields Team met with Planning and Center City Staff last week to pursue hard money funds that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has at the regional office. She stated that those funds would assist San Antonio to identify an inventory of Brownfield sites across the city. She noted that Planning and Center City Staff, along with EPA Regional Staff, would identify priorities prior to recommendation to the City Council for the authorization process. She stated that the City compiled a list of Brownfield sites in the 1980's and currently updating the antiquated list.

Councilmember Chan asked if grant funding was exclusive to city-owned property. Ms. Basurto responded that funding could be utilized to assess and clean private property with authorization from the owner. Councilmember Chan asked of the evaluation process to determine properties to be addressed. Ms. Basurto replied that the process was currently being evaluated. She stated that staff was reviewing the Roanoke, Virginia Brownfields Policy model to develop policy for the City of San Antonio. Mr. Contreras reported that the EPA has offered to provide a targeted Brownfields Program to the City of San Antonio. He noted that the EPA would provide analysis and inventory of a region of the city; priorities would be identified through Council direction; and the EPA would assist the City in submitting an application for clean-up funds.

III. Discussion Items

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

a. Update on IGR Council Committee Washington, D.C. Trip scheduled for October 24-26, 2011

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided information on the IGR Council Committee Washington, D.C. Trip scheduled for October 24-26, 2011. He stated that Mayor Castro would arrive Tuesday, October 25, 2011 for afternoon meetings. He provided an overview of scheduled meetings and informed the Committee that the Senate would be in recess that week. He stated that meetings had been scheduled with legislative assistants. He noted that there was a large contingency and meetings would be divided to accommodate conflicting schedules.

b. Briefing on the City's current agreements with Bexar County and ESD inventory

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided an overview of the City's Departmental Inventory of Bexar County Interlocal Agreements (ILA) and Emergency Service Districts (ESD). He reported that there were 11 ESDs and that all agreements with expenditures over \$20,000 required City Council approval.

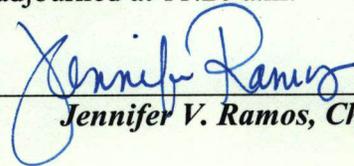
Councilmember Lopez requested further discussion on the City's relationship with ESDs.

IV. Consideration of items for future meetings

Mr. Contreras started that Patton Boggs would provide a briefing at the November 9, 2011 Committee Meeting. He spoke of having Patton Boggs attend every IGR Committee Meeting via video or by phone. Additionally, he spoke of consideration of a paperless meeting agenda.

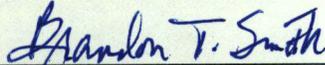
V. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Jennifer V. Ramos, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith

Office of the City Clerk