

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012  
10:00 AM  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ray Lopez, *Chair, District 6*  
Councilmember Leticia Ozuna, *District 3*  
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*  
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** Carlos Contreras, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Robert Murdock, *Military Affairs Director*; Lawrence Trevino, *Battalion Fire Chief*; Frank Sherman, *Military Affairs Deputy Director*; David Garza, *Center City Development Office*; Francis Gonzalez, *Assistant to the Mayor*; Stephanie Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Baltazar Serna, *Patton Boggs*; Marc Rodriguez, *Offices of Marc Rodriguez*; Erin Courege, *Offices of Marc Rodriguez*

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At this time, the Committee addressed Item II.

**II. Discussion Items**

**Federal:**

- a. Briefing on Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding**  
Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Carlos Contreras reported that the San Antonio Urban Area (SAUA) has been designated to receive Urban Area Security Initiative Funding (UASI) for key Homeland Security Preparedness Programs. He stated that the Department of Homeland Security's FY 2011 Budget had been reduced by \$780 million, resulting in no available funding for the San Antonio Area USAI.

Councilmember Chan asked of the use of funding and the impact of the reduced funding. Mr. Contreras responded that funding is used for training, prevention, and response to homeland security issues, whether natural disaster or terrorist threat. Chief Lawrence Trevino sited funded assets to include: 2<sup>nd</sup> Hazmat Unit; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rescue Unit (Helicopter); Bullet proof vests for law enforcement; Chemical suits for Hazmat Team; and Pharmaceuticals for first responders and their families. He noted that due to funding cuts, there was a challenge of sustaining said assets because they have a shelf life. He added that said assets are utilized regionally, not just in San Antonio.

Councilmember C. Medina entered the meeting.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Chief Trevino stated that he would provide a list of the city's ranking information for USAI Funding.

Councilmember Lopez asked of any impact to the Fusion Center. Chief Trevino stated that a component of the Fusion Center was funded through grants and may have to be absorbed through the General Fund if no UASI Funding is available.

At this time, Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

### **Call to order**

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

#### **I. Approval of Minutes of the November 9, 2011 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the Minutes of the November 9, 2011 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **b. Briefing on Federal Courthouse Construction Funding** Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Carlos Contreras reported that Chairman Lopez accompanied Mayor Castro and Judge Xavier Rodriguez to Washington, D.C. to confer with members of Congress regarding funding for construction of a new Federal Courthouse. He stated that they met with Senator Richard Dublin, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson. They discussed space and security needs of the Courthouse and economic development/downtown revitalization efforts of the city. He noted that San Antonio ranked #4 on the Administrative Office of Courts Priority List for Construction. He spoke of the City's strategy to be prepared should fund opportunities become available. He noted that Mayor Castro leveraged his relationship with the White House to include the City's request for funding and that Senator Dublin and Congresswoman Emerson agreed to advocate on the City's behalf.

Mr. Contreras provided an overview of the spacing and security issues and cited valid issues to elevate the City's ranking on the Construction List. Mr. Serna spoke of Senator Hutchinson's effort to get the entire Delegation's support and noted that the City's Delegation has always worked well together.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Contreras stated that the City has a good relationship with Senator Cornyn; however, he noted that providing support for funding was not one of his priorities. Councilmember Chan spoke of the importance of a strong relationship with Senator Cornyn and Congressman Smith and noted that she could be of assistance in that effort.

#### **c. Review Federal Consultant Monthly Written Report** Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided an overview of the Federal Consultant Monthly Written Report to include information regarding SAFETEA-LU Reauthorization and FAA Reauthorization. He stated that a multi-year funding bill for airports had been passed that included eight slots for

direct flights into National Airport. He noted that San Antonio's strategy was to secure a carrier to utilize San Antonio International Airport for direct flights to National Airport and that staff was in negotiations with Southwest Airlines.

Mr. Contreras stated that the bill had been passed and that the FAA would soon provide rules associated with the bill. He noted that staff's efforts were to secure a commitment in preparation for a swift application process once FAA Rules have been set in place. He added that San Antonio was in the top five cities that do not have direct flights to National Airport.

**d. Briefing on the Development of 113<sup>th</sup> Federal Legislation Program Timeline**

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras reported that the previous Federal Legislative Program had been aligned with the Congressional Year which is for two years (two sessions) and provided a timeline for the development of the 113<sup>th</sup> Federal Legislative Program. He stated that City Departments would be notified to consider August, 2012 for receiving their proposals.

Councilmember Chan stated that Lackland Air Force Base currently services the F-16 Aircraft and that it will be retiring in eight years. She noted that the time has come to advocate for the F-35 Aircraft Training Program to come to San Antonio.

**State:**

**a. Briefing on the Development of the 83<sup>rd</sup> State Legislative Program Timeline**

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided the proposed timeline for the adoption of the 83<sup>rd</sup> State Legislative Program. He reported that the proposed strategy included input from City Departments, Executive Leadership Team, and City Council Committees. He noted that a letter would be prepared for Chairman Lopez to invite Council Committee Chairs to provide input. He added that the timeline also include:

- ✚ September 2012 – IGR Council Committee consideration for approval of recommendations for inclusion in State Legislative Program
- ✚ September/October 2012 – Presentation of legislative proposals to City Council for approval and adoption of 83<sup>rd</sup> State Legislative Program
- ✚ January 2013 – 83<sup>rd</sup> State Legislative Session begins

Marc Rodriguez, State Legislative Consultant, stated that he was working on opportunities for Interim Legislative Hearings to be held in the City Council Chamber.

**b. Review State Consultant Monthly Written Report**

Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Marc Rodriguez reported that there would be more of an urban legislature in January, 2013 due to redistricting. He stated that there would definitely be another deficit (over \$20 million) and that "Water" would be a key issue. With regard to Redistricting, he noted that the San Antonio Judge Panel was not in agreement with Draft Attorney General Maps and would likely not make the April 3, 2012 deadline.

Mr. Contreras spoke of the Sunset Advisory Commission and 24 agencies that were under review. He stated that staff was monitoring the following agencies: Department of Criminal Justice, Office of the Fire Fighter's Pension, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), Public Utility Commission of Texas, and the Railroad Commission.

Mr. Contreras reported that the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker had issued charges to the Committees to study and make recommendations to the Legislature. He stated that IGR staff reviews those issues, assigns them to City Departments and requests input and monitoring of said issues.

**c. Briefing on House and Senate Interim Charge Hearings**  
Carlos Contreras, Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Mr. Contreras provided a recap of the 82<sup>nd</sup> State Legislative Interim Charges – Hearing Schedule.

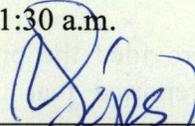
**III. Consideration of items for future meetings**

**a. Next Meeting Scheduled: March 14, 2012**

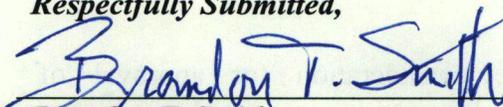
Mr. Contreras announced that the next meeting will be held March 14, 2012 in the Municipal Plaza C Room.

**IV. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

  
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*Ray Lopez, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

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