

**Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2007**  
**Municipal Plaza Building Room "C"**  
**1:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Chip Haass, Chair, District 10  
Councilmember Roland Gutierrez, District 3  
Councilmember Patti Radle, District 5  
Councilmember Elena Guajardo, District 7

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**Members Absent:**

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**Staff Present:** Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Sharon De La Garza, *Assistant City Manager*; Andrew Smith, *Intergovernmental Relations Director*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Michael Bernard, *City Attorney*; Martha Sepeda, *1<sup>st</sup> Assistant City Attorney*; Ben Gorzell, *Finance Director*; Sally Basurto, *Grants Management Officer*; Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Camila Kunau, *Assistant City Attorney*; Bernadette McKay, *Deputy City Attorney*; Beverly Stephens, *Assistant City Attorney*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Melissa Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*; Yolanda Byington, *Office of the City Clerk*; Paul Jimenez, *District 2 Staff*; Maria Alejandro, *District 7 Staff*; Christine Gutierrez, *District 5 Staff*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Bobby Perez, *Shelton-Valadez*; Ron Wilson, *SA Express News*; Buddy Villejo, *SEIU*; Rosa Murray, *SEIU*; Ogden Chamberlain, *SEIU*; Paul Brock Jr., *SEIU*; Eliseo Medina, *SEIU*; Steven Ury, *SEIU*; Norm Yen, *SEIU*; Katherine Thompson-Garcia, *AFL-CIO*; Gregory Geis

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**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Haass called the meeting to order.

**II. Approval of Minutes for the February 21, 2007 Meeting**

Councilmember Guajardo moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2007 meeting. Chairman Haass seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilmember Radle abstained.

**III. Issues to be Considered**

**a) Consideration and possible action for the nominees of the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority**

Chairman Haass called on the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority nominees to give a 2-3 minute statement in the following order:

Joe Garcia stated that he is currently employed with AT&T, a past VIA Metropolitan Board member having served on 2 committees and chaired one of the committees. He noted that he is VIA Transit Bus rider.

Robert Beltran stated that he served 5 years on the San Antonio Housing Board, 4 years on the Library Board, and many years as a Tutor – Project Learn To Read. He noted that he currently serves at the USO Downtown location. He also informed the Committee that he is a VIA Transit rider, has a VIA Transit Card and that he was familiar with the VIA Transit system.

In response to Councilmember Radle, he expressed that the greatest challenge to VIA at this time is the frequency of buses. He feels that VIA has over-extended its bus schedule. In response to Councilmember Guajardo, he stated that if he were appointed to the Board he would listen to the concerns of the public.

Katherine Thompson-Garcia stated that she was a member of the AFL-CIO and serves as Director of Community Services, currently employed with the United Way, retired AT&T/Southwestern Bell employee, a VIA Transit rider, and worked with VIA Transit drivers who were attacked by the public. She noted that she would like to serve on the VIA Board to represent VIA Transit Workers.

Greg Geis stated that he was a Corporate Real Estate Asset Manager with AT&T. He informed the Committee that his participation in Leadership San Antonio motivated him to get involved with transportation mobility issues. In response to Councilmember Radle, he stated that he is not a VIA Transit rider but used public transportation on the east and west coasts. He noted that he is an advocate for a light rail system for San Antonio. He added that he felt VIA's greatest challenge was funding and legislation.

Chairman Haass entertained a motion to forward all of the applicants to the City Council for review and consideration. Councilmember Guajardo requested that information on the current Board members be presented with said item when presented to the City Council.

Councilmember Gutierrez moved that said item be forwarded to the entire City Council. Councilmember Guajardo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **b) State and Federal Legislative Update**

### **1. VIA Briefing**

Information was presented on a request for a proposed Resolution of Support for SB 257 regarding the removal of the VIA Transit Tax from the Local Sales Tax Cap. Chairman Haass directed staff to review additional information on SB 257 and present a recommendation to the entire City Council regarding the proposed request for a Resolution of Support. Councilmember Guajardo directed staff to include a chart of current local tax allocations with the recommendation.

### **2. San Antonio briefing**

Andrew Smith informed the Committee that the River Improvement Project will be funded at \$4 million. He presented information on Bill issues regarding: Eminent Domain – HB 2006, Appraisal/Revenue Caps – HB 3534; County Magistration – HB 2109; Vested Rights – HB

3604: Water Quality – SB 1675 & SB 1677: Water – HB 1292 & HB 1565: Fire and Police  
Legislation – HB 2752 & HB 2751: Library District – SB 940: Sales Price Disclosure – HB 1552  
& SB 270: Appropriations – HB 1/SB 1: and Meet and Confer – HB 2009 & HB 1636

**IV. Consideration of scheduling of items for future meetings**

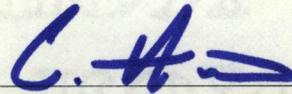
**a) State and Federal Legislative Updates**

**V. Executive Session: consultation concerning attorney-client matters (real estate,  
litigation, contracts, personnel and security) may be discussed.**

There were no Executive Session items.

**VI. Adjournment**

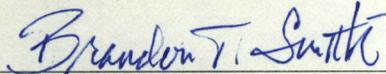
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.



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*Christopher Haass, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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*Brandon T. Smith  
Administrative Assistant II  
Office of the City Clerk*