

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013

10:00 AM

MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING – B ROOM

Members Present: Councilmember Ray Lopez, *Chair, District 6*
Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*
Councilmember Cris Medina, *District 7*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*

Members Absent: Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

Staff Present: Carlos Contreras, *Assistant City Manager*; Sally Basurto, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Christine Wright, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Stephanie R. Johns, *Intergovernmental Relations*; Roderick Sanchez, *Director of Development Services*; Eric G. Burns, *Assistant City Attorney*; Martha Lambaria, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Vic Bryer, *President/CEO of San Antonio Mobility Coalition SAMCO*; Don Durren, *CH Elect of San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCO)*

Call to order

Chairman Lopez called the meeting to order.

Councilmember C. Medina entered the meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes of the December 12, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Chan moved to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2012 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember C. Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Briefing

**a) Presentation on Public Education Funding and Related Litigation
Dr. John Folks**

Chairman Lopez welcomed, introduced and thanked Dr. John Folks for his service. Dr. Folks highlighted court cases in history regarding School Finance, beginning with San Antonio vs. Rodriguez 1973. He emphasized that when property taxes increase in a School District, the School District does not receive the advantage of the property tax increase within Maintenance & Operation (M&O). He provided statistics on School Finance.

Dr. Folks informed the Committee of six Texas Lawsuits:

1. Fort Bend I.S.D. vs State of Texas
2. Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition School Finance
3. MALDEF – Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
4. Texas School Coalition
5. Texans for Real Efficiency and Equity in Education
6. Texas Charter School Association

He spoke of the alleged inefficiencies of School Districts.

Chairman Lopez articulated the significant interest by the City on Early Childhood and the funding aspect. He stated that he wanted to be in the right position to take action and asked for direction to develop a position on Early Childhood. Dr. Folks replied that the main issues would be: 1) School Funding, 2) Assessment - STAAR, 3) School Choice – Vouchers, and 4) Safety. He added that the Equity Center and Texas School Alliance could be contacted and would provide ample information.

Councilmember Chan thanked Dr. Folks for his layout on School Finance and his service to Pre-K 4 SA.

Councilmember Bernal requested a list of School Districts involved in the lawsuits and their attorneys. He asked of School Districts with regard to Chapter 41 and Chapter 42. Dr. Folks replied that Chapter 41 applies to Alamo Heights only in SA and that all other School Districts in San Antonio are Chapter 42.

Councilmember C. Medina thanked Dr. Folks for his leadership at Northside ISD and his service to Pre-K 4 SA. He asked what the Committee could do for change. Dr. Folks stated that San Antonio is a very diverse population and emphasis needs to be on the investment of schools and higher education. He added that an investment in Pre-K would enhance the education of children, which ultimately would improve the graduation rate and would be good for the City.

III. Briefing and Possible Action Items:

a. 83rd State Legislative Program Amendments (Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager)

Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager introduced Vic Bryer, President/CEO of San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCO). Mr. Bryer spoke of Joint Community Initiatives with regard to Transportation. He highlighted the following issues that would likely be proposed this session:

- Use Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue for Transportation
- Increase the Vehicle Registration Fees
- End/Phase Out Diversions
- Rainy Day Fund

Chairman Lopez thanked Mr. Bryer for his presentation.

Councilmember Chan asked of the consensus the group had reached for funding. Mr. Bryer stated that the recommendations are as follows:

1. Increase Funding for Transit
2. End/Phase Out Diversions
3. Use Vehicle Sales Tax Revenue for Transportation
4. Authorize Local Option Registration Fee Increase
5. Capitalize the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund
6. Increase the Vehicle Registration Fees
7. Increase the Gas Tax
8. Preserve Local Funding Options

Mr. Contreras stated that the goal is for the City Council to adopt a general statement endorsing additional funding for Transportation. Councilmember Chan asked if a generic statement would be a strong enough endorsement from the City or if something stronger would be required from Council. Mr. Bryer replied that a generic statement would show support and be very helpful. Mr. Contreras recommended that they use the terms, including the eight points, on the statement from Council to refrain from confusion.

In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Contreras stated that they would present said endorsement at tomorrow's B Session.

Councilmember Chan recognized and thanked Don Durren, CH Elect of SAMCO, for his service.

Mr. Contreras spoke of Graffiti and Endorsements. In response to Councilmember Chan, Mr. Contreras replied that the offender would be the individual who carried out the graffiti.

Councilmember Bernal spoke in support of graffiti cleanup and the importance of outreach to the community on the penalties.

Councilmember Bernal moved to endorse both Transportation Funding and Graffiti Cleanup. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

b. Update on Professional Services Agreements for Session-Only Consultants (Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager)

Mr. Contreras provided an update on Professional Services Agreements for the following consultants:

- Focused Advocacy – New Firm
- Walter Fisher & Associates – New Firm

- Marshall Kenderdine – New Firm
- McGuire Woods LLC – Former COSA

IV. Consideration of items for future meetings
a) Next meeting Scheduled: February 13, 2013

Chairman Lopez announced that the next Intergovernmental Relations Meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2013.

V. Adjournment

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



Ray Lopez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,



Martha Lambaria
Office of the City Clerk