

**Quality of Life
Council Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Delicia Herrera, *District 6, Chair*
Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, *District 1*
Councilmember Jennifer Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Ramiro Salazar, *Library Director*; Dennis Campa, *Community Initiatives Director*; Melody Woosley, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Denise Monday, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Call to order

Chairperson Herrera called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting on February 10, 2009

Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentation on Redesign of San Antonio Public Library Website
Presented by Ramiro Salazar, Director, Library Department

Jennifer Velasquez reported that the Library Department would launch a re-designed website on March 17, 2009 that would allow access to library resources 24-hours a day with the use of a library card. She stated that the newly designed website would include a new URL (www.mysapl.org), improved information organization, and easy navigation through services and resources offered at the Library. She noted that visitors would be redirected to the new website and that a communications plan was being developed to unveil the re-designed website to the public. She added that the Library was committed to remain at the forefront of information service to the community and that the website would always be a work in progress.

3. Presentation and possible action on efforts to obtain Substantial Equivalency Certification from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and consideration of amendment to the current Fair Housing Code

Presented by Dennis J. Campa, Director, DCI

Dennis Campa requested approval to recommend revisions to Chapter 9 of the City Code to the City Council for consideration. He reported that the proposed revisions would include:

- ✓ Attainment of Substantial Equivalency Certification from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- ✓ Familial Status as a protected class to protect against housing discrimination
- ✓ Remedies and penalties resulting from code violations
- ✓ Alignment of the San Antonio City Code with the Federal Fair Housing Law

He cited code revision advantages to include: 1) More specific procedures to address discrimination claims; 2) Improved investigation and processing of discrimination claims; and 3) Access to federal funding for discrimination training and additional funding to conduct investigation. He added that cities that were not Substantially Equivalent to the Federal Fair Housing Act (including San Antonio) had to process discrimination claims through HUD in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Campa stated that interim certification would be granted for a three-year period pending further examination, should HUD determine that the local code was equivalent to the Federal Fair Housing Act.

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

4. Presentation and possible action on pilot project to provide Utility Assistance to families who have children with critical care equipment

Presented by Dennis J. Campa, Director, DCI

Mr. Campa reported that the Department of Community Initiatives requested to pilot a Utility Assistance Project at the Goldsbury Children and Family Clinic to increase care giver stability, eliminate incidence of utility interruption, reduce stress, and provide balance in the lives of families with children that require critical care equipment. He stated that DCI requested use of the Residential Energy Assistance Partnership (REAP) Funds to support the Goldsbury Children and Family Clinic Families. He noted that quarterly evaluations would be provided to the Quality of Life Council Committee.

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

5. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings

- a) Next Meeting: April 14, 2009
- b) Future Items

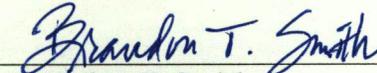
7. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.



Delicia Herrera, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk