

## Economic Development & International Affairs Council Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

1:30 pm

Media Briefing Room

**Members Present:** Councilmember Roger Flores, Chair, District 1  
Councilmember Sheila McNeil, District 2  
Councilmember Delicia Herrera, District 6

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**Absent:** Councilmember Kevin Wolff, District 9

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**Staff Present:** Jelynn Burley, Deputy City Manager; Pat Di Giovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Ramiro Cavazos, *Economic Development Director*; Elizabeth Costello, *International Affairs Director*; Felix Padron, *Cultural Affairs Director*; David Garza, *Neighborhood Action Director*; Emil Moncivais, *Planning Director*; Peter Zanoni, *Management & Budget Director*; Manny Longoria, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Ed Davis, *Economic Development Interim Assistant Director*; Yonnie Blanchette, *City Manager's Office*; Elena Villarreal, *International Affairs*; James Henderson, *International Affairs*; Monica Herrigan, *Assistant City Attorney*; Karmen Binka, *Assistant City Attorney*; Camila Kanau, *Assistant City Attorney*; Leslie Haby, *City Attorney's Office*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Yonnie Blanchette, *City Manager's Office*; Carlos Tarrazas, *Office of Management & Budget*; Lewis Andrews, *Office of the City Auditor*; Trish Wallace, *Planning*; Santiago Garcia, *District 5 Staff*; Thomas Marks, *District 9 Staff*; Marisol Robles, *District 4 Staff*; Laura Cabanilla-Cruz, *District 1 Staff*; Jessica Ramos, *District 6 Staff*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Blake Hastings, *FTA*; William Avila

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### Call to Order

Chairman Flores called the meeting to order.

#### 1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes of the March 21, 2006 Meeting

Councilmember McNeil moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2006.  
Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Annual Review of Boards and Commissions that Report to the Economic Development and International Affairs Committee**

Presented by Leticia Vacek, City Clerk

Lisa Lopez presented information on the District Boards and Commissions that report to the Economic Development and International Affairs Committee. The committees include: Animal Care Services Advisory Board, Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Commission for Children and Families, Joint City/County Commission on Elderly Affairs, Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women, San Antonio Commission on Literacy, San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees, San Antonio Youth Commission and the South Texas Business Fund. She noted that the City Code requires written reports on each board's activities and recommendations be submitted to the Council Committee annually.

Chairman Flores expressed concern with the attendance of several of his appointees.

**4. Westside Development Corporation**

Presented by Ramiro Cavazos, Director, Economic Development Department

Ramiro Cavazos presented information on the Westside Development Corporation which encompasses approximately 7,700 acres and 4 Council Districts. He noted that the proposed local government corporation would foster economic and development and re-development opportunities in the Westside area of San Antonio. He added that staff is seeking comment and feedback from the committee before finalizing a proposal for City Council consideration.

Councilmember Herrera stated that she was excited that the proposed project encompasses more than one district and an area that is in dire need of revitalization.

**5. 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Information Technology**

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs Department

Ms. Costello informed the committee that the Economic Development Department, the International Affairs Department and the Texas Research Foundation leveraged \$10,000 for the representation of San Antonio at the World Congress on Information Technology in Austin May 1-5, 2006. She noted that Councilmember Flores would introduce the San Antonio presentation on May 2, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. She added that Jim Brazil would deliver the presentation on "The History of Information Technology in San Antonio". Ms. Costello stated that, as a result of this conference, 19 Japanese companies would be visiting San Antonio as a possible location of their companies.

**6. China Strategy**

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs Department

Blake Hastings presented information on the Strategic Plan regarding China to develop trade opportunities for San Antonio companies. He cited the "Free Trade Alliance San

Antonio" Contract. He noted that the Free Trade Alliance Executive Board is requesting that the City of San Antonio contribute \$25,000 from the FY 2007 Budget. He added that the contract has a budget of \$60,000 and has received \$30,000 from the San Antonio Port Authority and \$5,000 from the Economic Development Foundation.

**7. Canary Islands Project**

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs Department

Ms. Costello informed the committee of a request by the Friends of the Canary Islands to display a plaque in City Council Chambers or a Municipal Facility acknowledging the 110 early Alcaldes. She noted that the plaque would be in commemoration of the 2006 - 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Canary Islander's founding the City of San Antonio. She added that the lowest bid for a plaque would be approximately \$5,000. Ms. Costello stated that the City Manager's Office set aside funds for the hosting of the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that the cost of the plaque was well within the funds earmarked.

Councilmember Flores directed staff to further investigate the lowest bid of said request.

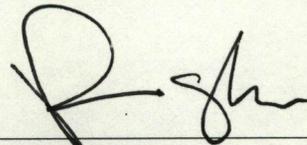
**8. Briefing on the Austrian Automotive Suppliers Delegation**

Presented by Elizabeth Costello, Director, International Affairs

Ms. Costello stated that the Austrian Automotive Manufacturers Delegation expressed their gratitude to the City of San Antonio for support of the Suppliers Delegation.

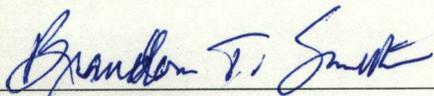
**There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**

*Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.*



*Roger Flores, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



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