

# QUALITY OF LIFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

10:00 A.M.

MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

**Members Present:** Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, Chair, *District 2*  
Councilmember Diego Bernal, *District 1*  
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*  
Councilmember Joe Krier, *District 9*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Carlton Soules, *District 10*

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**Staff Present:** Peter Zaroni, *Deputy City Manager*; Gloria Hurtado, *Assistant City Manager*; Lisa Biediger, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; John Dugan, *Director, Planning and Community Development*; Rene Dominguez, *Director, Economic Development Department*; Richard Keith, *Interim Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Edward Gonzales, *Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Patrick Howard, *Assistant Director, Planning and Community Development*; Denice Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

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## Call to order

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order.

### 1. Citizens to Be Heard

There were no items addressed by Citizens.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the November 19, 2013 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Krier moved to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2013 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

### 3. Briefing and Possible Action on FY 2015-2016 Consolidated Funding Process for Human and Workforce Development Services [Presented by Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Melody Woosley stated that the purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview of the Consolidated Funding Process, discuss proposed improvements and changes, and request approval of said Process. She noted that every two years a Request for Proposals (RFP) is

released which is funded by General and Grant Funds. She mentioned that this was coordinated with the Economic Development and the Planning and Community Development Departments. She stated that the City Council prioritized investments by the use of a ballot system. She noted that the benefits of said Process were: 1) Investments were directed to targeted goals; 2) Contract administration was facilitated; 3) The burden of multiple RFPs was reduced; and 4) Community services were integrated with City Initiatives. She indicated that the current investment priorities, which were aligned with SA2020 indicators, were: 1) Family Well-Being; 2) Community Safety; 3) Education; and 4) Economic Competitiveness. She noted that the Finance Department conducts an initial minimum requirements review of the RFP, evaluation teams review and score the proposals, and Department Staff provides information on past fiscal and program performance. She reviewed other community processes including those for Fairfax County, Virginia, and Austin/Travis County, Texas. She stated that staff proposed:

- 1) Strengthening the proposal development process
- 2) Placing greater emphasis on leveraged resources, coordination with City Initiatives, and past performance during the evaluation process
- 3) Strengthening accountability
- 4) Implementing a 20% program match requirement
- 5) Setting a minimum funding allocation of \$50,000
- 6) Strengthening communication blackout period requirements
- 7) Department of Human Services hire and manage seasonal staff for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program
- 8) Including CDBG and General Fund allocations in Consolidated Funding
- 9) Making direct allocations to Code Compliance, Parks, and Human Services

She reviewed the FY 2013 and FY 2014 Family Well Being and Safety Net Funding. She noted that the City Council would be asked to set the priorities for investments for FY 2015 and FY 2016. She stated that ballots would be distributed to the City Council on January 29, 2014 and the results would be presented to City Council at "B" Session on February 12, 2014. She noted that the RFP would be released on March 3, 2014 with a submission deadline of April 7, 2014. She indicated that the evaluation would be completed in May 2014 and submitted to City Council in September 2014 for consideration. She noted that the FY 2015 contract start date would be October 1, 2014.

Chairperson Taylor mentioned that City Councilmembers were heavily lobbied by agencies. Ms. Woosley asked for feedback from Councilmembers regarding lobbying. Ms. Woosley suggested that a time limit be imposed to give all agencies the opportunity to receive funding. She stated that perhaps discussions could replace use of the Ballot Process.

Councilmember Bernal suggested that one-on-one discussions be held between staff and the Committee Members before January 29, 2014.

Councilmember Bernal moved to approve and forward staff recommendations to refine the Consolidated Funding Process and utilization of a ballot to prioritize funding for Fiscal Year

2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**4. Briefing on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service Delegate Agency Funding** [Presented by John Dugan, Director, Planning and Community Development Department]

John Dugan stated that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement for the City of San Antonio in Fiscal Year 2014 was \$11 million. He indicated that a maximum of 15% of CDBG Funds could be used for Public Service Activities and this amount in Fiscal Year 2014 would be \$1.7 million. He noted that the Public Service Activities that qualified for CDBG Funds included but were not limited to those concerned with: 1) Employment; 2) Crime prevention; 3) Child care; 4) Code enforcement; 5) Health; 6) Drug abuse; 7) Education; 8) Fair housing counseling; 9) Energy conservation; or 10) Recreational needs. He reviewed the Public Service Activities that were funded in the prior four years. He indicated that in FY 2013 and FY 2014; CDBG Funds were utilized for the following types of public services through several delegate agencies: 1) Youth programs; 2) Programs for disabled; and 3) Food programs. He mentioned that through the City's Annual Action Plan, City Council approved funding for the following City Public Service Initiatives: 1) Code Enforcement; and 2) Parks and Recreation Summer Programs. He stated that staff recommended that CDBG Funds in the amount of \$1.3 million be utilized for Strategic Catalytic Funding in five targeted areas, and the Eastside Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan in FY 2014.

Councilmember Krier asked of a time limit that agencies could receive funding. Melody Woosley reported that no policy had been created setting time limits for agencies to receive funding and agencies have not utilized evaluation instruments or provided Performance Measures.

Councilmember Bernal stated that agencies should be limited in the number of years that they were eligible to receive funding and should use said funds for development so as to decrease their need for City Funds in the future.

No action was required for Item 4.

**5. Briefing and Possible Action on a Substantial Amendment to the FY 2014 Annual Action Plan and Budget to Reprogram Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funds for the Oscar Eason Redevelopment Project in the Amount of \$600,000** [Presented by John Dugan, Director, Planning and Community Development]

John Dugan stated that the City received \$8.6 million as a one-time grant from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) in 2009. He indicated that said funding was to be utilized to stabilize areas which have suffered from foreclosure and/or abandonment. He reviewed the NSP accomplishments to date. He reported that the NSP Grant requires that 25% be set aside to ensure that said Grant assists persons at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). He noted that the initial Grant threshold was \$2.2 million. He indicated that the City expended \$2.5

million and the NSP Program income collected resulted in the 25% threshold being raised to \$2.7 million. He stated that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$3.4 million to construct a 33 unit apartment to assist seniors at or below 50% AMI. He indicated that said apartment was named the Oscar Eason Apartment and currently had a \$600,000 financing gap. He stated that staff recommended that NSP Program income funds in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 be reprogrammed and appropriated to the Oscar Eason Apartment Project.

Chairperson Taylor noted that said Project was located in an area in which she and others have had an interest in improving.

Councilmember Bernal moved to approve and forward a request for NSP Program income funds to be reprogrammed and appropriated to the Oscar Eason Apartment Project. Councilmember Krier seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

## **6. Discussion of Priorities and Development of a 2014 Quality of Life Work Plan**

Chairperson Taylor noted that the Quality of Life Council Committee was responsible for policy related to: 1) Parks; 2) Animal Services; 3) Homeless Services; 4) Neighborhoods; 5) Code Compliance; 6) Health; 7) Libraries; 8) Solid Waste; 9) Affordable Housing; and 10) Community Initiatives. She stated that she would like to see the Committee address the City's strategy in tying parks to neighborhood revitalization. She noted that she would also like for the Committee to maintain oversight of the RenewSA Initiative. She asked the Committee Members for items that they would like the Committee to address.

Councilmember Krier stated that he would like the Committee to further discuss the subject of requiring delegate agencies receiving funding to "cycle off" or to not receive funding for an indefinite period of time. He stated that he would like to provide new agencies with the opportunity to receive funding.

Chairperson Taylor would like to have discussions with funding agencies.

Councilmember Bernal noted that the payoff for investments would differ with the amount of funds invested.

Councilmember Gonzales would like to see more funding that would support parks, libraries, and schools.

John Dugan stated that some upcoming agenda items would be the reprogramming of funds, reinvestment strategies, and policy questions.

No action was required for Item 6.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Denice F. Treviño*

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**Denice F. Treviño**  
**Office of the City Clerk**

*Ivy R. Taylor*

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**Ivy R. Taylor, Chair**