

**State of Texas**  
**County of Bexar**  
**City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes**

**City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Plaza Building.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Peláez, Courage, and Perry.

1. Briefing on the R&D League, the City's new research and development program.  
[John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Kate Kinnison, Research and Development Administrator, Office of Innovation]

Kate Kinnison stated that research and development (R&D) were studies and tests which were performed in order to design new or improved products and services. She noted that the benefits of R&D included: 1) Controlled risk; 2) Cost-avoidance; 3) Remain relevant to customer; and 4) Evidence-based decisions. She reviewed the city-administered R&D for the cities of Washington, DC, and Boston. She stated that Dr. David Yoakum facilitated a two-day cross-sector symposium with staff from the City, Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), UTSA, and USAA. She noted that the participants formed an alliance called the R&D League (League). She stated that the mission of the League stated that highly skilled, cross-sector teams utilize creative processes, scientific methods, and data to investigate new ideas, make evidence-based decisions, and explore the frontier of innovation in order to

transform City services for our 1.5 million residents. She noted that the objectives of the League included:

1. Drive data-informed decision making
2. Deliver top-notch customer service equitably
3. Engage City employees and residents in new ways
4. Create efficiencies to maintain and improve financial stability

Ms. Kinnison presented the following six projects which the League would undertake:

1. R&D Program Structure
2. City Vehicles for Data Collection
3. City Hall To Go
4. NEZ Impacts Estimator
5. Active Vision
6. Idea Portal

Ms. Kinnison stated that the objective of the R&D Program Structure Project was to utilize five R&D projects to inform the development of a formalized structure for the selection, evaluation, and implementation of R&D projects for the City. She noted that the team on this project would include the City, SwRI, USAA, UTSA, and potentially others. She stated that the objective of the City Vehicles for Data Collection Project was to equip city vehicles with sensors to identify and collect data on the City's infrastructure and areas of service need. She noted that the team on this project would include SwRI, the Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD), and the Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) Department. She stated that \$208,000 in SwRI funding would be included in this project. She noted that the objective of the City Hall to Go Project was to identify when and where department outreach/intake efforts overlap and to align those efforts in a mobile truck that would deliver them to low-income, hard-to-reach residents. She stated that the team on this project would include the Information Technology Services Department (ITSD), the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD), the Department of Human Services (DHS), SWMD, Government and Public Affairs (GPA), Metro Health, 3-1-1, Animal Care Services (ACS), the Economic Development Department (EDD), Parks, Municipal Court, Human Resources (HR), and the Office of the City Clerk (OCC).

Ms. Kinnison noted that the first City Hall to Go event would be held on March 14, 2020 at Southside Lions Park. She stated that the objective of the Neighborhood Empowerment Zone (NEZ) Impacts Estimator Project was to build an interactive mapping tool used to analyze data, determine NEZs and track the impact of affordable housing interventions over time. She noted that the team on this project included Professors of Architecture, Computer Science, and Geography from UTSA, and NHSD. She stated that the objective of the Active Vision Project was to apply artificial intelligence to existing traffic camera feeds to provide automatic real-time alerts to TCI when traffic anomalies are detected. She noted that the team on this project included SwRI, TCI, and ITSD. She stated that the objective of the Idea Portal Project was to design and implement a digital process for the City to collect, explore, and evaluate solutions to challenges. She noted that the team on this project included USAA Advisors, the Office of Innovation, ITSD, and 3-1-1. She stated that staff had reviewed the scope of projects over the last six months, established an MOU with partners, and secured funding for three of the six projects. She noted that next steps included completion of project-based agreements, launching of the projects,

and identifying additional funding for three of the six projects.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that municipal government provided a platform for innovation, technology, and piloting of new techniques. He noted that this would benefit the people that we serve and asked of the data process. Ms. Kinnison stated that the data process would be as transparent as possible while protecting residents' privacy and the privacy of the data. Mayor Nirenberg confirmed that updates to the City Council would be provided through the Innovation and Technology Council Committee.

Councilmember Viagran requested more information on the MOUs and ownership of intellectual property. She requested that staff contact her office regarding events for the City Hall To Go Project.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if researchers would be trained by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Sean Farrell replied that policies, procedures, and processes were in place for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review. Councilmember Rocha Garcia suggested that City staff be trained.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked how the research agenda was generated. Ms. Kinnison replied that feedback from an Innovation Survey on challenges in the community was reviewed, staff met with multiple departments regarding challenges they were experiencing, and objectives were established to generate the research agenda. Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested that staff focus on need-based research.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if Port San Antonio could be included as a partner. Ms. Kinnison replied that Port San Antonio would be an excellent partner. Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan suggested that Port San Antonio would be a great asset regarding privacy and protection of the entire system.

Councilmember Peláez stated that San Antonio deserved a government that asked tough questions, tested assumptions and ideas, found new solutions to old problems, and translated lessons learned into actionable policy.

Councilmember Courage encouraged staff to demonstrate the benefit of the projects to the average citizen.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the locations and schedule of City Hall To Go events. Ms. Kinnison stated that the goal was to hold City Hall To Go events in different parts of the City. She noted that three events were planned; one each in March, April, and May 2020. Brian Dillard added that the first event would be held in conjunction with an ACS event in March and the equity map was utilized to identify the other two events which were located in underserved areas.

Councilmember Gonzales suggested utilizing Solid Waste trucks to collect Pavement Condition Index (PCI) scores.

Councilmember Perry asked what the costs of the projects were to date. Ms. Kinnison replied that the costs of the projects to date were below \$10,000.

2. Briefing on the FY 2021 - 2022 Consolidated Funding Process for Human and Workforce Development Services. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley stated that the briefing would serve as the pre-solicitation review for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for delegate agency funding which would be released in March 2020. She noted that the biennial funding process which was utilized at the current time was implemented in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 and combined multiple funding sources into a single RFP. She stated that consolidated funding investments were aligned with City Council priorities and compliment city initiatives. She noted that year one funding awards would be approved with the FY 2021 adopted Budget and the contracts would be monitored over the FY. She stated that in year two (FY 2022) contract recommendations would be approved based on performance and availability of funding. She noted that funding was allocated across the following long-term outcomes: 1) Children and youth; 2) Individual and family financial security; 3) Homelessness; 4) Seniors; and 5) Workforce. She stated that a total of \$24.8 million was allocated in FY 2020 to 64 agencies and 92 programs.

Ms. Woosley noted that the City utilized an equity-based approach which began with the aggregating of data to prioritize needs according to consolidated funding priorities. She presented the potential funding for FY 2021 which included \$12.1 in designated funding and \$13.1 million in competitive funding. She stated that the designated funding included: 1) \$6.8 million for Haven for Hope and the Center for Health Care Services; 2) \$2.8 million for the After School Challenge Program; and 3) \$2.5 million for Project Quest. She presented the following four policy recommendations for City Council consideration and input:

1. Continue FY 2019 and FY 2020 funding priorities
2. Continue \$12.1 million for designated funding
3. Implement abbreviated non-communication period
4. Hold applicant input sessions prior to Budget adoption

Ms. Woosley noted that Councilmember Peláez submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) requesting staff to explore outsourcing of the Consolidated Funding Process to United Way. She stated that the Governance Committee recommended an assessment of community funder interest which was performed. She noted that based on the assessment, staff recommended utilization of the current process for FY 2021 and FY 2022. She stated that a scope of work for outsourcing would be developed for FY 2023 and FY 2024, funder and non-profit community meetings would be held, and a Request for Interest (RFI) would be released. She noted that staff would provide recommendations for City Council consideration by September 2020. She stated that a group of funders convened and focused on communication, common understanding, shared resources, and best practices for community funder alignment.

Ms. Woosley noted that agency input sessions would be held for the next six weeks and City Council would be briefed on the stakeholder input and the RFP scope of work prior to release of the RFP. She stated that the RFP would be released on March 15, 2020 and the deadline for submission of proposals would be on May 15, 2020. She noted that the estimated value was \$50.4 million and the proposed term was for one year with a one-year option to renew. She reviewed the outreach efforts and solicitation requirements which would be utilized for the RFP. She stated that the proposals received would be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee which would provide recommendations and the final funding

awards would be approved in the FY 2021 adopted Budget.

Councilmember Perry asked if input would be gathered from the Non-Profit Council regarding the RFP process. Ms. Woosley replied that they would be included in the input sessions.

Councilmember Sandoval requested a list of the goals of the RFP before its release. Dr. Colleen Bridger stated that she would resend the quarterly outcome measures and their results prior to release of the RFP.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the funds set aside for domestic violence and homelessness were included in the RFP. Ms. Woosley replied that the funds set aside for domestic violence and homelessness were included in the competitive amount in the RFP. Councilmember Viagran asked if Valero was still funding local agencies. Ms. Woosley stated that she would provide that information. Councilmember Viagran stated that she was against outsourcing the Consolidated Funding Process.

Councilmember Gonzales suggested that staff present data on the return on investment by delegate agencies.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if delegate agencies were required to demonstrate self-sustainability over time. Ms. Woosley replied that demonstration of self-sustainability and a match requirement were included in the RFP. She added that no agency could receive more than 50% of their budget from the City.

Councilmember Courage suggested that the delegate agencies which are funded be given additional funding for Cost of Living Adjustments (CoLAs).

Councilmember Perry proposed reducing the funding amount delegate agencies receive each year to open the process up to delegate agencies which have not received funding. He requested feedback on whether delegate agencies could provide more services at a lower cost than the City. Erik Walsh stated that he would follow up on that.

Mayor Nirenberg requested a recommendation from staff regarding the outsourcing of the Consolidated Funding Process. He expressed support for the shorter blackout period for communicating with delegate agencies.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:38 pm to discuss the following items:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).

- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 5:04 pm and announced that no action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Henrieta LaGrange suggested that the City train staff in order to assist citizens. She stated that accepting the lowest bid was bad because the workforce would be low skilled. She submitted additional written testimony.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez wanted to know what Bernie Sanders thinks about building a wall at the border and its impact on farmers and ranchers.

Anita Kegley stated that she was concerned about passage of the Climate Action and Adaptability Program because of the cost impact and the influence from donations. She noted that she was concerned about San Antonio being a “sanctuary city” and asking for more refugees and about the proposed gun buyback program since the Chief of Police was opposed.

Deborah Omowale Jarmon stated that she was thankful for the Black History Month exhibit at the airport, but was disappointed by the lack of representation from City Officials at the opening and reception.

**ADJOURNED**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 6:13 pm.

**APPROVED**

**RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR**

Attest:

**LETICIA M. VACEK TRMC/CMC/MMC**  
City Clerk