

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Juan Ayala, <i>Director, Office of Military & Veteran Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Debra M. Clark, <i>Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Russell J. Handy, <i>Aviation Director</i> ; Camila Kunau, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Jesse Serna, <i>Transportation & Capital Improvements</i> ; Sally Strye, <i>Center City Development</i>
Others Present:	Henry Bonilla, <i>Government Relations Consultant, The Normandy Group, Washington DC</i> ; John A. Culberson, <i>Attorney, Legislative Government Affairs Office, Clark Hill Strausberger, PLC, Washington DC Office</i> ; Kevin F. Kelly, <i>Attorney, Legislative Government Affairs Office, Clark Hill Strausberger, PLC, Washington DC Office</i> ; Derek H. Ross, <i>Attorney, Legislative Government Affairs Office, Clark Hill Strausberger, PLC, Washington DC Office</i> ; Baltazar R. ("Walter") Serna, Jr. <i>Attorney, Serna & Serna, San Antonio</i> ; Gilbert Vasquez, <i>Attorney, Legislative Government Affairs Office, Clark Hill Strausberger, PLC, San Antonio Office</i> ; Leroy Alloway, <i>VIA Metropolitan Transit</i> ; Jon Gary Herrera, <i>Senior Vice President, Public Engagement, VIA Metropolitan Transit</i>

Call to Order

Chairman Peláez called the meeting to order.

1. A Briefing and Possible Action on the Update on Federal Legislative Actions and the 116th Congress [Jeff Coyle, *Director, Government & Public Affairs*]

Mr. Jeff Coyle provided an update on key issues pending in the House and Senate. He noted the House and Senate agreed on a Bipartisan Budget Act which will be followed by the appropriations process. He stated a total budget was established for the next two years, lifting national debt ceiling and staving off sequestration with 4% increase across all federal agencies. He noted the budget

would increase defense spending from FY 2019 \$716 billion to FY 2020 \$738 billion, and would increase non-defense spending budget FY 2019 \$620 billion to \$632 billion.

Mr. Coyle stated that upon return from the August recess on September 9, the highest priority would be twelve Appropriation Bills. He noted the House passed 10 of the 12 Appropriation Bills, less Homeland Security and Legislative Appropriations Bills. He added the Senate Appropriations Committee had not approved any of the twelve Appropriation Bills. Mr. Coyle noted the deadline to approve the budget would end on September 30, 2019. He stated a short term extension might be granted to expire before the calendar year to resolve and approve the pending budget issues before end of the year.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on the \$30 million Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill related to Humanitarian Assistance and Security. He stated that \$25 million would be dedicated to the four border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California for migration assistance. He noted tier one reimbursements would be for food, shelter and direct expenditures, and tier two reimbursements would be for transportation reimbursements. He stated the four border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California would have 10 days to apply for funding upon notice funds were available.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on the City's proposed budget for combatting Domestic Violence. He added the most recent authorization for the Violence Against Women Act expired in February 2019 and reauthorization needed to occur to continue funding of local programs. Mr. Coyle stated the House approved its version in April 2019 and Senate had not taken action. Mr. Coyle stated individuals convicted of an act of violence against a spouse were restricted from gun ownership. He noted the House version would seek to restriction of gun ownership against individuals convicted of violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend. Mr. Coyle added there are a number of federal funding streams the City could pursue to supplement funding and enhance efforts in this area.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on The Dream and Promise Act. He stated The Dream and Promise Act Bill has been approved by the House, but not the Senate.

Mr. Coyle added that Councilwoman Viagran's Council Consideration Request ("CCR") was proposed to governance in September 2019, wherein City Council would consider a Resolution of Support urging the Senate to approve what the House had approved.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on The Build Grant Application submitted by VIA with a request for \$25 million for funding to leverage a \$58 million Redevelopment of the Robert Johnson Transit Station. He added that TCI and VIA would develop strategies in a collaborative effort under One Build Application to obtain funding.

Mr. Coyle provided an update on the new security checkpoint added at the San Antonio Airport in order to facilitate the flow of traffic through the TSA center by creating new lane. He added that TSA was unable to deliver its Advanced Imaging Technology Equipment due to a shortage of inventory. He noted a new machine would be delivered in FY 2020.

Councilmember Viagran questioned if San Antonio had applied for the FEMA Grant. Mr. Coyle replied the City's Application will be posted on the National FEMA Board Website and once notice was given that funding is available, the City would have 10 days to apply for funding. Mr. Coyle added the website was reviewed daily and that the Application and supporting documentation was ready for submission.

Councilmember Viagran requested Committee Members to review the Status of Women Report with a focus on Local Level Policies to invest funding. She added that she would like another Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization and Funding of the Violence Against Women Act to be placed ahead of the Dream and Promise Act due to the impact of non-action the Violence Against Women Act was having at the Local Level.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested information on subsidized parking at the Robert Johnson Transit Station. Mr. Herrera stated a 750 parking structure would support the 330 housing units to be built in close proximity to the proposed parking structure, as well as supporting the proposed retail component. Councilwoman Rocha Garcia noted she felt the ratio of parking to housing was excessive and that if guarantees were not made that retail parking would not be free, she would be openly opposed to subsidized 750 parking units.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a final assessment of items for the Climate Adaptation and Action Plan was in place. She added that it could provide leverage obtaining a Brownsfield Fund Grant. Mr. Coyle reported the Brownsfield Fund is highly competitive and limited funding pool with cleanup grants was difficult to obtain and the City would reposition its Climate Action Plan in the future to ensure a rate of success.

Councilmember Cabella Havdra requested examples of local programs or service providers that will be receiving funding under the Violence Against Women Act. Mr. Coyle replied there are numerous programs. Mr. Kelly stated funding flow tracking information can be provided at the next meeting.

Councilmember Sandoval questioned if funding increases can be requested once The Brownfield Fund is appropriated. Mr. Coyle explained the two-step process: 1) Apply to receive funding levels for designated priority programs once funds are appropriated; and 2) Once appropriated, present our case to the agency that the City is worthy of receiving those funds locally. Mr. Culberson requested City Council adopt a resolution to direct and provide strength to the congressional delegation in Texas to restore directed or targeted spending for appropriations.

Chairman Peláez requested domestic violence and gun safety resolutions should be added to our federal agenda on an urgent basis by presenting a briefing action at the next City Council meeting. There were no objections.

Councilmember Viagran requested the Council Consideration Request (CCR) on The Dream and Promise Act be presented to City Council before the domestic violence and gun safety resolutions.

Chairman Peláez requested the federal consulting team develop and target future appropriations in readiness for future hurricane and megastorms disaster recovery funding.

2. A Briefing and Possible Action on a Hiring Our Heroes Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation *[Juan Ayala, Director, Office of Military & Veteran Affairs]*

Mr. Ayala presented a tangible example of the large footprint of military support with 80,000 San Antonians work at Joint Base San Antonio and one in eight San Antonians associated with the military. Mr. Ayala stated base realignment and closures are likely projected for 2021 or 2022 and local community support for our military and our military families is an important factor in keeping installations and missions within a city.

Mr. Ayala stated City Council approved a budget of \$150,000 to fund a veteran supported organization to provide employment for military spouses and U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program was selected.

Mr. Ayala requested City Council to consider a two year agreement with U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring our Heroes Fellowship Program and the City of San Antonio with six to ten week fellowships and an estimated funding for 40 fellows. He stated the U.S. Chamber of Commerce currently has a waiting list of applicants and will manage the program and the City will monitor the metric performance on a regular basis. Mr. Ayala recommended full council consideration for approval of the Hiring Our Heroes (HoH) program.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if the reason the program will only host four to eight spouses per cohort is cost based. Mr. Ayala replied the major limiting factor to be the size of the budget of \$150,000 to be distributed over a two year period.

Councilmember Viagran moved to recommend and forward the HoH Memorandum of Understanding to the full City Council for consideration and approval. Councilmember Cabello Havdra seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Manny Peláez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk