

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016  
1:30 PM  
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Joe Krier, Chair, <i>District 9</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>District 8</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government &amp; Public Affairs</i> ; Troy Elliott, <i>Director of Finance</i> ; Margaret Villegas, <i>Assistant Director of Finance</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director of IGR</i> ; Maj. Gen. Juan G. Ayala, USMC (Ret), <i>Director of Military Affairs</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>City Attorney's Office</i> ; Bob Nordhaus, <i>City Attorney's Office</i> ; Eduardo Carrasco, <i>Senior IGR Specialist</i> ; Justin Renteria, <i>District 9</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>IGR</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>IGR</i> ; Lisa A. Lopez, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
<b>Others Present:</b>	Marc Rodriguez, <i>Offices of Marc A. Rodriguez</i> ; Mike Toomey, <i>Texas Lobby Group</i> ; Brandon Aghamalian, <i>Focused Advocacy</i> ; John Leal, <i>CPS Energy</i> ; Jonathan Tijerina, <i>CPS Energy</i> ; Therese Kenner, <i>SARA</i> ; Tom Downs, <i>Venable Law Firm (via Teleconference)</i>

**Item 1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 12, 2016 Intergovernmental Relations Council Subcommittee Meeting**

Councilmember Nirenberg moved to approve the Minutes from the January 12, 2016 Intergovernmental Relations Council Subcommittee Meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

**Item 3. State Representation Services Contract Recommendation [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]**

Jeff Coyle reported that they issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for State Representation Services at the 85<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Session. He provided background information regarding Lobbyists and Consultants being hired to assist them at the Capital, and noted that the Representation has become even more important in recent years. He explained that they issued the RFP in September 2015 and established an Evaluation Committee that consisted of internal and external Staff. He stated that a total of five firms applied, and all were interviewed January 2016. He noted that a large number of Interim Studies handled by the Legislative Committees have an impact on Cities such as: 1) Revenue and Appraisal Caps; 2) Annexation Authority; 3) Debt Issuance; 4) Local Ordinances in general; 5) Eminent Domain; 6) Unfunded Mandates; and 7) Military Installations. He provided information about the Firms that applied, and acknowledged that the scoring was close. He indicated that they recommended putting together a team of resources with different areas of expertise. He reported that they are recommending Focused Advocacy as their Lead Firm, and Texas Lobby Group and Marc A. Rodriguez as Session-Only Firms. He delineated the timeline for the 85<sup>th</sup> State Legislative Session, and noted that Focus Advocacy would serve full-time from April 2016 – September 2017, and Texas Lobby Group and Marc A. Rodriguez would serve July 2016 – June 2017. He reported that the contract total for FY 2016 is \$96,000, and \$237,000 for FY 2017.

Carlos Contreras informed the Committee that they have additional Consultants on their team, and stated that Chris Shields was selected by the Convention and Sports Facilities Department to focus primarily on Events Trust Funds and related items.

Chairman Krier recognized Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, USMC (RET) who served 35 years with the United States Marine Corp. He expressed support for the group of Consultants that the Evaluation Committee is recommending to represent the City at the next Legislative Session. He suggested that they schedule a Meeting in Austin, Texas next month to discuss issues that will likely be placed on their Agenda. He stated that he met with Mr. Contreras and Rene Dominguez and advised them that he would like to organize a series of sessions with Major Industry Leaders in fields such as Cyber Security and Bio-Medical to discuss the next Legislative Session. He recommended having their Agenda in place before October.

Councilmember Viagran inquired whether the Evaluation Committee discussed the issues the City is facing with the Applicants who were interviewed. Mr. Coyle confirmed that such questions were posed, and that each of the Applicants were asked the same questions to ensure consistency. Councilmember Viagran commented that they will need the best Representation due to the issues Big Cities in Texas are facing. She requested for each of the applicants to indicate why there were interested in the task of representing the City of San Antonio during the upcoming Legislative Session.

Mike Toomey responded that there are new Members in the Legislature that have different perspectives about Local Control for Cities. He noted the importance of working with them, and showing them the other side of the issue.

Marc Rodriguez stated that he was from San Antonio, owns a business Downtown, and has prepared for this contract for some time.

Brandon Aghamalian indicated that his Firm specializes in representing Cities. He stated that he was the Director of Government Relations for the City of Fort Worth and had the opportunity to work with Mike Toomey on many issues such as these before.

Councilmember Viagran commented that many of the longer-serving Representatives are no longer in office. She indicated that she is in favor of strategizing with the Team to discuss the many issues that they will have to address at the State Level.

In response to Councilmember Nirenberg, Mr. Coyle spoke of the allotted Budget for State Representation Services and reported that it is at the \$240K range for the Session. He compared these costs to other cities, and noted that the City of Austin spent \$860K; the City of Dallas spent \$244K; the City of Houston spent \$378K; and the City of Phoenix, Arizona spent \$360K.

Councilmember Nirenberg expressed his approval of the individuals selected to represent the City. He suggested that they get their Agenda in order as soon as possible, and noted that he would like to get to the point where they make this a 365-day Operation with issues that they need to address with their Legislators. He noted the importance of having an Interim Agenda.

Chairman Krier indicated that they are asking for Marc Rodriguez and Mike Toomey to step on board when the Legislature convenes, and invited them to Austin, Texas for future Meetings that they will be planning.

Councilmember Viagran moved to accept the Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee and forward to the City Council for approval. Councilmember Nirenberg seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 4 was addressed at this time.

#### **Item 4. State Legislative Update [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]**

Mr. Coyle reported that there will be at least 20 new House Members this coming Session including three from the Local Delegation and that there were changes to Committee Leaders. He stated that there will be five new Members in the House Appropriations Committee including the Chair and Vice-Chair. He noted that the first of seven Hearings being held statewide on Property Tax Reform took place in San Antonio. He stated that Senator Paul Betancourt Chairs the Property Tax Reform and Relief Committee, and was also responsible for filing the Tax Revenue Cap Bill. He cited a newspaper article written by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick that discusses the Property Tax Levy, and noted that they have drafted a letter in response to that article. He elaborated on some of the different issues brought up in the article by Lt. Governor Patrick, and provided specific information that addressed those issues. He acknowledged that it was an issue that they were actively monitoring.

Chairman Krier noted the importance of having allies, and stated that Dallas, Houston, and Austin are in the same position as San Antonio regarding the Property Tax Cap. He cited the participation of TML regarding this issue, and encouraged a meeting with TML.

Mr. Contreras indicated that they had representation from the Local Chambers of Commerce at the Committee Hearing held in San Antonio.

Mr. Coyle informed the Council Committee that an analysis of how a 4% Property Tax Cap would impact the City of San Antonio was prepared.

No action was required for Item 4.

#### **Item 2. Federal Legislative Update [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]**

- a) Federal Courthouse
- b) Direct Flight to DCA (Washington, DC)
- c) National Park Service Centennial Legislation for World Heritage Sites

##### Federal Courthouse

Mr. Coyle reported that while they were participating in the S.A. to D.C. Trip; they had discussions regarding the Federal Courthouse. He stated that the Project has to be authorized by a separate House Committee, and in order to obtain authorization; the General Services Administration (GSA) had to put together its Spending Plan. He noted that the GSA and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have been working closely with Staff to finalize construction costs and plans. He acknowledged that the next step is for the Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) House Committee to authorize the project.

Sally Basurto stated that they have been working closely with Judge Rodriguez, the Court Architect, and the Congressional Delegation, and they are anticipating the T&I House Committee will meet by Mid-April and approve the Project.

Tom Downs noted that the T&I House Committee has the ability to approve the Project without House or Senate Approval. He reported that San Antonio is Number 8 on the list, and things looked good at this point.

##### Direct Flight to DCA (Washington, D.C.)

Mr. Coyle provided an update on the Federal Administration Aviation (FAA) Bill which had been stalled in the House Committee. He noted that some of the provisions in the House Version of the Bill, particularly the privatization of Air Traffic Controllers, have become controversial. Since it has stalled; he stated that it has not had a full House vote yet. He reported that the Senate moved forward with its own version of the FAA

Bill, which may or may not mirror the House. He indicated that the FAA Authorization deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>, but it will not likely get through the process by then and there may be some form of extension. He stated that this will allow Staff to build support in the Senate and work with Airlines. He spoke of the Perimeter Expansion that they have been pursuing, and acknowledged that they are having conversations with Rapid City Airport Staff. Additionally, a Delegation will be traveling to Fort Worth to meet with American Airlines and make efforts to get their support for a Nonstop SAT-DCA Flight.

In response to Chairman Krier, Mr. Contreras responded that Southwest Airlines indicated that they would be supportive of a Nonstop Flight from SAT-DCA, but they are concerned it would have a negative impact on their slot for Austin-DCA.

Chairman Krier suggested that the Delegation plan a visit to Washington, D.C. in April to discuss the Federal Courthouse and the FAA Authorization.

*National Park Service Centennial Legislation for World Heritage Sites*

Mr. Coyle spoke of meetings held with the Department of Interior (DOI) and stated that they notified them of the National Park System (NPS) Centennial Bill that would create funding for the NPS and align it with its 100 Year Anniversary. He stated that they are proposing to add language that would provide a preference to projects involving World Heritage Sites. He acknowledged that Mr. Downs has begun the efforts to build a coalition among other communities that have World Heritage Sites.

Mr. Downs indicated that this was a priority for President Obama. He stated that National Park System Units in the Country that have been designated World Heritage Sites are represented by members who serve on the House and Senate Committees with jurisdiction over the Centennial Legislation.

No action was required for Item 2.

**5. Consideration of Future Meetings**

Chairman Krier noted that the next meeting was scheduled for April 12, 2016; however, they may schedule a Meeting in Austin in lieu of this meeting. Additionally, he noted that they also needed to schedule a trip to Washington, D.C.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM.

---

*Joe Krier, Chairman*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

---

*Lisa A. Lopez  
Office of the City Clerk*