

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017
2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING – B ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	<i>None</i>
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; General Juan Ayala, <i>Director of Military Affairs</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director of Development Services Department</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Other Present:	Brandon Aghamalian, <i>Focus Group</i> ; Snapper Carr, <i>Focus Group</i> ; Marc Rodriguez, <i>Offices of Marc Rodriguez</i> ; Chris Shield, <i>Texas Strategy Group</i> ; Jesse Ancira, <i>San Antonio Lobby Team</i> ; Walter Serna, <i>Serna & Serna</i>

1. State Consultant Contracts [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that in September 2015, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for state representation services and that the City Council approved Focus Advocacy, Texas Lobby Group, and Marc A. Rodriguez. He stated that the City executed an agreement with Ancira to provide special session services. He added that staff was proposing a renewal to authorize the City Manager to execute state representation services contracts with:

- Focused Advocacy for an extension renewal in an amount not to exceed \$8,500 per month for the term of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019
- The Texas Lobby Group for an extension renewal in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per month for the term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019
- The Offices of Marc A. Rodriguez for an extension renewal in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per month for term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019
- Jesse Ancira for an agreement in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 per month for the term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Mr. Coyle stated that the consultant contracts were on a schedule that assisted in maximizing the City's resources. He noted to ensure that the City's interests are covered during the interim and legislative session; Focus Advocacy would serve as the full-time leading firm.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Carlos Contreras stated that as of 2010, the City's practice was to retain consultants from all year-round to only retaining consultants for legislative sessions.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the proposed strategy would be the right approach to move forward. Mr. Coyle replied that the consultants were fully committed to the City and that each team brought value to the City's efforts.

Councilmember Perry asked how the stagnated approach worked for each legislative session. Mr. Contreras replied that it was a budgetary tactic. In response to Councilmember Perry, Mr. Coyle stated that since the start of the stagnated approach, there had been a cost savings to the City. Councilmember Perry expressed concern about the amount of time the consultants had to prepare for the next session if they were not hired during non-session years.

Councilmember Peláez asked of Chris Shields' role as a consultant with the City. Mr. Coyle responded that Chris Shields was brought in by the previous Committee Chair to specialize in funding for The Alamo and Hotel Occupancy Taxes.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve staff recommendation to ensure City representation leading up to and during the 86th Legislative Session. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Briefing and update on the 115th U.S. Congress and the Federal Legislative Program. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

a. IGR Committee DC Trip

Mr. Coyle reported that an IGR Committee DC Trip on September 26-27, 2017 was coordinated and attendees included Chairperson Saldaña and Councilmember Peláez. He noted that they met with federal agencies and elected officials to discuss:

- Tax Reform
- The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program
- Human Trafficking
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Funding for public safety and transportation

Mr. Coyle briefed the Committee on the City's priorities that were discussed. He stated that tax reforms consist of eliminating multiple deductions and decreasing the tax brackets from seven down to three. He noted that Municipal Bond Taxes were not included in the tax reform. He added that it would be a benefit to the City to have the Employment Tax Credit applied to Promise Zone Areas and Historic Tax Credits increased.

Mr. Coyle reported that the City was awarded the Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$272,000 to fund two Investigators that would be assigned to work specifically on human trafficking and sexual assault crimes against children. He stated that a technology grant of \$208,000 was awarded to SAPD for ballistic testing. He noted that they met with the Department of Justice to make a case for funding for the COPS Grant. He added that the Office of Victims and Crimes would be issuing funding to the City for victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City was awarded a five-year federal grant to address teen pregnancy; however, the grant had been reduced to three years and it would conclude in June 2018. He noted that the City would be able to replace the funding through Advocacy for an Adolescent Prevention Grant. He added

that they spoke to the Department of Transportation (DOT) on behalf of VIA Metropolitan Transit's Application for \$15 million for a paratransit center and TIGER Funding for the Robert Thompson Center Improvements. He mentioned that the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department was seeking \$30 million in funding for the Zarzamora Frio Road Overpass.

In response to Councilmember Peláez, Sally Basurto stated that the ballistic testing grants assisted SAPD in establishing a laboratory with the ability to engage with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Database. Councilmember Peláez asked that staff identify the administrator of the ballistic grant. He asked where the two investigators would be housed. Ms. Basurto replied that they would be assigned to the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance and that she was not aware of their designated locations. She stated that the Alliance was comprised of the City and Bexar County.

b. Coordination with Community Partners

Mr. Coyle stated that staff reached out to community partners to help support them on their agendas that were aligned with the City's federal initiatives. He noted that the staff took additional steps to contact the Department of Human Services Delegate Agencies to identify their concerns. He added that the concerns that the agencies had pertained to funding for families.

c. Other Federal Issues

Mr. Coyle reported that Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding expired September 30, 2017 and had not been renewed. He stated that the State of Texas would have a funding reserve until April 2018. He noted that if the federal government was not renewing CHIP, the State would have to identify funding in its budget. He added that if there were no funding available for individuals on CHIP, they would be without insurance and local government agencies would have to find a solution.

Mr. Coyle stated that the City was engaged in supporting the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) in applying for a Choice Neighborhood Grant for the west side community. He noted that the 2018 Federal Budget was extended through December 2018 and that the current housing programs were stable. He added that the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act introduced by Senator John McCain to call for a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 2021 was unsuccessful.

Mr. Coyle stated that there was a fourth round of NAFTA discussion amongst the United States, Canada and NAFTA. He noted that Senator John Cornyn scheduled a NAFTA Field Hearing in San Antonio on November 20, 2017 and requested a representative of the City to testify.

In response to Councilmember Viagran, Mr. Coyle responded that President Donald Trump requested Congress to resolve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by March 2018 and that State Delegates were seeking a permanent resolution. Councilmember Viagran asked for more information on the Adolescence Pregnancy Prevention Program (APP) Grant. Ms. Basurto replied that the APP was overseen by the Administration of Young Children and Family and that the Division would be requesting Congress to continue funding for the grant. She noted that the Human Services Department would be applying for the grant on March 26, 2018.

In response to Chairperson Saldaña, Ms. Basurto stated that the Department of Health and Human Services recommended the APP to staff.

In response to Councilmember Perry, General (Gen.) Juan Ayala stated that Congress would be considering another Defense BRAC in 2019 and 2021. Councilmember Perry suggested that staff keep BRAC on the City's federal agenda. Gen. Ayala replied that 16 military missions had come to the City to help keep a BRAC from occurring in San Antonio.

Councilmember Peláez suggested that staff communicate with Southwest Research Institute to identify grants that they may know of that could benefit the City.

Chairperson Saldaña suggested that staff bring specific public sectors in to share with the Committee their federal priorities. He asked that the consultants keep the Committee updated on the advocacy activity of local school boards.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Military Notification for Development [Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services Department]

Michael Shannon reported that there was an update to the Military Notification Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) and the City of San Antonio for development applications. He stated that the Development Services Department had been working with JBSA, Office of Military Affairs, and the City Attorney's Office to finalize the proposed global MOU that included revised notification boundaries for Camp Bullis and Lackland, and created boundaries for Randolph and Fort Sam Houston.

Mr. Shannon stated that JBSA had agreed to providing responses to development applications within 5 working days for minor plats and within ten working days for all other applications. He noted that JBSA comments were recommendations and would not impede the progress of a permit. He added that the changes would maximize communication between the agencies and the developer.

Councilmember Viagran asked how the updated MOU would affect the historic development. Mr. Shannon responded that any zoning changes to a historic neighborhood would activate an MOU Notification. He stated that the notifications were for predevelopment or permits that authorize development.

In response to Councilmember Perry, Mr. Shannon responded that the Department presented the proposed update to the Development Process Task Force, Engineers, and Architects.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rey Saldaña, Chairperson

Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk

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