

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018  
12:00 PM  
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

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| <b>Members Present:</b> | Councilmember Rey Saldaña, Chair, <i>District 4</i><br>Mayor Ron Nirenberg<br>Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i><br>Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>   |
| <b>Members Absent:</b>  | Councilmember Manny Peláez, <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> ; General Juan Ayala, <i>Director of Military Affairs</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Director of Development Services Department</i> ; Russ Handy, <i>Director of Aviation</i> ; Megan Dodge, <i>Assistant Director of Government &amp; Public Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations</i> ; Jessica Harris, <i>Interim Assistant Director of Economic Development</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i> |
| <b>Other Present:</b>   | Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> ; Mario LaSoya, <i>Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas</i> ; John McLeod, <i>Southwest Research Institute</i>  |

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Approval of minutes from the October 30, 2018 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting.**

Mayor Nirenberg moved to approve the Minutes for the October 30, 2018 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Councilmember Viagran entered the meeting at this time.

Item 3 was considered at this time.

**3. 115th Congress federal legislative update** [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs; Sally Basurto, Federal & Grants Administrator, Government & Public Affairs]

Sally Basurto provided a briefing on the issues that had progressed during the second session of the 115th Congress and the Federal Legislative Advocacy efforts by the City. She reported that Congress was mid-way through their second session. She stated that on February 9, 2018, Congress passed a two-year budget package that was signed by the President. She noted that the package raised budget caps by \$300 billion and set the maximum amount that Congress could allocate. She reported that the package increased the debt ceiling and included nearly \$90 billion in disaster relief for Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. She stated that \$165 billion was allocated to the Pentagon with \$131 billion reserved for nondefense programs.

Ms. Basurto stated that the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill was signed into law by the President on March 23, 2018. She noted that the bill included a \$1.3 trillion package that funded the federal government through September 30, 2018.

Ms. Basurto stated that on February 12, 2018, the President forwarded his FY 2019 Budget Request to Congress. She noted that the President proposed eliminating programs that supported local communities such as Community Development Block Grants, TIGER Grants, National Endowment for the Arts, and Low Income Energy Assistance Program. She added that Congress was working on the FY 2019 Appropriations Bill at the sub-committee and committee levels and would continue in the House and the Senate.

Ms. Basurto reported that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization remained pending in the Senate. She stated that the FAA Extension would expire on September 31, 2018 and that Congress would have to pass reauthorization legislation or approve another temporary extension. She noted that the U.S. House of Representatives voted on the FAA Reauthorization Bill on May 26, 2018. She added that the Bill did not include language that supported a nonstop flight from San Antonio International Airport to Reagan National Airport (DCA). She stated that Congressman Henry Cuellar withdrew the amendment when it became clear that it did not have the votes to pass the full House.

Ms. Basurto stated that the City would be submitting an application for a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). She noted that the NOFA awarded grants each year for Department of Housing and Urban Development Discretionary Funding Programs but was very competitive.

Ms. Basurto stated that March 5, 2018 was the deadline established by the President's Executive Order to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. She noted that on February 26, 2018 the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the President Administration's Appeal of a lower court ruling requiring the government to continue the DACA Program. She added that on February 15, 2018, the Senate failed to pass legislation that provided permanent legal status for DACA Enrollees. She stated that the Senate considered four different Bills that would have protected DACA Enrollees but they could not secure the 60 votes required.

Ms. Basurto reported that a group of House Members introduced a discharge petition in the House of Representatives to force a series of floor votes on four proposed DACA Immigration and Border Bills. She stated that the petition required 218 member signatures to proceed and would allow debate on the issue under the "Queen of the Hill" Rule. She noted that 215 Members had signed the discharge petition and that Congressmembers Will Hurd, Joaquin Castro, and Lloyd Doggett had signed it. She added that Speaker Paul Ryan asked members not to sign the DACA and Immigration Resolution but to give leadership additional time to develop compromised legislation. She stated that June 12, 2018 was an unofficial deadline to develop the compromised legislation.

Ms. Basurto stated that in May, Speaker Ryan announced that Congress needed to have the National Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Deal for consideration no later than early June 2018 for a vote on a new deal. She stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed air quality designations for eight counties that comprise the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area and the final designation was expected on July 17, 2018. She noted that Mayor Nirenberg sent a response to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt regarding the proposed designation, urging the EPA to adhere to the State of Texas Recommendation or to designate Bexar County as Attainment/Unclassifiable.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the industries that were affected by NAFTA. Jessica Harris stated that the Steel and Aluminum Industries were affected the most.

No action was required for Item 3.

Item 4 was considered at this time.

**4. Briefing and possible action on federal representation services** [Russ Handy, Director, Aviation]

Russ Handy reported that in January 2018, the Aviation Department entered into an agreement with The Normandy Group for federal legislative services. He stated that The Normandy Group would continue to support the City's Legislative Agenda associated with non-stop flights to Reagan National Airport (DCA) and to support Congressional Engagement. He noted that the term of the contract was for three months with the option to renew for two additional one-month periods. He added that the Aviation Department would like to extend the contract services with The Normandy Group until the FAA Reauthorization Bill was passed. Additionally, staff was seeking approval from the Committee to forward to the full City Council for consideration.

Mr. Handy stated that in conjunction with Mayor Ron Nirenberg; staff was seeking to pass a bipartisan amendment to allow airlines to swap slots within the DCA Perimeter to serve new markets with a significant military presence. He noted that the amendment was pulled from the House Bill but that the efforts in the Senate were still on-going. He added that the Senate had until September 2018 to pass a long-term FAA Reauthorization Bill. He stated that staff was seeking approval of the recommendation for an amendment to extend the professional services agreement with The Normandy Group to forward to the full City for consideration.

Mr. Handy stated that the amended agreement would provide for an extension of professional services for a period up to seven months but not later than December 31, 2018. He noted that there was a monthly rate of \$10,000 for an amount up to \$70,000. He added that if the entire term of the contract was exerted; the maximum contract value would be \$120,000.

Councilmember Perry asked of the quality of work that The Normandy Group provided for the City. Mr. Handy responded that the firm had been fundamental to the efforts for acquiring a non-stop flight to DCA.

Mayor Nirenberg suggested that staff build a relationship with the airlines.

Councilmember Viagran moved that the recommendation for an amendment to extend the professional services agreement with The Normandy Group be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 2 was considered at this time.

**2. Briefing on the 2020 census and possible action to approve a proposed resolution of opposition to inclusion of the 2020 census citizenship question** [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs; Megan Dodge, Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Megan Dodge reported that the U.S. Constitution required a complete census of the United States Population every 10 years and that the 2020 Census Day would occur on April 1, 2020. She stated that obtaining an accurate count for San Antonio would help to determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion annually in federal funds to state, local, and tribal governments. She noted that the funding was allocated for housing, highways, hospitals, schools, assistance programs, and many other projects and programs. She stated that an accurate count would inform redistricting; determine apportionment of

representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives; forecast future transportation needs; determine eligibility for housing assistance programs; and assist government entities in planning for programs.

Ms. Dodge stated that in the 2010 Census, Texas gained four congressional seats and that obtaining an accurate count for San Antonio was very important. She noted that in 2020, individuals would be required to complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. She added that the first day for residents to self-respond would be March 23, 2020.

Ms. Dodge stated that the Census Bureau planned to reduce census field canvassing by 70 percent and place more emphasis on online and telephone responses. She noted that in 2017, the Department of Justice (DOJ) submitted a letter to the U.S. Census Bureau requesting that the Bureau include a question regarding citizenship on the 2020 Census Questionnaire. She added that the DOJ requested the question to obtain accurate data on citizens' voting-age population in the effort to enforce the Voting Rights Act.

Ms. Dodge reported that on March 26, 2018, the Department of Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, directed the Census Bureau to include the citizenship question in the 2020 Census. She stated that no additional Congressional action was necessary to add the question. She noted that Congress would have to pass a law instructing the Census Bureau to change the questionnaire to make changes to the proposed census. She added that since the announcement of the inclusion; several states, cities, advocacy organizations, and individuals had filed lawsuits challenging the questions' inclusion in the Census.

Ms. Dodge stated that five separate lawsuits had been filed against the Census Bureau and Commerce Department to block the inclusion of this question. She noted that inclusion of the question would depress Census Participation and reduce the amount of federal funds that were distributed to the City. She indicated that staff proposed a Resolution opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Census Questionnaire.

Chairman Saldaña asked of the affects if the citizenship question was included. Ms. Dodge responded that the City would have to use additional funding resources to deploy staff into the communities to conduct field work and follow up on non-responses. Chairman Saldaña stated that inclusion of the citizenship question would not ensure that there would be a complete and accurate count. He noted that when there was not an accurate count; there was a negative effect on the ability to project population.

Councilmember Viagran stated that it was important that each individual was counted in the 2020 Census and that people were not fearful of wanting to complete the Census. She noted that the Census was designed to get the needed resources and appropriate representation in the community. She added that the City had a lot to lose if the question was added to the 2020 Census and expressed concern that it would lower civic engagement.

Councilmember Perry asked if the citizenship question had been asked prior to the 2020 Census Questionnaire. Ms. Dodge stated that it had not been asked in the Decennial Census since 1950 but that it was asked in annual surveys. Councilmember Perry asked of the consequences if participants did not answer the question and if the participants would be counted. Ms. Dodge stated that it was required by law to complete the questionnaire but they would be still counted if the question was not answered.

Ms. Dodge stated that they were developing a community engagement strategy to reach the hard-to-count areas.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the census citizenship question threatened an accurate census count and would prevent the City from getting much needed resources.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve a Resolution opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census to be considered by the full City Council. Mayor Nirenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Nirenberg, Viagran, and Saldaña

ABSTAIN: Perry

ABSENT: Peláez

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Rey Saldaña, Chairperson***

***Alicia K. Beckham***  
***Office of the City Clerk***