

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
10:00 AM
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>
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; William McManus, <i>Chief of Police</i> ; Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, <i>Director, Office of Military & Veteran Affairs</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Denise Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Snapper Carr, <i>Focused Advocacy, LLC</i>

Call to Order

Chairman Peláez called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 20, 2019 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2019 Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Cabello Havdra seconded the motion.

2. Briefing and Possible Action on Federal and State Firearm Proposals. [Jeff Coyle, *Director, Government & Public Affairs*]

Jeff Coyle provided an update on two items for Gun Reform which passed at the federal level by the House of Representatives:

1) Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 (HR8): Broadened the Federal Background Check System to include private transfers and sales of firearms between persons who are not Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs); and

2) Enhanced Background Checks Acts of 2019 (HR1112): Extended the number of days, from three to ten, government authorities have to complete federal background checks for those attempting to purchase firearms. This ended a rule that allowed a sale to be completed if the background check was not on time; sales will now be held until federal background checks are cleared.

Mr. Coyle stated that both reforms have now moved to the Senate which has just resumed from summer recess and developments are pending. He noted that domestic violence abuse and

prevention service were previously included in the Federal Program but has now been listed as a priority. He stated that the services would support policies and programs to prevent domestic violence and supports funding for prevention education and intervention services to effectively address the issue. He noted that firearms safety was not included in the Federal Program but staff was recommending its inclusion. Mr. Coyle added that firearms safety would support comprehensive legislation to prevent gun violence, including policies which require background checks for gun sales. He noted that Governor Abbott has resisted calling a special session to address gun reforms but has created a Domestic Terrorism Task Force which was tasked with analyzing emerging threats and collaboration between agencies. He stated that the Governor created the Texas Safety Commission whose charge it was to root out domestic terrorism and address mental health and gun violence. He noted that the Governor issued a series of Executive Orders to prevent mass shootings by enhancing reporting requirements and ensuring that law enforcement and the public have the training, tools, and resources to respond to suspicious activity. He stated that the Texas House and Senate have established select committees on mass violence prevention and community safety. He noted that City Council passed a Resolution on August 15, 2019 calling for action to address gun violence which was sent to U.S. Senators, Texas leadership, and the Bexar County Delegation. He stated that Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 29 prohibits local regulation of firearms and the 86th Legislative Session expanded the limits placed on local governments.

Councilmember Viagran expressed concern over defining suspicious activity.

Councilmember Sandoval requested that staff explore gun sales by law enforcement. She asked of the San Antonio Police Department policy regarding disposition of firearms which have been replaced. Chief McManus stated that Officers which were discharged honorably were allowed to keep their firearm, otherwise Officers would be required to pay for them.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if SAPD was prepared to fulfill reporting requirements in the Executive Orders. Chief McManus stated that he did not know because guidance had not been received from the Governor. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked who would present or review options of actions that the City could take regarding firearms. Ed Guzman stated that the City Attorney's Office would vet any proposals made.

Chairman Peláez requested a document which identified actions that Local Government, State Government, and Federal Government could take regarding firearms.

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

Jeff Coyle stated that \$30 million has been made available to reimburse communities for providing food, shelter, and supportive services to individuals and families with economic emergencies. He noted that the City submitted an application for reimbursement for costs associated with the Migrant Resource Center from January through June 2019 to the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) on September 6, 2019 and an announcement was expected in late September or early October 2019. He stated that the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 was signed on August 1, 2019 whereby the Congress and the White House reached a

deal on Federal Budget levels for the next two fiscal years. He added that the new Federal Budget levels added over \$100 billion in new spending over fiscal year 2019. He noted that Congress returned to session on September 9, 2019 and they have three working weeks to pass an Appropriations Bill before the end of the fiscal year. He stated that the House Leadership was working on a temporary funding bill. He reviewed the Federal Appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for programs of high priority to the City and noted that the President proposed to reduce or eliminate the programs while the House proposed to increase funding for the programs. He noted that there were five Military Construction Projects for bases in San Antonio which were in the House Budget. He stated that one grant-funded project for infrastructure for off base locations has not been funded. He noted that 127 military construction projects valued at \$3.6 billion were to be deferred for projects on the southern border and a dining facility at Camp Bullis was included in those deferred.

Chairman Peláez asked why the Chambers of Commerce were supporting the dining facility project. Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala replied that a show of support for the military by municipalities and businesses was considered in the decisions making process for approval of projects. He stated that the dining facility building was built in 1931 and had been condemned.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of the amount submitted for reimbursement to EFSP. Christine Wright stated that \$540,000 was submitted for reimbursement to the EFSP which included expenses incurred by the Food Bank. Carlos Contreras added that \$851,826 was submitted for the entire community.

Councilmember Sandoval asked of the amount spent on overtime which would not be eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Coyle stated that he would provide that information.

Chairman Peláez expressed support for pairing Veterans with service animals and ensuring that domestic violence remains a priority on the City's Legislative Agenda.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve modifications to the Legislative Agenda recommended by staff. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Update and Possible Action on the State Legislature and the Interim Sessions. [Jeff Coyle, *Director of Government & Public Affairs*]

Jeff Coyle stated that when the Texas Legislature was not in session, interim charges were issued by the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor and policy issues were assigned to various Legislative Committees for evaluation in preparation for the 87th Legislative Session. He noted that the Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor have yet to announce interim charges and in 2017, the House was issued more than 230 interim charges and the Senate issued more than 100 interim charges. He stated that ultimately, each Committee would issue an interim report with their findings, which may include recommendations for legislation during the 2021 session. He noted that the Texas House Redistricting. He stated that Councilmember Rocha Garcia would present the City's role in ensuring as complete of a Census count as possible at a hearing tomorrow. He reviewed the redistricting timeline and noted that Dr. Saenz from UTSA reported that between

2010 and 2018 our City had grown by 280,000 and if that trend continues it would translate into the equivalent of approximately two additional seats in the Legislature. He reviewed the membership of the Texas Redistricting Committees and their schedule of hearings.

Snapper Carr spoke of the limitations of State Government and the need of the City to work with community partners on legislative issues.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if there was an interim Committee on domestic violence. Mr. Coyle replied that there was not. Councilmember Sandoval requested that the City facilitate discussions on gun safety and domestic violence in preparation for the Legislative Session.

No action was required for Item 4.

5. Briefing and Possible Action on the TML Annual Conference and Exhibition. [Jeff Coyle, *Director, Government & Public Affairs*]

Mr. Coyle stated that the Texas Municipal League (TML) would hold its annual conference and exhibition in San Antonio on October 9-11, 2019. He reported that currently, this years' conference has the largest registration total in TML's 107 year history. He noted that the TML Conference brings together local officials from across the state to learn best practices to help strengthen our local communities.

He stated that staff were developing a local experience for attendees on San Pedro Park Creek. He noted that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting would be rescheduled to another date in October 2019 since the meeting scheduled falls during the TML Conference.

No action was required for Item 5.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 am.

Manny Peláez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

Denice F. Trevino
Office of the City Clerk