

**State of Texas  
County of Bexar  
City of San Antonio**



**FINAL  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex  
114 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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**Tuesday, August 18, 2015**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the "B" Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management & Budget]

A. Solid Waste Management

B. Health

**A. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BUDGET**

David McCary presented a Power Point of the Solid Waste Department Budget. He stated that residents of San Antonio generated 1 billion pounds of trash, recyclables, and organic material and highlighted efforts undertaken by the Department over the last 5 years to limit the reliance of landfills. It was noted that the Recycling and Resource Recovery Plan

implemented in 2010 was composed of three goals: 1) obtaining a 60% recycling rate by 2025; 2) providing recycling carts at multi-family residences; and 3) identifying recycling opportunities for businesses. Mr. McCary reported on successes to include having a recycling rate of 31%, turning brush collected into mulch, and offering educational programs at schools. He noted that the City was scheduled to open "ReCommunity Education Center", a facility dedicated to educating the public about the benefits of recycling.

It was noted that during the recent storms, the Department extended the hours of the Brush Collection facilities and allowed customers to drop off items free of charge. In total, the City collected an additional 3,000 tons of brush during off-peak times.

Mr. McCary spoke on the Plastic Bag Recycling Program and noted that the Plan implemented by the City was different from other Cities in that San Antonio Residents could still use plastic bags. He described how residents bundled up the bags and placed them in the blue recycling cart. It was reported that the City recycled 1.8 Million single-use plastic bags each month. A short video was played at this time.

As it related to the Organics Recycling Program, 20,000 Residents subscribed to the Program in FY 2015 and paid \$3 per month. A total of 7,000 tons of organic material was generated and then converted to compost. Effective October 1st, 96-gallon green organic carts would be issued to all citizens at no additional cost resulting in 50,000 tons of material per year from going to the landfill. Also effective October 1st, residents would have 3 options for brown garbage carts sizes. Pricing of the Pay as You Throw Program was highlighted and it was reported that the monthly cost was based on the size of the brown garbage cart issued. It was stated at a total of 190,000 residents would transition to the Program beginning October and that it would take 18 months to transition all residents. He spoke on the proposed FY 2016 monthly rates for Solid Waste Collection and noted that customers would see a savings of 50 cents if they selected a small 48-gallon brown garbage cart with a higher rate for customers using a medium 64-gallon or large 96-gallon brown garbage cart. Mr. McCary reported that the Department anticipated spending \$4.9 Million in FY 2016 to implement the Pay As you Throw Program and that said amount would be used to hire 13 new Staff Member as well as purchase 18 new trucks and 340,000 garbage carts.

Mr. McCary stated that the Department had partnered with Galloway Research Service to gather data regarding communication preferences for the Pay as You Throw Program. Input generated by Focus Groups determined that the use of door tags was the preferred method of communication. He noted that the door tag would explain the cost for each cart size, assist with selecting correct sized cart per household, and process for identifying cart

preferences. In addition, the Department would host 10 Community Meetings throughout the City and had a designated hotline for answering questions about the Pay as You Throw and Organics Recycling Programs.

The Recycling Inspection Process was detailed and it was noted that Residents would be assessed a \$25 Fee per occurrence for continued contamination of the Organic Cart with trash. It was stated that the new rate structure and issuance of a green cart to all residents would assist the City achieve its recycling goal of 60% by 2025.

Mr. McCary noted that the Department intended to improve recycling efforts for businesses and stated that they had been collaborating with local business to identify types of waste generated and methods of disposal. Based on the information gathered, a Plan of Action would be tailored to each business. He stated that the Business Community was responsive to recycling and diverting waste despite anticipated challenges. It was noted that the City would be developing Performance Measures so that business could track progress, providing technical assistance to analyze waste generated and develop customized plans, and recognize successes.

Mr. McCary stated that the Department had allocated \$1.3 Million for facility improvements, planned on expending \$124 Million, and generating \$124 in revenue for FY 2016. Of the revenue collected, \$759,000 was from the fee generated from the new Rate Structure and charges for extra collections. He noted that the FY 2016 Budget contained no structural changes from FY 2015 and contained a staffing compliment of 676. It was reported that even with the implementation of new Programs over the last 6 years, Departmental fee increases equaled the rate of inflation which was 1.9%.

Mayor Taylor asked for clarification on Solid Waste Services provided to local businesses. Mr. McCary noted that the Inventory Process would allow the City to develop Performance Measures and assist with the Design and Implementation of Recycling and Waste Diversion Policies based on the types of waste generated.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the role Waste Haulers play in the collection of waste in annexed areas. Mr. McCary explained that Commercial Waste Haulers would continue providing services for the first 3 years after the City annexed the area. After that time, the City would be responsible for waste collection services.

As it relates to incentives for reducing waste, Mr. McCary stated that the Pay as You Throw Program would incentivize customers to increase recycling efforts and divert waste as they would be charged based on the size of brown garbage cart issued. He spoke on the fees to be assessed and noted that higher fees would be assessed annually to customers using a

96-gallon brown garbage cart.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the financial gain to the City for selling commodities collected. Mr. McCary reported that it was a net gain to the City for all commodities sold and highlighted environment benefits.

At the request of Councilmember Warrick, Mr. McCary reported that Commercial Waste Haulers would continue to collect waste from businesses. Once the inventory was completed, the Department would provide a Plan to each business on how to increase recycling efforts and divert waste. He reported on how the Department mitigated illegal dumping noting the installation of more signs would not deter same.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the Plan of Action for issuing new carts. It was reported that beginning in October, certain customers would be notified of the new cart sizes available for waste, organics, and recycling and the associated fees. He spoke on the benefits of implementing the Plan in phases to include identifying the correct methodology and noted that it would take approximately 18 months to issue new carts to all City residents.

Councilmember Nirenberg thanked the department for being aggressive in achieving recycling goals and asked of the progress of having a 60% Recycling Rate by 2025. It was reported that achieving said goal had not changed and that the Department would reach said goal. Mr. McCary added that the Department would have a better idea of recycling rates once the Pay as You Throw Program was implemented.

Councilmember Viagran asked for more information regarding the timeline for issuing new carts. It was stated that it would take approximately 18 months to reach all San Antonio Residents. Mr. McCary further stated that collection days would not change, only the day in which recycling was collected.

At the request of Councilmember Viagran, Mr. McCary detailed the process for separating recyclables at the "ReCommunity Education Center." He explained that the Budget Allocation for Commodities was for Disposal and Processing Fees.

Councilmember Viagran requested that the Department increased outreach efforts so that residents would become more familiar with the services provided by the City to include Dial-A-Trailer and the new cart sizes.

Councilmember Krier asked for more information regarding the number of single use paper bags collected. Mr. Matt Hobson reported that the figure of 1.8 Million was an estimate

that was based on the number of bags generated by single family residences and that there was no way to determine the correct number of plastic bags. Mr. McCary stated that the City sold the plastic bags and that they were used to make other products.

It was asked by Councilmember Krier what educational services were provided to individuals regarding the proper way to cut trees and ways to mitigate the spread of Oak Wilt. Mr. David Neuman reported that fliers announcing Brush and Bulky Collection had limited information about Oak Wilt and that there was limited dialogue with tree trimming services. Councilmember Krier requested that the City Arborist and Mr. Newman attend a meeting with him which would discuss methods to mitigate Oak Wilt.

At the request by Councilman Gallagher, it was clarified by Mr. McCary that a \$25 Fee was automatically assessed to residents who continually contaminate the organic green cart with trash. He noted that the Fee was to remove and replace the cart. Councilmember Gallagher voiced his concern with the City not being able to control the recycling efforts of Commercial and Multi-Family Residences. Mr. McCary reported that the City was in the process of developing an Educational Program targeting these groups.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked Solid Waste for assisting with clean-up efforts resulting from the storms in May and the use of door hangers for communicating the correct manner to separate materials. Mr. McCary reported that the City had dedicated Part-Time Personnel that was tasked with circulating flyers.

Councilmember Medina asked for more information regarding Commercial Recycling efforts. Mr. Hobson expanded on the aspects of the Program to include Partnerships and Development of a Waste Diversion Plan based on the type of waste generated by each business. He noted that the goal was to have the Plan developed and implemented within the next 12 months. At the request of Councilmember Medina, Mr. McCary reported that changes to alley-way collection would be limited to asking if residents would like a green cart for the collection of organics.

Councilmember Treviño spoke in support of the communication efforts and innovative approach undertaken for the delivery of service. He asked how improvements changed work performance. Mr. McCary reported that improvements such as acquiring trucks with automated arms, using RFID Readers, and building new Service Centers that accommodate bigger equipment have allowed the department to better serve the community in a more effective and efficient manner.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

## B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Dr. Vincent Nathan provided an overview of their Personnel Compliment and Departmental Accomplishments. He briefed the Mayor and Council on the FY 2015 Accomplishments of the Community Health Division. It was reported that 2,807 Teens participated in the Teen Pregnancy Evidence Based Program, 1,582 Individuals with Chronic Diseases completed in Stanford Diabetes Self Management Program, 35 Students completed the Ambassador Program under the Mayor's Fitness Program, and 130,852 Individuals enrolled in the WIC Program. He stated that the Department anticipated having more students enrolled in the Ambassador Program in FY 2016. New for FY 2015 was serving 6,000 Summer Meals to children at WIC Sites.

Accomplishments for the Communicable Disease Division were highlighted to include administering 27,741 vaccines, serving 3,324 Patients with TB, serving 10,308 Patients with STDs, and investigating 1,364 cases of reportable diseases. Dr. Nathan clarified that the number of people served by the TB Clinic were misleading as each reported case required the testing of others. For FY 2015, approximately 11,000 individuals were tested. He stated that the City was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control for using the T-Spot Test in differentiating the types of TB species for the two reported cases of TB at Madison High School. Utilizing the T-Spot Test rather than other tests cut down on the number of people having to be tested for TB. It was reported that the Department was successful in getting a Legislative Measure Passed requiring Pregnant Women to be tested in their 3rd Trimester of pregnancy for Syphilis. Dr. Nathan stated that more outreach was needed as the most recent case of congenital syphilis was due to the mother not receiving any prenatal care.

It was reported that the Department recently began using a mobile van with the ability to test for reportable diseases and treat individuals in the field. He stated that the deployment of the van assisted the Department in identifying and treating individuals who typically did not seek medical treatment. Dr. Nathan stated that the Epidemiology Division had investigated over 1,300 cases of reportable diseases and was actively monitoring 100 cases of Ebola. He stated that medical protocol required that Ebola Cases be monitored for 20 days.

Dr. Nathan highlighted Accomplishments for the Environmental Health and Safety Division which included inspecting 21,298 food establishments, conducting 156,167 lab tests, as well as identifying 3 Areas for inclusion in the Stand Up SA Program and 11 Neighborhoods as Healthy Neighborhoods. He detailed Partnership developed and methodology in determining neighborhoods for participation in the Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

Dr. Nathan explained that the 1115 Waiver Program consisted of the Medicaid Expansion Program and the Medicaid Waiver Program. He stated that Texas had opted out of the Medicaid Expansion Program and then created the 1115 Waiver Program in 2011. It was reported that the intent of the Waiver Program was to reimburse communities for administering uncompensated care. He stated that Texas had been allocated \$29 Billion for a 5-year period ending in 2016. Of this amount, 5% was allocated to Public Health Programs with \$43 Million allocated to Metro Health. Dr. Nathan stated that allocations were based on meeting performance measures. He reported that the City had identified and implemented 6 Preventions Programs: 1) Teen Pregnancy; 2) Community Based Diabetes; 3) HIV and Syphilis; 4) Neighborhood Health; 5) School-Based Oral Health; and 6) Baby Café Breastfeeding Promotion. A total of \$11.6 Million was being allocated in FY 2016 for the administration of all 6 Prevention Programs.

The FY 2016 Proposed Budget was presented and it was noted that the Department was requesting a Budget Allocation of \$43.5 Million and a Staffing Composition of 370. He noted that of this amount, \$31.1 Million was from Grant Funds with \$12.4 Million coming from the General Fund. Changes from the FY Budget 2015 were highlighted and General Fund Allocations for each of the 5 Divisions were detailed. He provided a history of Budget Allocations and Personnel Complement since FY 2006 and noted that the Department had successfully managed resources despite the implementation of Federal and State mandates. Examples of mandates included the requirement to use an electronic document management system for medical records and upgraded laboratory equipment.

Dr. Nathan reported that the Department anticipated generating a total of \$24,115 in revenue and that said amount was mainly generated from Inspection and Health Consultation Fees. He stated that the Health Consultation Fee was a new Fee and was identified as a need as some Restaurant Owners required additional assistance with complying with Food Safety regulations.

Goals Identified for FY 2016 include receiving accreditation from the Texas Public Health Board, implementing a restaurant Scoring System, increase collaborative relationship with other health advocacy groups, and identifying Initiatives for inclusion in the next 1115 Medicaid Waiver Application. Dr. Nathan noted that two Texas Cities had been accredited to date and San Antonio hoped to be the third. A site visit by the Texas Public Health Board was scheduled for December 2015. He reported that the Department had been collaborating with the Innovation and Reform Division to develop a better Restaurant Scoring System. Beginning January 2016, the Department planned on implementing a Pilot Program that would rate Restaurants using grades of A, B, or C. A list of organizations that the Department planned on working with was presented. Examples include the Diabetes

Collaborative and the Bexar County Beverage Coalition. As for the Medicaid Waiver Program, it was noted that the Department would be informed next month if the State planned on applying for 2016-2021 Funding and that Programs to be funded would be determined in late 2016.

Initiatives completed in FY 2015 included developing a working relationship with the Witte Museum and moving laboratory facilities. Dr. Nathan highlighted the partnership with the Witte Museum which included reporting on the rates of child obesity. He noted that health data was collected from children up to 18 years old who visited the H-E-B Exhibit and that said data would be used to target Programs that reduce child obesity. It was stated that laboratory facilities were moved from Commerce Street to the Texas Center for Infectious Diseases. He stated that the lab had been vacant for several years and that it was more cost effective to remodel the lab than build a new one.

Lastly, Dr. Nathan spoke in support of the positive health impact to the community from the development of a Sustainability Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and Transportation Plan.

Mayor Taylor thanked Dr. Nathan for being creative and aggressive in leveraging Grant Funds. She spoke on the progress made regarding Teen Pregnancy rates via Project Worth and detailed the negative impact repeat pregnancies by young mothers had on the economy. Mayor Taylor requested that Dr. Nathan provide the Council with a report regarding the methodology used to identify communities participating in the Medicaid Waiver Program. She voiced her concern with targeted communities being disconnected resulting in worse health issues than before. Mayor Taylor noted the positive impact the Mayor's Fitness Council and Youth Ambassadors had in educating the community about being active and fit.

Mayor Taylor asked for more information regarding the number of staff conducting food inspections. Dr. Nathan reported that the Department was responsible for inspecting about 8,000 restaurants and had changed the methodology for scheduling inspections. It was reported that businesses were segregated into one of three categories based on food risk. Restaurants identified as "low risk" would be inspected once a year with "high risk" restaurants being inspected more often. In addition, Inspectors were consulting with Restaurants that fail inspections in order to ensure that Staff was properly trained on food safety. Dr. Nathan stated that Inspectors looked at 27 items but that the number could change effective October 1st as the State was revising the Food and Safety Code. Mayor Taylor asked that Dr. Nathan review the Food Scoring System used by other Cities.

Councilmember Viagran voiced her concern with the Department having 32 Full-Time Personnel inspecting 8,000 Restaurants. Dr. Nathan reported that the Department

consolidated personnel overseeing food inspections so that all could receive the same message simultaneously. He further stated that the Representatives of the Department regularly met with the various Restaurant Associations.

Councilmember Viagran reported that Restaurant owners were concerned that the Department did not have enough Inspectors. City Manager Sculley stated that she was developing a list of potential Budget Amendments and if desired by the Mayor and Council would include the hiring of additional Inspectors on the list. Another option provided was waiting on hiring additional staff until the Placard System was fully implemented. Councilmember Viagran spoke in support of adding Inspectors now but stated that waiting was also a viable option.

At the request of Councilmember Viagran, Dr. Nathan reported that the Vector Control Division was fully staffed but had gotten behind due to one Staff Member being out on leave and another retiring. He stated that other Departmental Personnel had been cross trained and assisted with getting back on schedule. He spoke of the cooperation with other City Departments for identifying areas that needed to be sprayed. It was noted that Vector Control was planning to spray in September in anticipation of the heavy rains expected from El Niño and that treatment schedules were available on the Health Department website.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the increase in clients seen at the new STD Clinic. Dr. Nathan reported that said increase was due to the facility offering more privacy than the Downtown Clinic and extended hours to include Saturday. Councilmember Viagran thanked both Drs. Nathan and Mangla for their hard work. At her request, it was clarified that the area in white on the Map denoting 2013 Teen Pregnancy Rates had 20 or less recorded births to teen mothers and that information was provided in English and Spanish.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked for more information regarding work being done to decrease Diabetes rates. Dr. Nathan detailed the meetings held by the Diabetes Collaborative and noted that Guidelines were being developed. He stated it was being proposed to create 2 Workgroups – one would be reviewing performance metrics and the other would be reviewing membership. It was noted that the Collaborative was behind schedule but that the City would continue to work with the organization.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the negative financial impact high teen pregnancy and diabetes rates had on the community. Dr. Nathan reported that the City had funded two separate studies to determine the effectiveness of Diabetes and Syphilis prevention measures implemented as part of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of collaboration with Bexar County on Project Worth. Dr. Nathan

reported that the Bexar County Health Collaborative administered in-school education programs.

Dr. Nathan mentioned Vector Control noting that the spraying done was working as there were no local cases of mosquito borne illness such as Chikungunya or West Nile.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the status of code changes regarding feeding the Homeless. Dr. Nathan stated that the Department was collaborating with the Police Department on said topic and a draft of proposed changes would be available soon for review and consideration by the appropriate Council Committee. He clarified that the new Food and Safety Code had a provision in it regarding feeding the Homeless and that it would be incorporated into the City's recommended changes.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked for more information on Siclovía. It was reported that the next event was scheduled for September 27th and would be held along Broadway. Councilmember Nirenberg requested that unused space in City Hall be converted to a workout area.

Councilmember Medina concurred with Councilmember Nirenberg regarding a fitness area around City Hall to include showers. He asked for more information regarding staffing for the Vector Control Division. Dr. Nathan stated that the Department was cross training personnel and that adding personnel was going to be discussed. He clarified for the Mayor and Council that Fort Sam assisted with monitoring the spread of mosquito borne illnesses like West Nile.

Councilmember Medina asked for clarification on the schools in District 7 participating in the Neighborhood Program. Dr. Nathan explained that the school in question was recently added and highlighted the cooperation provided by the Northside Independent School District.

At the request of Councilmember Krier, Dr. Nathan provided information on his work experience and educational background. He noted that he has spent 20 years in the Public Health field and prior to coming to the City of San Antonio in 2012 served as a Faculty Member at the School of Public Health at Texas A&M in College Station.

Councilmember Krier asked of information regarding Homeless individuals being diagnosed with food poisoning or food borne illnesses. Dr. Nathan stated they had investigated complaints but that nothing definite could be linked back to the food preparer. Councilmember Krier voiced his concern with the Department focusing on investigating individuals who feed the homeless rather than on inspecting restaurants.

Councilmember Gonzales highlighted breastfeeding services offered at the Baby Café in the Medical Center and noted that said location was hard to find as there was no signage. Dr. Nathan stated that similar services were offered at the WIC Clinic and highlighted the lactation consultants and nutritionists. Councilmember Gonzales recommended that the Department counsel Teen Mothers in the Teen Pregnancy Program while informing them of the services offered at Baby Café and the value of staying in school.

Councilmember Warrick asked for more information regarding Stand Up SA. Dr. Nathan reported that the Department planned on implementing the Initiative in the Wheeler Heights neighborhood in December as Grant Funding would not be allocated until then. He further explained that the Health Department was collaborating with the EastPoint Office to see if additional resources could be allocated for community outreach efforts in District 2 due to its high teen pregnancy rates. Dr. Nathan reported that several schools in District 2 were participating in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Councilmember Warrick requested that the Department collaborate with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, and other youth service providers in the area in order to reach students participating in after-school programs.

Councilmember Saldaña asked for more information regarding the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program. Dr. Nathan stated that the Federal Program was intended to temporarily compensate for care that was paid by State Medicaid. He stated that the City was granted funding for 5 years and was anticipating the renewal for another 5 years.

Councilmember Saldaña voiced his concern with the possibility of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program not being renewed by the Federal Government. Dr. Nathan stated that if the City were not funded or funded for less than 5 years; the City would negotiate with the State to verify which Programs would continue or be substituted. Councilmember Saldaña highlighted an issue predominant in his district regarding the lack of new health clinics. He added that he would be presenting a Budget Amendment that would allocate Federal Funds for building a New Health Clinic in the Indian Creek Neighborhood.

Councilmember Lopez asked for the impact studies regarding Air Quality. Dr. Nathan reported that the Department collaborated with ACOG and the Office of Sustainability and was in the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan on Air Quality. Councilmember Lopez requested that the Department provide reports illustrating respiratory illnesses caused by poor air quality.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC  
CITY CLERK