

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
12:00 PM
MEDIA BRIEFING 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> ; Rene Dominguez, <i>Director of Economic Development 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:	Walter Serna, <i>Serna & Serna</i> ; 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>

1. Approval of minutes from the May 24, and May 31, 2017, Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the Minutes for the May 24, and May 31, 2017 Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee Meetings. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Councilmember Peláez entered the meeting at this time.

2. Discussion with the State consultant team regarding the 85th State Legislative Session and Interim Session [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle reported that the City of San Antonio Lobby Team had performed extremely well during the legislative session. He noted that Brandon Aghamalian and Snapper Carr with the Focus Group led the Lobby Team consisting of Marc Rodriguez, Jesse Ancira, Chris Shield, and the Texas Lobby Group.

Brandon Aghamalian stated that the session was challenging for cities and that issues opposing cities were being advanced by leadership. He added that there were multiple major issues occurring at one time that also made the session challenging.

Snapper Carr stated that Texas was the only state in which local government provided more funding to the State than it received from the state. He mentioned that it was important for State Elected Officials to hear from citizens, communities, and businesses on issues so that the City would not be the only messenger communicating same.

Marc Rodriguez commended the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff for their great work during the session.

Jesse Ancira stated that it was important to have everyone continue to engage with delegates until the next session.

Chris Shield acknowledged the efforts of Jeff Coyle and Snapper Carr during testimonies. He stated that the 85th State Legislative Session was a tough environment to work in; therefore, it would be difficult to overstate the commitment of the San Antonio Lobby Team. He noted that funding for The Alamo was a huge win for San Antonio economically. He mentioned that bills were filed to eliminate Chapter 313 which would be critical for San Antonio because it was a tax tool that would allow school districts to grant property tax abatements to big manufacturers like Toyota.

Chairperson Saldaña stated that moving forward, he would like for the San Antonio Lobby Team and staff to continue engaging with State Representatives.

Councilmember Viagran acknowledged the efforts and time it took for staff and the Lobby Team to represent the City during the session. She stated that she appreciated that staff invited State Representatives to tour The Alamo and Missions.

Councilmember Peláez asked if the City was putting enough resources toward legislative sessions. Mr. Coyle responded that the City was spending less than most big cities in the state. He noted that there could be more investments made in community support and campaigns that reach larger audiences.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. Proposed amendments to the 115th Congress Federal Legislative Program [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle stated that there were four proposed amendments for the 115th Congress Federal Legislative Program. He noted that the amendments would provide staff with direction to work with the federal consultant team and the congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of the City on issues of importance to the City Council. He reported that the four proposed amendments included:

1. Addressing the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
2. Preparation for a possible round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
3. Support for anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling programs and grant funding
4. Support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Program

Mr. Coyle reported that there was renegotiation of NAFTA between United States, Mexico, and Canada and the City was in support of a modern and improved version of NAFTA. He noted that there could be a possible new round of BRAC and staff recommended amending the Military Protection language to specifically discuss BRAC and the City's desire to maintain the military missions in San Antonio.

Mr. Coyle stated that staff recommended that additional language in the 115th Federal Program support federal programs and funding that help combat human trafficking and smuggling. He noted that through the proposed amendment the City would further explore opportunities to receive support from the federal government to stop human trafficking and smuggling in the region. He added that staff was requesting an amendment to the federal program in support of extending the DACA Program or implementing a long-term solution for certain undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. He mentioned that the amendment would position the City to join others advocating for extension of the program.

Mr. Coyle stated that staff was seeking approval of the four amendments. He noted that Congress would be in recess September 21-22, 2017. He noted that on September 26, 2017, Chairperson Saldaña would be leading a team to Washington DC. He added that the SA to DC Trip would occur January 29, 2018 through February 1, 2018.

In response to Councilmember Viagran, Mr. Coyle stated that the word 'protection' would remain and that additional language would be added to Military Protection Amendment. Councilmember Viagran asked if there was a bill filed in Congress for DACA. Sally Basurto replied that the Dreamers Act was filed July 2017; it was a bipartisan bill that would target a possible path to residency and citizenship.

Councilmember Viagran moved that the staff recommendation be forwarded to the full City Council. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rey Saldaña, Chairperson



Alicia K. Beckham
Office of the City Clerk

