

**ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018**

**1:30 PM**

**MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

|                         |   |
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| <b>Members Present:</b> | Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>Chair, District 3</i><br>Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i><br>Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>District 8</i><br>Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i><br>Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>   |
| <b>Members Absent:</b>  | None  |
| <b>Staff Present:</b>   | Rod Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Katinka Howell, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Stephanie Brosig, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Rene Dominguez, <i>Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Alejandra Lopez, <i>Assistant Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Adrian Perez, <i>Assistant Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i> |
| <b>Others Present:</b>  | Rogelio Saenz, <i>Dean, School of Public Policy, UTSA</i> ; Tom Tunstall, <i>Research Director, School of Public Policy, UTSA</i> ; Lilly Casurra, <i>UTSA</i> ; Steve Nivin, <i>Economist, St. Mary's University</i> ; Colin Sherman, <i>SAEDF</i> ; Anna Chowdhurg, <i>Assistant Director, Corporate Partnerships, Texas State University</i>   |

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Viagran called the meeting to order.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 6, 2018 Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting.**

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2018 Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Briefing and Possible Action on:**

- 2. Presentation by UTSA School of Public Policy, UTSA Institute for Economic Development, and City of San Antonio Economic Development Department on the Effect of Economic Segregation on Economic Competitiveness, and Possible Action on Release of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Begin the Multi-Year Integrated Policy Development Process Starting with Tax Abatement Guidelines.**

Rene Dominguez stated that San Antonio was experiencing strong growth and economic performance. He noted that concentrations of distressed conditions had created cycles of issues affecting a significant percentage of the workforce. He stated that San Antonio's long-term economic competitiveness was based on the workforce and balanced development. He noted that the goal for the Inclusive Growth Strategy was to shape the economy to provide broad-based opportunities. He reviewed the city's overall economic performance and the SA2020 goals and updates.

Rogelio Saenz spoke of the history of racial and economic segregation in San Antonio. He stated that the Pew Research Center demonstrated that the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metro Area was the most economically segregated among the 30 largest metro areas in the United States. He reviewed the effects of economic segregation through the average performance of zip codes in each quintile across seven component indicators of the DCI and for the 78207 zip code.

Tom Tunstall stated that inequity led to the hampered ability of the workforce for fast growing companies or new companies expanding to San Antonio. He noted that workforce availability affected how new projects viewed San Antonio. He stated that inequity led to less robust consumption based on the perception that our market was unable to support certain amenities. He noted that the economic impact was \$1.8-\$11.92 billion annually to San Antonio.

Adrian Perez stated that staff would be developing and perfecting policy within the next 3-5 years. He noted that a Request for Proposals (RFP) was seeking:

- Best practices in connecting place, projects, and people
- Assessment of impact to competitiveness of using economic development incentives as a tool
- Recommended policy development based on findings

He stated that the purpose of the proposed RFP was to evaluate best practices around the current state of growth policies and partnership and program development at a municipal government level. He noted that in the application of economic development incentive programs (such as tax abatements) and associated workforce development investments would connect places, projects, and people in an inclusive growth approach to update the 2019 Tax Abatement Guidelines. He reviewed the estimated timeline.

Lilly Casurra spoke of information available on the UTSA Website.

Rene Dominguez stated that the objective was to align tools to have a more impactful result.

Chairperson Viagran asked if the RFP would be open to everyone. Mr. Dominguez replied that it would.

Councilmember Courage questioned the need for a consultant.

Councilmember Pelaez expressed his support for this item.

Councilmember Perry asked why people and businesses were coming to San Antonio. Mr. Dominguez replied that businesses and people were coming to San Antonio due to access to workforce and the cost of living. Councilmember Perry stated that he would like to have an opportunity to review the RFP before moving forward.

Councilmember Perry moved for a review of the RFP at the Committee Level before its release. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion failed by the following vote:

AYE: 2-Pelaez, and Perry  
NAY: 3-Gonzales, Courage, and Viagran

Councilmember Courage moved to approve the release of the RFP with additional consideration being made for tax implications. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

AYE: 4-Gonzales, Pelaez, Courage, and Viagran  
NAY: 1-Perry

Adrian Perez stated that the contract would be brought before the full City Council for consideration in June 2018.

### Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
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Rebecca Viagran, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Denice F. Trevino

