

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



**Meeting Minutes
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

2:00 PM

5230 Eisenhower Road

The City Council of San Antonio convened at the Pre-K 4 SA East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Road, San Antonio, Texas 78218 at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: Mayor Nirenberg, Treviño, Andrews-Sullivan, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Gonzales, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Courage, and Perry.

ABSENT: Pelaez

1. Briefing on the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Celina Peña of the San Antonio/Bexar County Complete Count Committee thanked the City for the funding provided for the 2020 Census. She stressed the need for organizations and community leaders to assist in messaging of the 2020 Census.

Rebecca Cedillo of the San Antonio/Bexar County Complete Count Committee added that Bexar County would partner with the Federal Government and ensure that information on the 2020 Census was disseminated in every language possible. She noted that 220,000 individuals

resided outside of the city limits and another 200,000 individuals resided in suburban cities. Berta Rodriguez of the San Antonio/Bexar County Complete Count Committee stated that the Census was a population count of all residents conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every 10 years. She noted that the U.S. Census was constitutionally mandated and an accurate count would ensure adequate representation and Federal Funding. She stated that the population data assists in planning for the next 10 years and it is estimated that Texas could gain two to three Congressional seats as the result of an increase in population. She noted that the results of an undercount of Texas' Population of 1% could translate to a \$300 million loss of Federal Funding every year for the next 10 years. She stated that Census data affects decisions regarding public services which impact the community on a daily basis.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that agencies and programs in San Antonio/Bexar County received \$11.3 billion in funding in 2017. She noted that children and seniors would be particularly affected by any loss of Federal Funding. She stated that in San Antonio/Bexar County; 25% of residents live in hard-to-count census tracts and was at risk of being undercounted. She noted that the 2020 Census would begin on April 1, 2020 which has been designated as Census Day and the U.S. Census Bureau was the only entity responsible for the enumeration. She stated that the role of the City was to create awareness, educate, and implement outreach strategies for participation in the 2020 Census.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that for the first time the 2020 Census questionnaire would be available online but 19% of residents lived in areas which do not have access. She stated that in mid-March 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau would send out invitations to residents inviting them to go online and self-respond. She stated that if residents did not self-respond, enumerators would contact them at their residence and finally, the U.S. Census Bureau would mail questionnaires to residents. She noted that the 2020 Census would be available in 12 languages online or by phone and the paper form would be available in English and bilingual English-Spanish. She noted that filling out the 2020 Census was safe, fast, and important and noted the elimination of the citizenship question. She stated that the U.S. Census Bureau would communicate with residents only by mail and the questionnaire would only include questions regarding age, sex, race, ethnicity, and household composition. She noted that the City of San Antonio was committed to attaining a complete count by:

- Holding Stakeholder Meetings in 2018
- Passing a Resolution opposing the citizenship question
- Allocating \$392,000 for outreach/marketing
- Establishing the Complete Count Committee
- Working with stakeholders to secure additional funding from:
 - Census Equity Fund: \$150,000 requested
 - Hogg Foundation: \$75,000 requested
 - Local Foundation: \$200,000 requested

Ms. Rodriguez stated that the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics identified by the U.S. Census Bureau indicating the likelihood of low self-response/participation included:

- Racial/Ethnic communities: Latinos, African Americans, and Asians
- Individuals with language barriers
- Households with children under five
- Young and mobile age 18-34
- Persons experiencing homelessness
- Immigrants/Refugees
- Seniors
- Persons with disabilities
- LGBTQ Community
- Multi-generational households
- Renters/Multiunit housing
- Individuals with low internet/computer access/proficiencies

Ms. Rodriguez noted that this data was utilized to create Subcommittees on community and faith-based organizations, businesses, education, media communications, government, military, veterans, and rural unincorporated suburban areas. She reviewed the Subcommittee outreach strategies and the following internal activities:

- Government and Public Affairs: Branding, logo, and resident centric website
- Head Start: Over 2,900 emails to parents
- Human Resources Department: COSA employee engagement strategies
- Immigration Services: Community event outreach
- Office of Disability: Community event outreach
- San Antonio Public Library: Resources sites

Ms. Rodriguez stated that beginning immediately, residents should be educated on how the Census was safe and important by: 1) Incorporating the *Count Me In* Website into district websites or other touch points to reach constituents; 2) Encouraging the community to apply for Census jobs by promotion at community events; and 3) Considering implementing district-wide “Get out the Count” strategies in spring 2020.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if funds allocated to the department were sufficient to conduct a full count. Ms. Rodriguez replied that funds allocated to the department would be leveraged to reach the \$1.2 million necessary to perform a full count.

Councilmember Viagran requested a sample of the Census Form when available.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked which school districts had made a commitment to assist. Ms. Rodriguez replied that the following districts have committed to assist: Northside, Northeast, South San, East Central, Harlandale, Judson, Lackland, and San Antonio Independent School Districts.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked of efforts planned to enumerate the homeless population. Ms. Rodriguez stated that enumeration of the homeless would be handled by the Census Bureau and the Committee would assist in providing them with point-in-time count data and contacts for emergency shelters. She stated that the Committee would provide education to the homeless during the upcoming point-in-time count encouraging participation.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of information to be provided regarding scams associated with the census. Ms. Rodriguez stated that messaging would address scams and staff would partner with the Media Communications Subcommittee and local media outlets to ensure accurate communication with the public.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if funding would only be distributed at the State Level or in metro areas as well. Jeff Coyle replied that it would depend on the funding source. Councilmember Sandoval asked of partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to perform additional outreach. Ms. Rodriguez stated that she would follow up on partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to perform additional outreach.

Councilmember Treviño requested a report on utilization of the 3-1-1 application. He asked of characteristics of the Census Bureau Mapping System areas. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the Census Bureau Mapping System was interactive and provided characteristics of census tracts.

Councilmember Courage spoke of mobile populations and asked of the tools which would be utilized to reach them. Ms. Rodriguez stated that broadcast messaging and multiple layers of messaging would be utilized to reach mobile populations. Staff would also partner with community-based organizations to provide outreach.

Councilmember Perry asked if the data presented was based on predictions or the 2010 Census. Ms. Rodriguez replied that the data was based on the 2010 Census and mail response rates.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if computers would be available for use by residents at community meetings. Ms. Rodriguez replied that staff would explore that option. Mayor Nirenberg asked that recycled computers and corporate sponsors be utilized to provide equipment.

2. Briefing on the Pre-K 4 SA Program. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Sarah Baray, CEO, Pre-K 4 SA]

Dr. Sarah Baray stated that the Brainpower Task Force was appointed by Mayor Julian Castro in

2011 and after one year of study, proposed the launch of Pre-K 4 SA with a mission to develop a world-class workforce in one generation through high-quality early learning. She noted that the program design included education centers, professional learning, competitive grants, and family engagement. She reviewed the 2011-2021 timeline and the impact of Pre-K 4 SA through the end of an eight-year referendum. She stated that at the end of eight years, Pre-K 4 SA will have impacted 452,161 children. She noted that early childhood education was important because 90% of brain development occurs before the age of five and in the first few years of life, children develop a million neural connections per second. She stated that studies have shown that high quality learning influences health, and economic and social outcomes for individuals and society at large and for every dollar invested there was a return on investment to the community of 7%-10%. She noted that the return on investment was derived from the following components:

- Higher educational attainment and lower education costs
- Increased income levels
- Better health outcomes
- A more capable and productive workforce

Dr. Baray stated that the National Institute of Early Education Research (NIEER) has set 15 standards by which preschools are evaluated and Pre-K 4 SA meets all 15 standards. She reviewed the Early Learning Ecosystem which includes child development centers, childcare, and Pre-K-12. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA takes a systemic approach: 1) Lead with quality; 2) Take city-wide approach; and 3) Collaborate with school districts. She reviewed the investment in schools and Child Development Centers and stated that by the end of the eight-year referendum the City will have invested over \$17 million in school districts. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA's cost per hour was among the lowest. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA was evaluated each year by an external research team and the evaluation demonstrates that children enter the Pre-K 4 SA Program below the national norm and leave the program well above the national norm. She reviewed the long-term impacts of Pre-K 4 SA and awards received. She noted that Pre-K 4 SA has been recognized frequently and was creating a national dialogue on the importance of early learning working with other cities.

Dr. Baray reported that House Bill (HB) 3 provided funding for full-day Pre-K for four year olds who meet State eligibility requirements but does not raise the number of slots available or fund the quality standards required for long-term benefits. She noted that 40% of four year olds in San Antonio did not qualify for State Pre-K and between 3,000 and 5,000 of those families could not afford private high-quality Pre-K. She stated that 20%-25% of the openings in Pre-K 4 SA were reserved for those who fall in this gap and capacity has been expanded by the opening of replication sites which offers four years of high-quality early learning. She stated that Pre-K 4 SA was authorized through the Better Jobs Act which allows cities to utilize sales tax funding to initiate certain types of workforce development initiatives including early childhood programs. She added that residents voted in November 2012 to authorize the collection of sales tax to operate Pre-K 4 SA for eight years. She stated that the sales tax collection would end on March 31, 2021 and the program would be funded through June 1, 2021. She explained that Pre-K 4 SA would have to be reauthorized after that by placing the item on the ballot in either a May or November election in 2020.

Mayor Nirenberg asked of the School District's response to HB 3. Dr. Baray replied that most of the school districts in Bexar County were already funding full-day Pre-K through a combination of Title Funds and other resources so they were now able to utilize the additional funding to make quality improvements. She stated that some school districts were utilizing the additional funds to employ a second teacher in the classroom. The Northside Independent School District Board voted to extend Pre-K to a full day prior to approval of HB 3. She added that Northeast Independent School District utilized grant funds from Pre-K 4 SA to extend half-day Pre-K to full-day and Judson Independent School District was converting to full-day Pre-K.

Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan asked if additional campuses would open if Pre-K 4 SA was reauthorized. Dr. Baray replied that it was likely that more capacity within an existing program would be created.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the type of support Pre-K 4 SA would be providing to the Early Matters Program. Dr. Baray stated that Pre-K 4 SA would be lending expertise to the Early Matters Program. Councilmember Viagran requested a breakdown of private and parochial schools which Pre-K 4 SA has interacted with.

Councilmember Courage asked if Pre-K 4 SA had been considered to become a Charter School. Dr. Baray replied that it had been discussed and could be considered if authorized by the Board and City Council.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the amount of funds generated by tuition annually. Dr. Baray stated that \$750,000 was generated annually from tuition.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of other partnerships between the City and School Districts. Dr. Baray stated that Pre-K 4 SA partnered with Edgewood and the San Antonio Independent School Districts to implement Head Start.

Councilmember Perry asked if reserves were included in the program. It was noted that the reserves were up to approximately \$20 million and would gradually decrease during the last five years of the program. Councilmember Perry expressed concern regarding the lack of metrics and the City's participation in providing education.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked of the structure for employees of Pre-K 4 SA. Dr. Baray stated that Pre-K 4 SA was a city department and everyone employed was a city employee hired by the Human Resources Department.

Councilmember Treviño expressed support for Pre-K 4 SA and its expansion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting at 4:45 pm to discuss the following items:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Settlement offer in litigation styled Maria Salazar, et al. v. City of San Antonio pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Legal issues related to litigation involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and announced that no action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grace Rosales spoke of the home of a former Mayor in District 1 and referenced an article in the San Antonio Light on Mayors in 1954 and requested that the zoning change be denied.

The Tier One Neighborhood members stated that neighborhoods should have a voice in decisions made about their neighborhoods. They advocated for common sense development and respect for the existing community.

Tim Barr expressed support for the CAAP.

Peter Bella expressed support for a CAAP that is as stringent and as forward-thinking as possible.

Gregory Harman expressed support for the CAAP and stated that extreme hazards were not worth the profits made. He added that the CAAP was an equity document.

Julianna Cline requested that a multi-family zoning change affecting Camelot 1 be denied. She stated that currently the area included a disproportionate amount of multi-family housing.

Wendell Fuqua expressed support for the CAAP and applauded city leaders for taking the initiative. He stated that coal plants must be shut down.

Antonio Diaz stated that he participated in a demonstration regarding the Alamo and spoke of the loss of first amendment rights. He noted that his people were not recognized as Native Americans by the government.

Southwest Workers Union members expressed support for the CAAP and noted that it would reduce premature deaths due to poor air quality.

Rose Hill stated that Councilmember Andrews-Sullivan and her staff were accountable to neighborhoods which were re-mobilizing and becoming active again.

Joseph Johnson stated that the Sunrise Neighborhood has changed over last year thanks to City staff, SAPD, and Councilwoman Andrews-Sullivan. He noted that conditions in the neighborhood have improved.

Ross Laughead congratulated the City Council Members on their election.

Otis Thompson proposed building a 22 acre lake at Martin Luther King Park which would be fed by Salado Creek. He asked for support and stated that funding was available through the Hotel Occupancy Tax.

Terri Castillo of the Historic Westside Resident Association requested a partnership with the City in order to integrate concerns into the policy-making process and demanded that the City hold the San Antonio Housing Authority accountable for unjust treatment of tenants.

Richard Garcia of the Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association expressed his condolences to the family of Firefighter Greg Garza. He thanked the City Manager and Chief McManus for attending their neighborhood meeting and invited Councilwoman Gonzales to attend.

Rich Acosta of “My City is my Home” stated that their group was a non-profit assisting homeowners in appealing their home appraisal values. He spoke against the millions in tax abatements for luxury developments.

Evelyn Brown recommended that a task force be formed to assess houses for repair before they are torn down.

Charles Peterson encouraged the City Council to pass the CAAP.

Rose Cohen-Brown spoke of services for the elderly stating transportation to Senior Centers was not provided. She asked that information for seniors be denoted on the City’s Website.

Patrick Von Dohlen spoke of misinformation distributed regarding climate change. He stated that the CAAP should be delayed and postponed until accurate scientific research and information was available.

Debra Esparza stated that the CAAP should have been brought before the public for a vote. She noted that panhandling and littering was an issue and the homeless problem has become dangerous. She challenged the City Council to take action against littering, panhandling, and the homeless issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG
MAYOR

Attest:

LETICIA M. VACEK TRMC/CMC/MMC
City Clerk