

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020
10:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Co-Chair, District 8</i> Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, <i>Co-Chair, Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Commissioner Kevin Wolff, <i>Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 3</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Ed Guzman, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>State Relations Manager, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Baltazar R. ("Walter") Serna, Jr. <i>Attorney, Serna & Serna, San Antonio</i> ; Melissa Shannon, <i>Director, Governmental Affairs, Bexar County</i> ; Lauren Mandel, <i>Chief of Staff, Office of Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff</i>

Call to Order

Co-Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order. He announced that the newly-constituted Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee was assembled by Mayor Nirenberg and was the only hybrid committee outside of the Innovation & Technology Council Committee. He stated that the scope of the Committee was to pursue additional COVID-19 response funding for the City and Bexar County.

1. Discussion on the Procedures of the Joint City/County Intergovernmental Relations Committee [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle stated that the primary objective of the Committee was Federal and COVID-19 related funding. He stated that the Federal Legislative Session was scheduled to begin in January 2021. He noted that the City and the County would both need to hire individual, respective lobbying teams to develop their separate Legislative Agendas. He proposed the formation of a subcommittee that would consist of three Committee Members to take action on Legislative items on behalf of the City. He added that Bexar County would have its own, separate Legislative process.

Co-Chairman J. Rodriguez stated that Bexar County was looking forward to working with the Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee. He noted that the Committee was a productive venue for the mutual constituencies.

2. **Congressional Update on the Federal Response to COVID-19 and Legislative Forecast** [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Sally Basurto presented an update on the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act that the House passed on May 16, 2020. She reported that the Heroes Act established new State and Local Coronavirus Relief Funds through the Department of Treasury and provided funds to be used for COVID-related expenses, to replace lost revenues, and to respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID. She stated that funds would be available until expended, which provided flexibility over the next several years. She added that the Bill proposed \$375 billion in 2020 and 2021 for local governments, using a modified CDBG formula for distribution of allocations. She added that an initial \$250 billion would be awarded within 30 days of enactment, with \$125 billion allocated to cities and \$125 billion allocated to counties based on population. She noted that the same distribution would be awarded to cities and counties in 2021 using the same formula. She reported that Senate Leadership stated that they may vote on the Bill after the Congressional July 4 recess. She stated that the HEROES Act proposed to address economic and community development by allocating the following:

HEROES Act Funding Allocations	
Community Development Block Grants	\$5 billion to mitigate the impacts in communities to be distributed by formula to current grantees
Child Care and Development Block Grants	\$7 billion for childcare services
Homeless Assistance Grants	\$11.5 billion to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
Assistance to Homeowners	\$75 billion for mortgage payments, property taxes, property insurance, utilities, and other housing related costs
Emergency Rental Assistance	\$100 billion for low income renters at risk of homelessness avoid eviction
Administration for Community Living	\$100 million for direct services such as home delivered meals, and supportive services for seniors and disabled individuals, and their caregivers
Housing Assistance for Seniors	\$500 million for operations at properties providing affordable housing for low income seniors; \$300 million for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing project
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$10 billion to meet increased demands
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	\$150 million to meet increased demands
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs	\$100 million to combat violence against women and for transitional housing
Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)	\$300 million to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including purchasing personal protective equipment.

HEROES Act Funding Allocations	
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	\$300 million for law enforcement hiring grants and for the purchase of personal protective equipment.
Small Business and Digital Connectivity Support	\$10 billion to support small business grants under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL)
Workforce Development	\$5 billion to Adult Employment and Training, and Youth Summer Programs; \$5 billion to establish WiFi hot spot devices to students and libraries to fill the gap for home connectivity
Individual Assistance	A second round of \$1200 per eligible family member
Veterans Business Outreach Centers	\$10 million to support veterans with small businesses

Sally Basurto provided an update on the State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act that would provide \$5 billion in flexible emergency funding for state and local governments. She reported that the proposal would allocate funding in three parts based on population, infection rates, and revenue losses. She noted that the Bill received great bipartisan support.

Ms. Basurto provided an update on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Act. She reported that the PPP originated from the CARES Act and was passed on May 28, 2020 as a low-interest, long term loan for businesses. She stated that the PPP had extended the forgiveness period from 8 weeks to 24 weeks for businesses. She added that businesses would only have to allocate 60% of PPP funds for payroll, which allowed for additional use of funds to cover overhead costs.

Ms. Basurto provided an update on the coordinated advocacy efforts of the Federal and State Government Advocacy Working Group under the leadership of Councilmember Pelaez and Bexar County Commissioner Kevin Wolff. Mr. Coyle stated that the advocacy efforts focused on the recommended use of CARES Act funding and business support. He reported that the Working Groups frequently engaged with delegate agencies to discuss anticipated budget challenges and the need for additional Federal funding. Ms. Basurto reported that the Working Group initiated a support letter campaign and received many letters of support that went directly to Congress from large business organizations such as Rackspace, the San Antonio Spurs Foundation, the NRP Development Group, the Texas Research Foundation, and several local Chambers of Commerce. She stated that the support activity demonstrated business support for additional funding for the State and local governments.

Ms. Basurto reported that Congress was currently in session. She stated that Congress would break for summer recess on July 4, 2020 and would return on July 7, 2020; thereafter Congress would break for the entire month of August and return on September 8, 2020. She added that staff would continue to work with delegates and community partners as they monitored congressional developments.

Councilmember Viagran asked if the CARES Act Eviction Moratorium term would be extended. Ms. Basurto stated that she would provide an update.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested more information on the proposed funding of veteran-owned small businesses.

Mr. Coyle stated that staff would resume the hiring process for a lobbyist team in July 2020 and would present recommendations to the Committee in August 2020. He added that staff would begin the process of developing the City's Legislative Agenda in August 2020 in anticipation of the new Legislative Session in January 2021.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

***Councilmember Manny Pelaez,
Co-Chairman***

***County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez,
Co-Chairman***

Respectfully Submitted,

***Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk***