

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020
10:00 AM
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Elizabeth Provencio, <i>First Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Carlos Contreras, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Craig Hopkins, <i>Director, Information Technology Services Department</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Gen. Juan Ayala, <i>Director, Military & Public Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>State Relations Manager, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Sean Greene, <i>Special Projects Manager, Metro Health Department</i> ; Sara Wamsley, <i>Housing Policy Manager, Neighborhood & Housing Services Department</i> ; Nancy Cano, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	None

Call to Order

Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order.

1. State Legislative Program for the 87th State Legislative Session [Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]

Jeff Coyle provided the timeline for the 86th Legislature Regular Session, as follows:

- November 9, 2020: Bill pre-filing begins
- January 12, 2021: First day of session
- March 21, 2021: Bill filing deadline
- May 31, 2021: Sine die, Legislature adjourns
- June 20, 2021: Governor deadline to sign or veto bills

Mr. Coyle provided an overview of the City’s prioritized Legislative Agenda items, as follows:

- Increase police accountability and transparency
 - Including the release of all disciplinary records
 - Authorizing the Police Chief to discipline officers within 180 days of discovery misconduct
 - Preventing reductions in discipline by third party arbitrator if the facts of misconduct are sustained on appeal
 - Opportunities to encourage new Officers to live in the City in which they serve
- Invest in public health for a more resilient San Antonio

- The City supports an increase in state funding for core public health infrastructure and essential public health services to maintain a healthy workforce and community
- The City supports Medicaid expansion to provide health insurance for up to 1.5 million low-income Texans
- The City supports funding to complete the construction of the San Antonio State Hospital
- The City supports the development of a State strategic plan, to include trauma informed practices, that addresses adverse childhood experiences
- Ensure access to information for all San Antonians
 - Close the digital divide by ensuring availability, connectivity and affordability of broadband internet services for residents not currently receiving broadband internet service
 - The City supports legislation and funding to develop a state broadband plan to qualify for matching Federal funds.
- Preserve the voice of San Antonio residents
 - The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials – the level of government closest to the people – to pass ordinances to meet the unique needs of the community and issue orders that address emergencies.
 - The City opposes any restrictions or limitations on the ability of cities to advocate on behalf of the San Antonio community
- Prevent domestic violence and support victims
 - Funding for intervention and prevention programs
 - Closing the gap in certain notices to local law enforcement and victims regarding conditions of bonds
 - Facilitating the safe transfer of firearms from those charged with family violence offences
- Develop the economy and workforce of San Antonio
 - The City supports legislation that would promote economic recovery, including education and workforce development for residents and small businesses.
 - The City supports investing in existing new funding models that will provide support for growing workforce programs including short-term training and micro-credentialing.
 - The City supports the continued viability of San Antonio to attract business and compete for major sporting events and conventions that grow the local and State economy.
 - The City supports the continuation of local and State incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers.
 - The City opposes legislation that would limit or eliminate the current flexibility of the Major Events Reimbursement Program as a tool for cities to attract and host major events and conventions.
- Fund education from Pre-K through College
 - The City supports education funding which at a minimum, should be adequate to protect/cover HB3 (86R), as well as creating sustainable revenue sources to ensure public education is fully funded

- The City supports enhanced funding (formula and non-formula) for institutions of higher education (IHE) and allowing Tuition Revenue Bonds to be utilized for capital projects at IHE in San Antonio
- The City supports expanded State funding of Pre-K to provide high quality, full-day programs for all Texas four-year-olds
- Improve the quality and equity of affordable housing
 - The City supports legislation that allows for flexible and innovative solutions to create local funding options to increase the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income families
 - The City supports legislation that encourages homeownership through targeted tax policy
- Eliminate barriers for the homeless
 - The City supports legislation that allows for a fee exception for all homeless individuals to obtain a birth certificate
- Protect the privacy of vulnerable residents
 - The City supports legislation that protects residents' personal information that is given when receiving utility or other emergency assistance
- Protect the municipal utilities that serve and benefit San Antonians
 - The City supports protecting the municipal utility model and opposes legislation with any negative impact on municipally-owned CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System (SAWS).
- Support and grow Military City, USA
 - The City supports funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and other programs that add military value to missions in San Antonio
 - The City opposes legislation that threatens military missions, including legislation that undermines the City's ordinances that ensure compatible development
- Fair Representation for the San Antonio community
 - The City supports a data-driven redistricting process that provides fair and effective representation for all communities in San Antonio
- Enhance Government Efficiency
 - The City supports legislation that gives the San Antonio Municipal Court the flexibility to electronically record and preserve records, similar to the efficiencies enjoyed by many other municipal court systems in Texas
- Preserve investments in transportation
 - The City supports the continued full funding and implementation of Propositions 1 and 7 and the protection of existing revenue streams by limiting diversions from the State Highway Fund to non-transportation programs
- Ensure the safety of pedestrians

- The City supports legislation that would enhance pedestrian safety and continue to support safety initiatives, such as Vision Zero, by allowing cities more flexibility to reduce speed limits on local streets for the overall safety of all road users
- Maintain the health, viability, and local control of the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Fund
 - The City supports the San Antonio Fire & Police Pension Fund’s proposed changes to Article 6243o, Revised Civil Statutes, which governs the operations of the Pension Fund, as approved by the Board of Trustees on September 20, 2020
 - The City opposes any proposed amendments that would negatively impact the actuarial performance of the fund, have a financial impact, increase board authority related to cost of living adjustments, limit transparency and/or impact the City’s ability to manage its employees
- Protection of community interests
 - The City of San Antonio supports legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposes legislation that would be detrimental to the City’s interests, including bills that meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Undermine the principles of self-government
 - Mandate increased cost to cities, including environmental mandates
 - Result in the loss of revenue to cities or negatively impacts the authority of the City to generate revenues
 - Result in diminishing the fundamental authority of cities to operate in a manner consistent with the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the general public
- The City of San Antonio coordinates with the following local partners in support of their legislative agendas that enhance the health, safety and vitality of the community, provided it does not conflict with the City’s own legislative agenda:

CPS Energy	Local small businesses
San Antonio Water System	Local major employers
AACOG	Local nonprofit organizations
Bexar County	Port San Antonio
Brooks City Base	Local Independent School Districts
Local Chambers of Commerce	San Antonio Housing Authority
Local Institutions of Higher Education	San Antonio Mobility Coalition
Joint Base San Antonio	San Antonio River Authority
	VIA
	Visit SA

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked if any legislative agenda recommendations were provided by the Aviation Department. She requested a meeting with staff regarding COVID-19 related work policies within the schools, and a meeting about adding ethnicity as a self-identifier on the Texas drivers license. She asked if the proposed changing stations for the disabled program would be included under the vulnerable residents. Mr. Coyle replied that the San Antonio Airport was almost entirely Federally regulated and if there were any State-related issues, the City would align with the statewide aviation association. He stated that he confer with the Federal consulting team regarding her requested meetings and the additional endorsement of changing stations.

Councilmember Perry requested a meeting of all local representatives to collaborate and align legislative agenda efforts in advance of the 88th Legislature Session in January 2023.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve Item 1. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Manny Pelaez, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nancy Cano
Office of the City Clerk*