

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021, at 10:00 AM
CITY HALL RIVER WALK CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Co-Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i>
Members Absent:	Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, <i>Co-Chair, Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 2</i> Commissioner Trish DeBerry, <i>Bexar County Commissioner's Court, Precinct 3</i>
Staff Present:	Jeff Coyle, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Camila Kunau, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Aurora Perkins, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Juan G. Ayala, <i>Director, Military Affairs</i> ; Sally Basurto, <i>Assistant Director, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Jessica Dovalina, <i>Assistant Director, Human Services</i> ; Christine Wright, <i>State Relations Manager, Government & Public Affairs</i> ; Tino Gallegos, <i>Human Services</i> ; Eric Warner, <i>Aviation</i>
Others Present:	Baltazar R. Serna, Jr., <i>Serna and Serna, Consulting</i> ; Pricilla Camacho, <i>Alamo Colleges</i>

Call to Order

Co-Chairman Pelaez called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of the minutes from the August 16, 2021 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2021 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously by those present. Absent: Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner DeBerry.

Briefing and Possible Action on

Item 5 was discussed at this time.

5. 3rd called Special State Legislative Session

Mr. Jeff Coyle briefed the Committee on the 3rd Called Special Session to the 87th State Legislative Session and stated that the Special Session was scheduled to begin on September 20, 2021 and could convene up to 30 days. He noted that Governor Abbott placed five items on the Call or Agenda as follows:

- Redistricting
- Appropriations from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding

- Vaccine mandates
- Transgender student athletes
- Unlawful restraint of a dog

Mr. Coyle detailed the process to be used in drawing new political boundaries and noted that the City was in support of a data-driven redistricting process that provided fair and effective representation that reflected San Antonio's racial and ethnic diversity. He stated that staff would be monitoring the redistricting process.

Mr. Coyle reported that the State directly received \$1.6 million in federal ARPA funding and that a formal distribution process had not been determined. He stated that possible City funding requests included:

- Broadband
- Housing – Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)
- COVID-19 response
- City of San Antonio partner requests

Mr. Coyle reported that staff would also be monitoring and advocating for ARPA funding opportunities in support of community priorities to include education and utilities and that State Senator Donna Campbell and State Representative Ina Minjarez would be assisting with these efforts.

Mr. Coyle provided an overview of discussions regarding transgender student athletes and stated that the bill would require University Interscholastic League (UIL) athletes to compete in sports associated with their biological sex and would allow female student athletes to compete in male sports if a corresponding female sport was not available. He stated that staff would be monitoring the progress of the bill, especially as school districts had not taken a position, and that the City was still collecting information from the hospitality industries.

He reported on local COVID-19 vaccine efforts and stated that the City would be opposing any legislation that prohibited the organization from establishing policies for employees.

Mr. Coyle stated that the bill on unlawful restraint of a dog scheduled for discussion in the 3rd Special Session was similar to SB 474 that was passed in the Regular Session and aligned with regulations outlined in Chapter 5 of the City's Municipal Code. He stated that the City would be supporting the bill.

Mr. Coyle noted that the following actions would be taken in support of the City's position:

- Email the Bexar County Delegation
- Consultant team to advocate City's positions
- Monitor Senate and House Committee Hearings
- Email updates to the Intergovernmental Council Committee

Chair Pelaez asked that Priscilla Camacho list Alamo Colleges legislative funding priorities. Ms. Camacho stated that Alamo Colleges was requesting a funding allocation in support of two items totaling \$325 million and that the money would be distributed to all 50 community colleges. She

noted that \$75 million was for Workforce Programs and \$250 million for college preparation and training.

Councilmember Perry asked for additional data on Alamo Colleges requests and funding requirements. Ms. Camacho stated that she would provide the requested information as well as a comparison from other state colleges encountering similar challenges. Councilmember Perry expressed concern with the amount of funding provided to Alamo Colleges by the City, state and federal governments and asked why the entity was not seeking other sources of revenue such as a tax rate increase. Ms. Camacho reported that the state had policies limiting the entity from raising its tax rate and tuition fees and stated that tuition and educational costs needed to be cost effective in order to retain students.

Councilmember Perry expressed support for the City's position on vaccine mandates, dog restraints and ARPA funding. He requested that the transgender item be monitored as he felt court actions would be submitted.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported efforts with Alamo Colleges due to the established partnership to include community and educational efforts. She recommended that 2 key points be considered in the Special Session: 1) Draft a resolution that allows for the City to generate its own revenue and 2) Draft a resolution that allows for the City to operate in a manner consistent with the best interests of health, safety, and the welfare of the general public. Mr. Coyle stated that staff would reach out to Council or set up a Special meeting such as a B session to gather further feedback. Chair Pelaez requested that GPA obtain feedback from all Councilmembers in order to address their concerns.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that education was high on the council's agenda especially during the COVID-19 era. He expressed his support and asked what the next steps would be for the session. Mr. Coyle stated that staff would be reviewing the data provided for the session and would then share with council for their review and possible meeting scheduling to further discuss. McKee-Rodriguez pointed out that the Census needed to consider the status of incarcerated individuals and asked what efforts are addressing this. Mr. Coyle stated that the census process has been closed and would not be able to affect the count now but can address how is done in the future and make recommendations. McKee asked if there are any state could restrict how ARPA funds could be used. Mr. Coyle stated that current guidelines specifies where funding can be used but if the state offers additional monies, they could put some specific guidelines on where there are to be used. Mr. Coyle stated that City would be very conscious of how the public wanted the city to use the funds.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that the City should actively oppose any LGBT restrictions to include transgender issues and should oppose the transgender restrictive bills.

Chair Pelaez reiterated the need to keep the Committee informed and need to provide information to the full Council. Mr. Coyle agreed to provide information.

Councilmember Perry asked is ARPA funding was considered as a one-time cost especially as it relates to infrastructure. Mr. Coyle stated that broadband and utilities infrastructure improvements would be considered but would be one-time allocations and stressed that these improvements would

not require the City to fund the projects in the future. Councilmember Perry stressed that City priorities should be identified for possible ARPA funding projects.

2. Recap of the August 20th Pentagon visit

General Ayala stated that while at the Pentagon, the Mayor and the City's delegation held meetings with federal officials and that key themes and requests made included:

- Consider San Antonio first when making basing decisions
- Support Defense Health Agency's consolidation in San Antonio
- Keep the Army's Secretarial Designee (SECDES) Program
- Gratitude for joint military/City partnership
- Gratitude for support on COVID-19 and severe weather event response

General Ayala provided an overview of each meeting as follows:

Lieutenant General Ronald Place, Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA) - City requested for DHA to:

- Base DHA's consolidated headquarters in San Antonio
- Continue same degree of Level 1 trauma care to community during COVID-19 crisis
- Continue support of the Army's Secretarial Designee (SECDES) Program
- Consider San Antonio as the next generation 5G testing site for telemedicine

City's take-away from meeting:

- Supportive of DHA relocation to San Antonio
- General Place was very appreciative of Texas HB 2365 (BAMC Bill) regarding the participation and reimbursement of certain military medical treatment facilities and affiliated health care providers under Medicaid
- Interested in 5G telemedicine development
- Would like BAMC to take on non-Level 1 civilian trauma cases (emergencies)
- Mayor appreciative of BAMC support during COVID-19 response

Action Items:

- Engage City's Federal Legislative Program regarding changes to U.S. Code – allow military medicine flexibility for civilian trauma billing and collection
- DHA project funding (City's share) to be finalized upon Air Force basing decision

Meeting with Honorable Jennifer Miller, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, and Bob Moriarty, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations - City requested for Air Force to:

- Approve San Antonio as DHA's final basing location
- Support Port SA's Kelly Field Taxiway A as temporary runway
- Continue to consider San Antonio for future USAF/USAFR/ANG missions

City's take-away from meeting:

- Secretary Miller tasked Secretary Moriarty with re-visiting DHA topic – Is it really a basing issue?
- Air Force is willing to fund travel costs to a temporary locate flying missions during Kelly Field runway repairs
- Mayor expressed gratitude for Air Force's support and partnership during COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri response

Action items:

- DHA project funding (City's share) will need to be finalized upon Air Force basing decision

Meeting with Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones, Undersecretary of the Air Force, and General Charles Q. Brown, Chief of Staff of the Air Force - City requested for Air Force to:

- Support Port SA's Kelly Field Taxiway A as temporary runway
- Continue to consider San Antonio for future USAF/USAFR/ANG missions
- Hold USAF's 75th Anniversary celebration in San Antonio (2022)

City's take-away from meeting:

- General Brown considering San Antonio as one of the cities to hold the 75th USAF Anniversary celebration
- Mayor expressed gratitude for Air Force's support and partnership during COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri response

Action Items:

- Undersecretary Ortiz Jones requested for City to verify status on DHA basing action
- Ally in the Pentagon

Meeting with Mark R. Lewis, Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Mr. Jeffrey P. Angers, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs - City requested for Air Force to:

- Continue Army's Secretarial Designee Program (SECDES)
- Pitch San Antonio as host City for 2022 (and beyond) Department of Defense (DoD) Warrior Games
- Explore further cooperation and partnerships in responding to COVID-19

City's take-away from meeting:

- Deputies Lewis and Angers were appreciative of San Antonio's efforts in support of the passage of Texas HB 2365
- Deputies Lewis and Angers were appreciative of San Antonio becoming Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) partner – official Memorandum of Agreement signature date pending
- Mayor expressed gratitude for Air Force's support and partnership during COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri response

Action items: NONE

Meeting with Lee Henschel, Director of Operations for 5G and Deb Stanislawski, Director, Tranche 2 5G Initiatives/OYSD, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD R&E) - City requested for OUSD R&E to:

- Formalize OUSD's presence in San Antonio as more than just a "site" – identify San Antonio/JBSA as the DoD's next generation hub or "5G Innovation Center"
- Leverage San Antonio's relationship with all military commands in the area and University Health System to identify partnership opportunities for 5G testing and prototyping

City's take-away from meeting:

- OUSD Division of 5G Initiatives excited with opportunities that San Antonio provides for 5G innovation

Action Items:

- Schedule virtual office call between Mayor and Heidi Shyu, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
- Follow-up with military, University Health System and other stakeholders

General Ayala stressed the importance and success of the visits and stated that the Committee would be updated.

Co-Chair Pelaez supported the City's advocacy efforts and anticipated more stakeholders joining the City's contingency, such as Councilmember Perry.

Councilmember Perry requested to be provided with a list of day-to-day events from the lobbyist team when on such visits and asked when additional DHA funding would be available. General Ayala reported that funds from the Defense Economic Investment Grant would pay for the relocation of DHA to San Antonio and stated that the City, community stakeholders, and defense companies were eager to have DHA move its operations to San Antonio. General Ayala noted that the Committee would be provided with more details once a formal announcement was made regarding the move.

Councilmember Perry stressed the importance of funding for Kelly Field renovations.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia agreed with Councilmember Perry's support of Kelly Field Runway improvements and requested a meeting with the Office of Military and Veteran Affairs to discuss hosting the Air Force's 75th Anniversary celebrations and other Air Force events.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested clarification on the City's financial commitment for DHA relocation to San Antonio. Mr. Coyle stated that a commitment was needed to show the City's support for the project and reported that the City Council had not approved the development project nor any associated expenditures as the move had not been officially announced.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for a status on the Space Command re-locating to San Antonio. General Ayala stated that San Antonio was in the top six for consideration and that the consideration highlighted the City's continued support of military operations.

4. The John Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2021

Mr. Coyle, at the request of Councilmember Perry, reported that since August 2021 the City was experiencing an increase of migrant arrivals through the City's airport, bus stations and other transportation hubs. He mentioned that the Department of Human Services and non-profit partners assisted in humanitarian efforts.

Ms. Sally Basurto provided an overview of federal actions regarding the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 4) and stressed that the U.S. House and Senate considered this bill a priority. She stated that the Legislative timeline was as follows:

- February 2019 – Filed in U.S. House of Representatives
- December 2019 – Passed the U.S. House of Representatives
- August 2021 – refiled in the U.S. House of Representatives
- August 2021 – passed U.S. House of Representatives

Ms. Basurto stated that the Bill proposed to replace the Voting Rights Act's (VRA) formula for identifying states and political subdivisions with a pattern of discrimination with a formula that would identify discriminatory voting patterns in state and political subdivisions by:

- Changing election practices in diverse areas
- Changing the types of documents required to submit when voting or registering to vote
- Reducing access to voters based on language
- Reducing polling locations in diverse areas

Ms. Basurto noted that changes made by an entity would need to be pre-cleared by the Department of Justice (DOJ) prior to being implemented and that the Bill included a provision that allowed for potentially discriminatory voting changes to be challenged.

Ms. Basurto provided a status report of the Bill as follows:

- Congress returns from Recess on September 20, 2021
- Congress would have a busy month working on various pending legislative items
- Senate not likely to consider the Bill as a standalone Bill

Ms. Basurto stated that Federal Officials had little time to discuss this item and all the other important legislatures to include the debt ceiling and the approval of the Infrastructure Bill totaling \$550 million by the House.

Ms. Basurto provided an overview of the Freedom to Vote Act and stated that the item proposed to:

- Protect access to the ballot
- Establish national identification standards
- Mandate 15 consecutive days of early voting and 2 weekends
- Ensure that voters are allowed to vote by mail
- Designate election day as a national holiday
- Mandate states to follow specific criteria when drawing new Congressional redistricting lines

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the impact of SB 1 passed during the Regular Legislative Session on the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Mr. Coyle clarified that the voting and election provisions in the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would supersede those outlined in SB 1. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked of the position the City’s local Delegation had regarding these voting bills. Mr. Coyle stated that the Bexar County Elections Office was assessing the impact of SB 1 locally and was identifying a process from implementing the required state changes.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked what support the City Council could provide in support of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Mr. Coyle stated that the City’s plan of action had been identified and that staff would present to the Committee other recommendations.

No action was taken on this item.

3. Update on advocacy regarding itinerant migrant surge in San Antonio

Ms. Basurto reiterated the comments made by Mr. Coyle regarding the influx of migrants since August 2021 and coordinated humanitarian efforts with DHS. She stated that most migrants arriving in San Antonio had traveled from Del Rio and that San Antonio only served as a resting stop to their final destination.

Ms. Basurto noted that the City requested for federal officials to:

- Improve coordination with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and border entities
- Prearrange travel plans for migrant arrivals
- Administer COVID tests prior to migrant being released by CBP
- Greater reimbursement flexibility to the City
- Direct federal funding agreements for nonprofit providers of migrant services

Ms. Basurto reported on the migrant arrivals as follows:

City of San Antonio Arrivals	April – July 2021	August 2021
Unduplicated Individuals at Greyhound Bus Station	12,780	4,205
Unduplicated Individuals at San Antonio International Airport	11,703	10,012
Total	24,483	14,217

Ms. Basurto indicated that Governmental and Public Affairs (GPA) would be advocating for the following:

- Coordinated discussions with CBP, Administration Officials and border entities
- Identifying CBP points of contact for improved coordination
- Establishing improved coordination processes with border partners to result in migrants arriving with prearranged travel plans; most departing the same day or next morning.
- EFSP funding for Humanitarian Assistance Reimbursements

Ms. Basurto highlighted Ongoing Advocacy efforts:

- Collaboration with the City's Congressional Delegation
- Strategy discussions with consultants
- Discussions with federal agencies

Councilmember Perry stressed the importance of COVID-19 vaccinations and asked how the city was getting assurances that migrants had been vaccinated. Ms. Basurto stated that entities like the City had requested for CBP to provide testing procedures and noted that discussions would continue in order to ensure that testing occurred. Mr. Coyle reported that the City established testing sites at the Airport and reminded the Committee that the Airport had mask requirements.

Councilmember Perry expressed concern that individuals were not tested or vaccinated and addressed the need for this to be done. He asked about the creation of a reception center that served as a testing location and for a status on the City being reimbursement by the federal government. Mr. Coyle stated that the City had submitted a reimbursement request and clarified that that a resource center had not been established. Ms. Jessica Dovalina stated that other areas had been established to meet migrant needs. Councilmember Perry asked for further clarification regarding vaccinations efforts. Chair Pelaez reminded the Committee that the City could not vaccinate or test a person without consent. Councilmember Perry stressed that the City should offer vaccination services.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested to be provided with the number of DHS staff redirected to assist with migrant efforts and with information on temporary personnel. Ms. Dovalina stated that five or 6 DHS staff members were reassigned to assist per week on a rotating basis and that approximately 11 bilingual temporary workers were scheduled to start soon. She mentioned that the City's language line was also available to assist with other languages and that the translation services offered had been highly utilized.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested information on partners assisting with humanitarian efforts. Ms. Dovalina reported that the City and partners had distinct roles but were in constant communication to coordinate services in order to ensure that alignment with migrant needs.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

*Councilmember Manny Pelaez,
Co-Chair*

*County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez,
Co-Chair*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Racca-Sittre
Interim City Clerk*