

**ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 2:00 PM**

Members Present:	Councilmember Manny Pelaez, <i>Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Phyllis Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Adriana Rocha Garcia, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Teri Castillo, <i>District 5</i> Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i>
Staff Present:	Alex Lopez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Christina Ramirez, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Ray Rodriguez, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> , Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>City Clerk</i> ; Aurora Perkins, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; John Peterek, <i>Assistant to the City Manager</i> ; Brian Dillard, <i>Chief Innovation Officer</i> ; Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, <i>Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Justina Tate, <i>Assistant Director, Economic Development Department</i> ; Shahrzad Dowlatshahi, <i>Chief of Diplomacy & Protocol Officer/Head of Global Engagement Office, Economic Development Department</i>
Others Present:	None

Call to Order

Chair Pelaez called the meeting to order at 2:03 P.M.

Public Comment

None.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Economic and Workforce Development Committee meeting on August 17, 2021.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the Economic and Workforce Development Committee on August 17, 2021. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously.

2. Briefing on SA Digital Connects. [John Peterek; Assistant to the City Manager and Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer, Office of Innovation and Smart Cities]

Brian Dillard, Office of Innovation presented a briefing on SA Digital Connects: San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Community Digital Equity Plan and Roadmap. Mr. Dillard described the community scope of work and the community advisory group as well as return on investment for individuals, society and economy. He explained that the goal was to provide equitable availability, affordability, device access, and adoption support of broadband. Mr. Dillard described the plan as being based on eight key performance indicators using a portal dashboard to ensure transparency and accountability. He outlined a \$600 million investment by local, state, and federal governments as well as the private sector over 5 years with the first 3-years upfront costs making up the majority.

Mr. Dillard introduced Luisa Casso, Chair of the founding board of SA Digital Connects, who provided an overview of the governance model for SA Digital Connects as a private organization with public support. SA Digital Connects will be recruiting more members of its board, its fiscal agent is Greater

SATX that they had recently hired an Executive Director, Marina Alderete Gavito, whom she introduced. Ms. Casso explained that the partners must advocate for federal and state funding for these efforts. Mr. Dillard announced that San Antonio was the only major city in Texas with a plan for reducing the digital divide

Chair Pelaez requested a list of current board members for SA Digital Connects which Mr. Dillard stated the board members were Chair, Luisa Casso; Vice Chair, Brian Dillard; and Secretary, Laura Cole.

Councilmember Courage applauded the effort to bring in local governments and the community and supported seeking private, State and Federal funding. Councilmember Courage recommended seeking the internet service providers to become more involved. He was concerned about cost of internet service and hoped that all people could be served regardless of income.

Councilmember Castillo asked if partnerships with Port SA had been leveraged as well as school districts. Councilmember Castillo asked how much of the \$27m of connected beyond the classroom funding had been spent, Mr. Dillard replied that \$18 million had been spent and described the partnerships with school districts as well as deployment of vertical assets. Councilmember Castillo requested a report on the pilot program.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted the report contained lessons learned from other cities such as Seattle. Mr. Dillard responded that SAISD hired an Internet Service Provider (ISP) expert who was on retainer for the coming year to help ensure we learned from mistakes of other cities. Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked about the existing fiber and offered to discuss this further with AT&T. With more than 80 organizations providing service, Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked how the committee could ensure all were working together. Ms. Casso explained that SA Digital Connect would be using OCI and Mr. Dillard stated that Office of Innovation plans to hire an internal position to remain engaged with SA Digital Connect. Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested a dashboard be created to see the progress being made and asked when the annual report would be completed since the project has already been underway for eight months. Councilmember Rocha Garcia noted that often infrastructure was old: copper wires and older neighborhoods may have low roofs or tree canopy that impede the progress. Community partners and ISPs should provide support to help solve these issues and assist residents.

Councilmember Viagran noted that the digital divide was great in District 3 and requested a mapping of the 140+ stakeholders that contributed by Council District. Councilmember Viagran recommended seeking more private funding now instead of waiting on a bill to pass at the Federal level for the funding as well as accelerating the timeline for getting devices and infrastructure out to our citizens.

Councilmember Courage suggested that this project could possibly piggyback on CPS Energy's Smart Metering Program. Mr. Dillard opined that connecting to CPS Energy's smart meters could be a security risk to the energy grid and these were generally wireless which was not the strongest connection for internet.

Councilmember Viagran declared that she wanted fiber, not wireless for her residents.

Councilmember Castillo agreed with Councilmember Viagran and called for a conversation with full Council regarding the Bond Program funding for fiber.

Chair Pelaez asked Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager for an update on State and Federal funding. State Special Session was appropriating \$16 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding with \$500 million dedicated for broadband statewide with a focus on rural areas, however, Mr. Coyle noted that the City had told the state we were ready to implement broadband and the urban areas had great need as well. Chair Pelaez asked for the Communication Workers of America (CWA) to be partners because they were the ones to install the fiber infrastructure. Chair Pelaez suggested that there were many people who were socially isolated and needed access to the internet for their health and well-being.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia explained that schools could benefit from e-rate and asked Mr. Coyle to provide more information regarding expanding e-rate funding to the homeowners.

3. Briefing and possible action regarding vacant At-Large seat for the San Antonio Economic Development Corporation. [Debbie Racca-Sittre; Interim City Clerk]

Justina Tate, Assistant Director of the Economic Development Department, stated that SAEDC was created in 2010 to create long term economic growth and was governed by a seven member board of which, three members were at-large. The position vacancy had been advertised, and 18 applications were received, with 16 eligible. Ms. Tate recommended the creation of a shortlisting subcommittee to review the 16 eligible applicants and EWDC would interview the short list.

Councilmember Courage recommended the committee act as the shortlisting subcommittee.

Councilmember Castillo made a motion to establish a subcommittee and offered to serve on the subcommittee and Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Viagran made a motion to appoint Councilmembers Castillo and Rocha Garcia to the subcommittee and Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia made a motion to add Councilmember Cabello Havrda to the subcommittee. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Briefing and possible action on Latin American Relationships and Sister Cities. [Alejandra Lopez, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Director, Economic Development]

Shahrzad Dowlatshahi, Chief of Global Engagement for the Department of Economic Development, described the San Antonio Metro Priority Plan which was an International Strategy to guide the work done in global engagement using Brookings Institute Study data. Ms. Dowlatshahi explained that Frankfurt, Mexico City, Seoul, Tokyo and Toronto were identified as potential for economic engagement through the study. Ms. Dowlatshahi explained the factors, in addition to the Brookings study, that were reviewed to determine target cities in Latin America including: trade agreements, UNESCO designations, University agreements, US military relationships, ease of doing business, local GDP, alignment with target industries, diaspora in San Antonio, population size, and stakeholder surveys. The countries with the highest mentions in the survey as well as increased growth in the San Antonio population were Brazil, Columbia, and Panama. Cities reviewed were Curitiba, Brazil; Bogota, Columbia; and Panama City, Panama.

Ms. Dowlatshahi suggested a regional approach would provide the most beneficial relationship and recommended the geographic neighbors of Columbia and Panama noting the airport has been seeking direct flights from these two countries and World Heritage had targeted them as well. Ms. Dowlatshahi highlighted key points of Bogota, Columbia and Panama City, Panama. Staff recommends the creation of a community task force including Columbia and Panamanian local communities to review plans to add Bogota and Panama City as Sister Cities with Cultural Mission to these two cities in FY2023 and signing of sister city relationship agreements in FY2024 or FY2025.

Councilmember Viagran supported both Bogota and Panama City but would like to keep Brazil on the list; which Ms. Dowlatshahi replied would be done.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia was glad the City would keep Brazil under consideration but also noted that Columbia was an innovator in Bus Rapid Transit. Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported sharing information back and forth with other cities and mentioned the City's relationships with the Canary Islands and the horrific natural disaster happening with the volcano eruption and earthquakes.

Councilmember Courage pondered if the other countries were politically and economically stable and wondered about their view of United States for example, the history of the Panama Canal. He stated that the future of San Antonio included looking South, with San Antonio being the gateway to the United States from South America.

Chair Pelaez recommended including Siclovia in the conversation as San Antonio was the first American city to host a Siclovia, which was started in Columbia as well as the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) which could be a big connection to Latin American countries. Chair Pelaez also noted that the Ambassador of Columbia came to San Antonio to discuss direct flights to Bogota. Ms. Dowlatshahi mentioned that the City would be welcoming a delegation of Latin American Consuls in December with a tour of CIA.

General Juan Ayala recommended to leverage military connections with Latin America to assist with these conversations as there were high level individuals from these two countries already in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

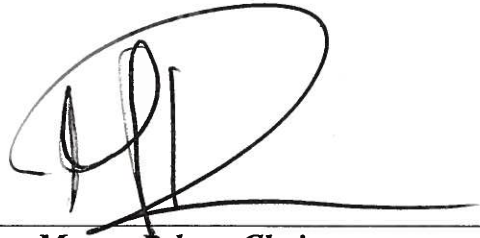
Chairman Pelaez recessed the Economic and Workforce Development Council Committee meeting into Executive Session at 3:28 PM to discuss the following:

- A. Consultation with the City Attorney's Office concerning attorney client matters under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Chairman Pelaez reconvened the meeting at 3:54 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' and 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Debbie Racca-Sittre' in a cursive style.

Debbie Racca-Sittre
Interim City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk



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October 12, 2021

AWESOME. SO, I AM VERY EXCITED TO BE PRESENTING THIS TO YOU ALL. I KNOW WE HAD SOME ONE ON ONES WITH MOST OF YOUR OFFICES AND YOURSELVES OVER THE LAST MONTH. YOU REMEMBER WE PRESENTED ON A DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN AS EARLY AS MARCH. AND WE PRESENTED ON IT AGAIN IN MAY. SINCE THEN, ITC HAS BEEN KIND OF DISSOLVED, OR MORPHED INTO THIS COMMITTEE A LITTLE BIT. SO I'M HERE TO PRESENT ON THE ROAD MAP. AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO HAND IT OFF TO LISA WHO IS CHAIR OF THE DIGITAL CONNECTS. WE'LL GO FROM THERE WITH ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE. SO A LITTLE BACKGROUND. AS I MENTIONED, WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR A WHILE. IT'S PROBABLY BEEN PROBABLY OVER A YEAR. INITIALLY KATE ROGERS, LISA AND DIANE WARREN REACHED OUT TO US, UNDERSTANDING WE WERE ALREADY DOING A LOT OF WORK IN THE DIGITAL INCLUSION SPACE. NOT ONLY PUBLIC LIBRARY WORK THEY'VE DONE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT ALSO THE WORK WE DID ON THE DIGITAL SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT BACK IN DECEMBER OF 2019 GOING INTO FEBRUARY OF 2020, AND ALSO BEYOND THE CLASSROOM THAT WE KICKED OFF IN ABOUT JUNE. WE KICKED OFF THE PLANNING PHASES AND STILL IN THE EXECUTION OF THAT ALL THE WAY TO THE END OF THIS YEAR. PRIVATE SECTOR WANTED TO COME IN, AND WE SAID, WE KNOW YOU'RE DOING KIND OF THESE THINGS TO SET THE GROUNDWORK FOR WHAT DIGITAL INCLUSION IS FOR SAN ANTONIO COUNTY AND BEXAR COUNTY. MY TWO RECOMMENDATIONS WAS, ONE, WE NEED TO ESTABLISH A ROAD MAP, SO THIS ISN'T A PLAN WE PUT ON A SHELF, IT IS A ROAD MAP THAT HAS ACTION ITEMS THROUGHOUT THAT IDENTIFIES HOW WE CLOSE THE ENTIRE DIGITAL DIVIDE

THROUGHOUT BEXAR COUNTY AND SAN ANTONIO. TWO, NOT JUST TO BE A PLAN, WE NEED SOMEBODY HIRED ON TO EXECUTE IT. SO THOSE ARE THE TWO THINGS WE RECOMMENDED TO THEM. OVER THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS, EIGHT OR NINE MONTHS WE'VE BEEN BUILDING OUT THIS ROAD MAP WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THIS IS REALLY ABOUT COMING TOGETHER AND CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. THIS TRULY IS A PUBLIC/PRIVATE/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP. I'LL GET INTO MORE OF THAT WHY WE'RE CALLING IT A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ROAD MAP IS TO MAKE SURE THE FUNDING COMING IN FROM FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL, BROADENING ACTIVITY, THAT WE HAVE A ROAD MAP IN OUR HAND WHEN WE SAY, WE WANT SOME OF THOSE DOLLARS. WHEN YOU LOOK UP HERE AND SEE THE TERM SHOVEL READY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE INTENDING TO BE. WE ELICITED A LOT OF GENRES OF COMMUNITIES TRYING TO TRULY FOCUS IN ON. THIS ROAD MAP IS ABOUT 360 PAGES LONG. SO IT'S GOOD LIGHT READING AT NIGHT. COUNCILWOMAN ROCHA GARCIA YEAH, YOU'VE GOT IT IN HAND. AWESOME. I'LL JUMP TO THE NEXT SLIDE HERE. WHEN I TALK ABOUT A BROAD COALITION, I TRULY MEAN THAT. NOT ONLY ON THE LEFT SIDE, YOU SEE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATING THIS PLAN AND FUNDING THIS PLAN, BUT ON THE RIGHT YOU SEE IT'S REALLY COMMUNITY DRIVEN. WE REACHED OUT TO OVER 140 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEIR CHALLENGES WERE, WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO FACE THOSE CHALLENGES, SO WE COULD BE STRATEGICALLY ALIGNED AS WE BUILT OUT THIS ROAD MAP. IT WAS KEY IMPORTANCE TO US TO MAKE SURE WE WEREN'T REPLICATING EFFORTS, OR IGNORING EFFORTS THAT WERE ALREADY DONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES. WE WILL CONTINUE ALONG WITH THIS WORK BECAUSE THIS IS A LIVING DOCUMENT. DIGITAL INCLUSION AND TECHNOLOGY CHANGES YEAR AFTER YEAR, AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS DOCUMENT IS ABLE TO ADAPT TO THOSE CHANGES. WE HAVE A COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP THAT WILL HELP BUILD OUT THIS PLAN. WHY ARE WE DOING THIS. WHAT'S THE RETURN ON THESE. THERE'S THREE THINGS. RETURN TO INDIVIDUALS, EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES AND REDUCING THE INEQUITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WE SAW EVEN BEFORE COVID. WE TALK ABOUT FOLKS NOT BEING ABLE TO DO REMOTE WORK, THAT EXPANDED TREMENDOUSLY. YOU KNOW THIS WHEN COVID HIT. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL. NEXT IS RETURNS TO COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY. UNDERSTANDING THAT AS WE TAP IN NEW WAYS TO ADDRESS HEALTH CONCERNS, ADDRESS FINANCIAL CONCERNS FOR FAMILIES, THAT IMPACTS THOSE FAMILIES DIRECTLY AND THOSE COMMUNITIES, UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS NEED TO BE CONNECTED AS THEY MOVE FORWARD WITH THE WORK THEY DO. THAT IS A PIECE OF THIS ROAD MAP AS WELL. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, RETURNS TO THE ECONOMY. WE KNOW THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THOSE THAT MAY HAVE DIGITAL ACCESS, THEY OFTEN QUESTION, WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY DO FOR ME. I HAVE GREAT INTERNET SPEED, I'M GOOD TO GO. HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ME. THIS IS AN ECONOMIC IMPACT DRIVER. WE'VE SEEN IT IN OTHER CITIES WHERE IT HAS A RETURN ON INVESTMENT, LIKE \$2.40 TO \$1 INVESTED. A BIG ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR THOSE CITIES. AND DOWN AT THE BOTTOM THERE, YOU'LL SEE THAT THE SOCIETAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAT WE RESEARCHED RETURNS IN ONE OR TWO YEARS WHEN IT COMES TO GDP BENEFITS. SO WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE. WHAT DOES DIGITAL INCLUSION MEAN TO US WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CLOSING THAT GAP. THE FIRST COMPONENT IS AVAILABILITY. THAT MEANS AVAILABILITY OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS IT HASN'T BEEN IN YET. NOT ONLY AVAILABILITY OF IT, BUT MAKING SURE IT'S RELIABLE AND HIGH SPEED. SO CURRENTLY THE STANDARD AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL IS 25 UP, AND 3 DOWN. THAT'S THE STANDARD. THAT IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING ON THE BANDWIDTH THAT WE'RE REQUIRED TO HAVE FOR REMOTE WORK, AND REMOTE LEARNING. OUR NORTH STAR IS THE 100 100. WE WERE NOTIFIED ABOUT A WEEK AGO THAT THE GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND COUNCIL COMMITTEE HAS ADAPTED THAT AS WELL. THEIR NORTH STAR FOR 2026 IS 100 100. AND I BELIEVE THEY'RE GOING TO 500 500. THE NORTH STAR 100 100 IS REASONABLE. WE'RE SETTING THE THRESHOLD HIGH FOR WHAT WE'RE DOING. EVEN IF I PROVIDE AVAILABILITY OF BROADBAND INTERNET, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD IT. OUR THRESHOLD IS NO MORE THAN 1% OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOMES. UNDERNEATH THE AFFORDABILITY IS PROVIDING ACCESS. YOU NEED A DEVICE TO UTILIZE THAT, OR WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE. DEFINITELY NOT LEAST IS THE ADOPTION SUPPORT. THAT'S THE DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMMING THAT GOES INTO THIS. WHEN WE TALK TO ISPS AND RESIDENTS AND SAY, DO YOU HAVE INTERNET AND CAN YOU AFFORD IT, SOME OF THEM SAY YES. BUT THEY JUST DON'T HAVE IT, THEY'RE INTIMIDATED BY IT, THERE ARE SECURITY CONCERNS, THAT BUILDS INTO THE LITERACY COMPONENT. IF WE'RE NOT UTILIZING THAT PIECE, ALL OF THE REST OF THIS DOESN'T MATTER. AT THE BOTTOM THERE, YOU'LL SEE WHAT WE'RE REALLY FOCUSING IN ON WITH ALL OF THIS. WE'RE FOCUSING WITH THE FOCUS FIRST MIND SET. THESE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN UNDERSERVED FOR DECADES. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE'RE COVERING THAT GAP VERY QUICKLY, VERY RAPIDLY FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES

FIRST. SO LET'S TALK ABOUT CURRENT STATE, WHERE ARE WE AT. A LOT OF THIS INFORMATION WAS DERIVED NOT ONLY FROM OUR DIGITAL INCLUSION ASSESSMENT FROM 2019 2020, BUT ALSO FROM THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY AS WELL AS BROADBAND NOW. WE HAVE THREE DIFFERENT DATA RESOURCES TO PILE THIS ON. THE SIZE OF THE DIVIDE IN SAN ANTONIO COUNTY AND BEXAR IS 30,000 PLUS HOUSEHOLDS. THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF THREE PEOPLE PER HOUSEHOLD. IF YOU LOOK AT THAT AND SAY THAT'S NOT TOO BAD, MULTIPLY IT BY THREE. UNDERNEATH THAT YOU'LL NOTICE THE LACK OF DEVICES AS WELL. 10% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT DEVICES. ON THE RIGHT THERE YOU'LL SEE WE'VE ADDRESSED AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY AND ADOPTION. WE RESEARCHED THIS THROUGH THE SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT WE DID WITH UTSA, BEXAR COUNTY BACK IN 2019 2020. WE'VE GOT MAPS HERE. MAYBE A LITTLE SMALL ON THE SCREEN NO, THEY'RE NOT. GOOD. YOU NOTICE WE HAVE DISTRICT DISPARITIES HERE WHEN IT COMES TO LACK OF INTERNET. YOU'LL SEE DISTRICT 5, DISTRICT 3, DISTRICT 2 ARE HIGHER UP THERE. THERE ARE MAJOR DISPARITIES THAN 8, 9 AND 10. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE REFERENCE EQUITY. WE SEE THESE GAPS ARE VERY LARGE AND WE NEED TO START ADDRESSING THE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE SUFFERED FOR A LONG TIME FIRST. THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T GET TO THE OTHER COMMUNITIES. THEY'RE BUILT INTO THIS PLAN AS WELL. WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE OF WHERE WE'RE STARTING. THAT WAS ACCESS. WE'VE GOT AVAILABILITY. SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BROADBAND SPEEDS, AND AVAILABILITY. MAKING SURE THAT THAT ACCESS IS THERE. SO YOU'LL SEE THAT THOSE SAME DISPARITIES ARE REFLECTED HERE. YOU'LL SEE THE MAPS ALIGN DIRECTLY WITH THAT. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE, TRADITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, THOSE MAPS ALIGN DIRECTLY WITH THIS. AFFORDABILITY. SO WE SEE THE SAME DISPARITIES AGAIN. DISTRICT 2, DISTRICT 5, DISTRICT 3, DISTRICT 4, THOSE ARE OUR TOP LEADERS WHEN IT COMES TO DISPARITIES WHEN IT COMES TO DIGITAL INCLUSION. WE NEED TO ADDRESS THOSE FIRST. ALL RIGHT. SO WHAT IS ALL THIS. WHAT ARE WE ACTUALLY DOING. THE PLAN IS BASED ON EIGHT INDICATORS THAT WE'LL BE MEASURING ALONG THE WAY. THESE ARE THE EIGHT ACTION ITEMS. IN THE 360 PAGE DOCUMENT YOU'LL FIND THESE BROKEN DOWN IN DETAIL, UNDERSTANDING WHAT EACH OF THESE ACTUALLY MEANS AT A VERY INCREMENTAL LEVEL. THE FIRST IS EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS. SO ENCOURAGING, AGAIN, THAT DISTRIBUTION OF FIBER AT 100/100 SPEEDS THROUGHOUT THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS. AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING AUTOMATIC. ESPECIALLY WITH OUR NEW BOND

COMING UP WITH THE \$250 MILLION THAT'S GOING INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THIS IS SEEN AS A COMPONENT BUILT INTO THAT BOND PIECE. NOT TO MENTION TRADITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE. AS WE DIG FOR STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, AS WE BURY DOWN NEW DRAINAGE, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF FIBER CONDUIT ARE WE PUTTING IN PLACE. THIRD IS SUPPORTING SCHOOL SPONSORED ACCESS PROGRAMS. THAT'S FOCUSING IN ON THE FACT THAT OTHER FOLKS ARE ALREADY DOING THIS WORK. HOW DO WE STRATEGICALLY ALIGN WITH THEM, HOW DO WE INVEST IN THOSE PROGRAMS WITH A LOT MORE OF THE FUNDING COMING IN. FOURTH IS EXPANDING LOW INCOME INTERNET OFFERINGS. WORKING WITH THE ISPS AND TELECOMS THAT YOU'RE OFFERING LOW RATE INTERNET, WHY DO I STILL HAVE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE DEMANDING BETTER INTERNET AT BETTER PRICES. DISTRIBUTING DEVICES. WE KNOW OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB OF ONE TO ONE PROGRAMS. HOW DO WE SUPPORT THOSE. THE DIGITAL LITERACY PIECE. THE SECOND TO LAST ONE, I WANT TO KEY IN ON THIS. AS WE DO THIS WORK, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO TRACK THE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS. ON OUR PORTAL WE WILL HAVE A DASHBOARD THAT MEASURES ALL OF THESE METRICS AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. AS THE FUNDING COMES IN, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE BEING TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE DOLLARS AS THE RESIDENTS ASK US THESE QUESTIONS. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, OPERATING AN EFFECTIVE MODEL. AS WE DO THIS MAJOR INVESTMENT UP FRONT, IT'S NOT THE END OF IT. TECHNOLOGY CHANGES, COMMUNITIES STILL SUFFER, WE NEED TO MOVE ALONG WITH THE TIMES AS WELL. WHAT'S THE MONEY LOOK LIKE. OVER THE FIRST THREE YEARS IT IS A \$600 MILLION INVESTMENT OVER THREE YEARS. THAT IS \$525 IN THE CONNECTIVITY PIECE, SO THAT'S BUILDING OUT THAT BROADBAND FIBER INTO THE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT HAVEN'T HAD IT. THE SECOND IS DEVICES, ENSURING LOW COST DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO THESE COMMUNITIES. THE LAST PIECE IS DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMMING, INVESTING IN THAT PIECE. AFTER THIS, AS I MENTIONED, DIGITAL INCLUSION DOESN'T END AFTER THE MAJOR INVESTMENT. WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO INVEST FROM SOME ANGLE. NOW, THAT IS NOT JUST THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO DOLLARS. I DON'T WANT ANYBODY IN HERE TO GET AFRAID. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FEDERAL LEVEL, STATE LEVEL AND LOCAL LEVEL DOLLARS. WE REALLY KNOW THERE'S DOLLARS UP THERE BEING OFFERED RIGHT NOW AND THEY'LL CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED AND WE NEED TO BE READY TO ASK FOR THOSE AND STATE WHY WE'RE ASKING FOR THEM. LET ME REMIND YOU THIS IS NOT JUST THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, THIS IS THE CITY, COUNTY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ALL WORKING

TOGETHER. SO THE SAME WAY I PRESENTED IT TO YOU, LAURA COLE WILL PRESENT IT TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION. OKAY. LET'S TALK ABOUT TIMELINE. AGAIN, WE HIT THE TIMELINE MARK IN JUNE OF 2021. WE START INVESTING IN THE CREATION OF THIS PLAN. WE'RE ABOUT HALFWAY TO JANUARY. JANUARY WE'LL START TALKING ABOUT ENDORSING AND DESIGNATING THOSE FUNDING COMING FROM FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS TO EXECUTE ON THIS PLAN. IF YOU PAID ATTENTION TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL, WE'VE GOT ABOUT \$56 BILLION COMING DOWN FROM THAT. THAT'S SLATED FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION, FROM THE STATE LEVEL, RIGHT NOW I THINK IT'S SLATED AT 500 MILLION. THERE'S BEEN A DEMAND FROM PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC AGENCIES SAYING THAT SHOULD BE RAISED UP TO \$2 BILLION. WE NEED TO MOVE IN THE RIGHT MANNER. IN JUNE OF 2022, THAT'S WHEN WE PLAN TO ACTIVATE ALL THE INITIATIVES AND BEGIN CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND ACTIVATE THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THOSE AREAS. YOU'LL SEE THE LONG RUNWAY OF BUILDING OUT THIS NETWORK, ALL THIS PROGRAM THROUGHOUT 2026. THAT'S OUR MILESTONE FOR MEETING AND MAINTAINING THAT UNIVERSAL ACCESS. AGAIN, I'LL GO THROUGH HOW WE GOT HERE. CROSS STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION IS KEY TO ACHIEVING THESE GOALS. YOU'LL SEE A BUNCH OF STAKEHOLDERS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE THAT REALLY INDICATE WHERE WE'RE TAPPING INTO, AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO TAP INTO AS WE EXECUTE THROUGHOUT THE ROAD PLAN. I'M GOING TO BRING UP THE CHAIR OF SA DIGITAL CONNECT, LISA AKOSO. SHE'S GOING TO PRESENT ON THE GOVERNOR'S MODEL AND GIVE YOU THE PERSPECTIVE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. SHE'S THE ONE WHO REALLY KICKED THIS OFF. THANK YOU, LISA.

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYONE. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. I HAVE THE DISTINCT HONOR TO SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE FOUNDING BOARD OF SA DIGITAL CONNECTS. AND REALLY, BEFORE WE GO INTO THE GOVERNANCE MODEL, I JUST WANTED TO SHARE FOR A FEW MINUTES ABOUT WHY DIGITAL INCLUSION. REALLY, IT COMES DOWN TO A MATTER OF EQUITY. WHEN WE LOOK AT TOYOTA, AND WHAT WE STAND FOR, [LAPSE IN AUDIO] AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW TOYOTA, RESPECT FOR PEOPLE IS OUR CORE ONE OF OUR CORE PILLARS. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND RESPECT FOR PEOPLE ARE THE TWO PILLARS THAT WE STAND AND WE BUILD OUR HOUSE ON. AND IT IS CRITICAL THAT RESPECT FOR PEOPLE WE ALWAYS HOLD AS ONE OF AS THE DECISION MAKER THAT WE ALWAYS FALL BACK ON. BUT WHEN WE LOOK AT THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND, WHEN YOU CANNOT CONNECT TO THE INTERNET BECAUSE OF A LACK OF

INFRASTRUCTURE, OR A LACK OF FUNDS OR A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, THAT IN MOVING FORWARD IS THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND. WHETHER THAT BE TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION, APPLYING FOR A JOB, TELEMEDICINE, IN A MYRIAD OF WAYS. SO THAT BECAME EVEN MORE APPARENT DURING THE PANDEMIC AS WE ALL KNOW. I DON'T NEED TO GO INTO A LOT OF DETAILS IN THIS WAY. BUT WHEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WERE CLAMORING FOR ASSISTANCE BOTH TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND PRIVATE SECTOR, WE KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE STOOD UP IN THE WAY TOYOTA DID, IN THE WAY TO PROVIDE DEVICES TO OUR STUDENTS. SO THAT THEY COULD ATTEND SCHOOL. AND WHEN OUR YOUTH IN THE SOUTH SIDE STILL HAD TROUBLE CONNECTING, BECAUSE OF A LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THEY WERE SITTING IN PARKING LOTS IN THE HEAT, OR NEAR SCHOOL BUSES, SO THAT THEY COULD TRY TO DO THEIR HOMEWORK, WE KNEW WE HAD A PRETTY DESPERATE PROBLEM. WHEN WE KNEW THAT OUR OWN ATMA STUDENTS AND OUR OWN COLLEGE STUDENTS THAT WERE DOING THEIR PROGRAMS AS INTERNS AT TOYOTA STILL COULDN'T CONNECT, WE KNEW WE HAD PROBLEMS. EVEN WHEN WE OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE INTERNET CONNECTIONS FOR THEIR FAMILIES, WE KNEW WE HAD PROBLEMS. AND IT WASN'T IT WAS THEN THAT I STARTED LEARNING ABOUT DIGITAL DIVIDE, AND DIGITAL INCLUSION. AND THAT'S WHEN I STARTED TO HELP, AND STARTED TO DO INVESTIGATION, AND CALLED BRIAN AND CALLED KATE ROGERS WHO HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO TALK TO THE PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY AND TO SEE WHAT WE COULD DO TO BEGIN TO HELP, TO DEVELOP A LONG RANGE SOLUTION TO THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. SO AT THAT POINT, WE DECIDED TO RAISE SOME FUNDS TO DEVELOP A PLAN. BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT A PLAN FOR A LONG RANGE SOLUTION. [LAPSE IN AUDIO] FORTUNATELY THAT HAS ALL BEEN RECTIFIED. AND WE STAND HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR, MYSELF REPRESENTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THIS PLAN, BEING ABLE TO SAY THAT WE'VE NOW CREATED THE SA DIGITAL CONNECTS ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE NOW HIRED AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO MOVE US FORWARD. AND IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARINA GAVITO. I WOULD ASK HER TO PLEASE STAND. WE ARE THRILLED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENTICE HER AWAY FROM USAA. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, MARINA. [APPLAUSE] SHE IS ON DAY TWO. MANY OF YOU KNOW HER, AND HER VERY STRONG REPUTATION IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THE PRIVATE SECTOR STANDS FIRMLY BEHIND HER. AND WHAT WE KNOW THAT SHE WILL ACCOMPLISH, WE WILL BE BEHIND HER 100% OF THE WAY, TO GIVE HER THE TOOLS THAT SHE NEEDS, IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. LET ME REINFORCE THAT THE MONEY THAT WILL BE SOUGHT IS NOT

GOING TO COME TO SA DIGITAL CONNECTS. IT WILL BE INCUMBENT UPON THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO THE CITY COUNCILMEMBERS, TO THE BOARD OF TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO ADVOCATE FOR THESE DOLLARS, TO COME TO OUR COMMUNITIES. THEY WILL NOT COME INTO THE COFFER OF SA DIGITAL CONNECTS. SA DIGITAL CONNECTS WILL BE THE PRIMARY ADVOCATE. WE WILL BE THE ONES WHO WILL BE ATTENDING MEETINGS JUST AS WE HAVE BEEN AT THE STATE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. I'D LIKE TO ACTUALLY INTRODUCE ANITA FERNANDEZ FROM OCI. PLEASE STAND, ANITA. ANITA HAS BEEN AT THE HALLS IN AUSTIN DURING THIS SPECIAL SESSION ASKING AND REQUESTING FROM THOSE IN AUSTIN DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION AS THOSE DOLLARS HAVE BEEN COMING, AND ALL THOSE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING. WE HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE AT THE NEW OFFICE OF REMIND ME THE NAME OF THE OFFICE NOW? STATE BROADBAND OFFICE THAT HAS BEEN NEWLY CREATED. WE ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THE STATE CURRENTLY WITH A PLAN. IS THAT RIGHT? CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY ARE THE FIRST ONES WITH A PLAN. WE SHOULD BE REALLY PROUD OF THAT. WE ARE LEADING THE CHARGE IN THIS COMMUNITY. SO WITH THAT, I JUST WANT TO COVER WITH YOU NOW WHAT THE GOVERNANCE MODEL OF THIS BODY WILL BE. WE ARE A PRIVATE NONPROFIT EXCUSE ME, WE ARE A PRIVATE WE'RE A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH A PUBLIC SUPPORT. SO WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PLANE, IF YOU WILL, AS YOU SEE IT, WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING SUPPORTED ALSO BY THE CITY AND THE COUNTY. SA DIGITAL CONNECTS HAS A BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WHICH I CHAIR. AND ALONG THE LINES WITH BRIAN DILLARD, AND LAURA COLE AS WELL. WE WILL BE RECRUITING OTHER MEMBERS EQUALLY HERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AND THEN I CAN'T SEE THAT FAR, SO I'M GOING TO GO RIGHT HERE. AND THEN AS WE HAVE AS OUR FISCAL AGENT, WE HAVE GREATER ATX. WE'LL ALSO BE REQUESTING FOR INPUT FROM OUR PARTNERS, OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND ADVISORY GROUP. SO WITH THAT, I'M GOING TO TURN IT RIGHT BACK OVER TO BRIAN FOR ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS.

SO WE WILL OPEN IT UP FOR ANY KIND OF QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS.
YES, SIR?

IT'S VERY, VERY NICE TO SEE YOU. THANKS FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT. THANKS OCI FOR HELPING OUT ON THIS. I THINK YOU GUYS ARE CLEARLY VERY WELL EQUIPPED. I WAS LOOKING AT THE WEB PAGE AND I DON'T SEE A LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS. I SEE A LIST OF LOGOS OF BOARD REPRESENTATIONS. CAN YOU GET US A LIST OF

BOARD MEMBERS AT SOME POINT?

THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE LOUISA AS CHAIR AND ME AS VICE CHAIR.

PELAEZ: VERY SHORT LIST THEN. HOW WILL YOU POPULATE THE BOARD?

I THINK THAT'S A CONVERSATION WE WANT TO HAVE WITH COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY. WE DIDN'T WANT TO AUTONOMOUSLY START APPOINTING THE SEATS OURSELVES. WE WANTED TO DO IT WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

PELAEZ: LET'S WORK OUR WAY AROUND THE HORN STARTING WITH COUNCILMAN COURAGE.

COURAGE: THANK YOU, CHAIR. I THINK THE MORE I HEARD FROM THE PRESENTATION, I MORE I KIND OF UNDERSTOOD A LITTLE BIT BETTER WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE HOPE TO GO. FIRST OF ALL, I THINK THIS IS A GREAT EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER THE COMMUNITY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES, AND HOPEFULLY BRING IN STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT. I KNOW THAT'S THE OVERALL GOAL. WHEN I FIRST SAW PAGE 4, YOU SHOWED THE PRIVATE/PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATED FUNDED. I ASSUME THAT MEANS THAT THE INITIAL DOLLARS YOU'RE USING FOR YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ANYTHING THAT COMES OUT OF THAT IS COMING FROM CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THESE ORGANIZATIONS?

CORRECT.

COURAGE: WHICH I THINK IS GREAT. ONE THING I IMMEDIATELY SAID TO MYSELF, WELL, WHERE ARE THE IP TELECOM PROVIDERS, WHY AREN'T THEY IN HERE. AND I WOULD EXPECT IN THE LONG TERM, THEY'RE GOING TO BENEFIT. SO I WOULD HOPE IN THE SHORT TERM THEY BECOME PARTNERS, NOT JUST WAITING FOR US TO GO TO THEM AND SAY, OKAY, WE WANT YOU TO PULLED THIS OUT AND YOU'LL GET SOME MONEY FOR DOING THAT, BUT I HOPE THAT THEY COME ABOARD AND SAY, WE WANT TO BE PARTNERS. AT&T CAN SPEND X AMOUNT OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO NAME A BASKETBALL COURT OR A FOOTBALL FIELD, THEY CAN SPEND X AMOUNT OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO HELP SPREAD THE DIGITAL, OR CROSS THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. SO YOU'VE GOT AT&T AND SPECTRUM AND VERIZON AND GOOGLE ALL ACTIVE IN THIS COMMUNITY, SO I HOPE ALL OF THEM BECOME MORE INVOLVED.

THE OTHER THING I'LL ALWAYS BE CONCERNED ABOUT IS COST. AND I SAW YOU HAD TALKED ABOUT 1% OF A FAMILY'S AMI. AND YOU KNOW, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MAYBE A FAMILY OF FOUR, EARNING \$40,000, AND THAT'S \$40 A MONTH. YOU'RE PROJECTING IS THEIR COST. FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR, THAT CAN BE MORE THAN THEY CAN AFFORD. I HOPE THE AFFORDABILITY IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE BUILT INTO THIS, SO THAT NO ONE GOES WITHOUT HAVING IT. AND THAT MEANS, I THINK, GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL OF US TO UNDERWRITE SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT JUST CAN'T AFFORD EVEN 1%. SO ANYWAY, THOSE ARE MY UP FRONT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS. BUT I'M ENTHUSIASTICALLY BEHIND WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO. I THINK WE NEED THIS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

PELAEZ: THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN. COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU, CHAIR AND BRIAN AND THE TEAM FOR YOUR PRESENTATION. I WANTED TO FOCUS MOSTLY ON THE CONNECTED BEYOND. BASED OFF SLIDE NUMBER 9, I KNOW WE HAVE THE SUPPORT, WE SHARE IT WITH DIFFERENT DISTRICTS, BUT WE HAVE ALL THESE VERY STRONG POWERFUL I.T. ENTITIES. IS THERE A CONVERSATION ABOUT LEVERAGING THE PARTNERSHIPS TO CLOSE THAT DIGITAL DIVIDE? AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE CONNECTED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM FOCUSES PRIMARILY ON THE HISTORIC WEST SIDE, THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, A LOT OF THE KEY SPOTS WHERE MANY OF OUR STUDENTS HAVEN'T HAD ACCESS TO THOSE IPADS. LIKE THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE GIVING THEM, LIKE PICKING UP THE IPAD HAS BEEN DIFFICULTY, SOME OF THEM DON'T HAVE THEM. HOW MANY OF THE 27 MILLION FROM THE CONNECTED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM HAVE WE USED TOWARD NEW INFRASTRUCTURE?

WE ARE CURRENTLY AT 18 MILLION OF SPENDING RIGHT NOW ON THAT EFFORT. THAT IS WITH SO THAT JUST TO SPEAK ON WHY WE'RE FOCUSING IN ON SAISD AND HARLANDALE. INITIALLY WHEN WE PROPOSED THIS PROJECT WE STATED THAT THE FEASIBILITY OF US DEPLOYING THROUGHOUT THE 50 NEIGHBORHOODS WOULD BE BASED ON VERTICAL ASSETS WE HAD IN PLACE THERE. EDGEWOOD, HARLANDALE AND AISD, THE VERTICAL ASSETS WERE THERE IN PLACE. WHERE THEY WEREN'T, THEY WERE EASY TO BE BUILT UP. AS OF THIS MOMENT WE SPENT 18 MILLION OF THAT. THE REST IS SLATED TO BE SPENT BY DECEMBER OF 2021. THAT'S REALLY A JOINT EFFORT. I WANT TO GIVE PRAISE TO EDGEWOOD AND HARLANDALE, BECAUSE AISD HAS BEEN GREAT WORKING WITH US. BUT HARLANDALE AND EDGEWOOD

HAVE ACTUALLY ALLOWED US TO GO INTO THEIR FACILITY TO REDUCE THE COST, THE BURDEN ON OURSELVES, NOT TO MENTION THE CEPD DEPLOYMENT, PUTTING THE DEVICES INTO THE HOMES OF STUDENTS.

CASTILLO: IS THERE A REPORT ON THIS PRIVATE PROGRAM AVAILABLE THAT YOU CAN SHARE? YES, MA'AM. ABSOLUTELY.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU.

PELAEZ: COUNCILWOMAN ROCHA GARCIA?

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU EVERYBODY WHO'S HERE FOR WORKING ON THIS. I'LL START OFF JUST REALLY FAST BY ASKING, SO ON PAGE 17 OF THE REPORT, THERE WAS AN INITIAL ATTEMPT THAT THE CITY OF SEATTLE STARTED FOR FIBER DEPLOYMENT SPECIFICALLY. HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT WOULD HAPPENED THERE DOESN'T HAPPEN IN SAN ANTONIO?

WE'RE HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH CITIES LIKE SEATTLE AND CHATTANOOGA TO ENSURE WE DON'T. SA DIGITAL CONNECTS HAS HIRED ON WITH A PROFESSOR AT UC SAN DIEGO WITH EXPERIENCE. HE'S HELPING US IDENTIFY HOW WE HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS THAT WE'RE NOT BEING DEFEATED AT EVERY TURN, BUT THEN TWO, HOW DO WE MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT REPLICATING THOSE MISTAKES THAT EVERY CITY MADE. WE'RE LEARNING ALONG THE WAY AS WE'RE HAVING THOSE CONVERSATIONS. HE'S BEEN A TREMENDOUS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE. I THINK HE'S ON THE RETAINER FOR THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS. A YEAR, SORRY.

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU, BRIAN. AND I THINK TO THE POINT, TO BRING IN, I DO SEE [INDISCERNIBLE] THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT, IN THE SOUTH SIDE IN PARTICULAR IN CONNECTIVITY ISSUES. THERE IS MORE THAN 4,000 MILES OF FIBER THAT CAN BE USED. IS THIS TODAY TO CONNECT HOUSEHOLDS? IS THAT CORRECT?

AS FAR AS ISP FIBER LINES.

ROCHA GARCIA: OKAY. SO AT&T, THE FIBER

SO WE'RE GETTING INTO THOSE CONVERSATIONS. WE'VE BEEN HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ISP PROVIDERS. LIKE CRAIG HOPKINS, OUR I.T. DEPARTMENT HAS HAD THAT RELATIONSHIP FOR YEARS. AS WE TALK ABOUT DIGITAL INCLUSION, WE STARTED THE CONVERSATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, BUT AS OF ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO WE STARTED HAVING VERY SERIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH ISPS. I CAN'T SPEAK TO WHAT THEY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE. BUT I DO APPRECIATE CW BEING HERE AS WELL.

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU. I HAVE TALKED TO AT&T AND THEY HAVE COMMITTED, AND JAY IS ALWAYS WONDERFUL AS WELL. I KNOW THIS IS SOMETHING COUNCILMEMBER VIAGRAN HAS BEEN SPEAKING ABOUT FOR A WHILE. I THINK IT WAS ON ONE OF HER TOP THREE PRIORITIES LIST WHEN I MET WITH THE INCOMING COUNCILMEMBERS, AND I KNOW THAT WAS ONE OF HER PRIORITIES, SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK ON THAT, COUNCILWOMAN. THERE'S A LOT OF COORDINATION, OR THERE'S A LOT GOING ON, RIGHT? SO ONE OF THE BACKUP SLIDES THAT YOU HAVE IS THAT THERE'S A LOT GOING ON, RIGHT? THINK ABOUT THE SURVEY IN APRIL. THERE'S MORE THAN 80 ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING SOME TYPE OF SERVICE. HOW DO WE MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER? I'M ASSUMING IT WILL BE

THERE YOU GO.

ROCHA GARCIA: I ASSUME IT WILL BE MARINA. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN MARINA, BUT HOW DO WE HELP HER. WHO NEEDS TO HELP HER, WHO WILL BE THERE ENGAGING WHAT THE SUPPORT STRUCTURE FOR HER?

WE'RE NOT STEPPING AWAY FROM THIS. MARINA HAS BEEN HIRED ON TO BE THE LEAD OF THIS OUTSIDE OF CITY AND COUNTY TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S AN EFFORT INDEPENDENT. WE DO HAVE A DIGITAL INCLUSION ADMINISTRATOR POSITION THAT WAS ADDED INTO THE BUDGET. WE'RE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR THAT. WE'LL BE POSTING THAT IN THE NEXT COUPLE WEEKS, I BELIEVE. SO WE DO HAVE AN INTERNAL POSITION SPECIFICALLY TO REMAIN ENGAGED IN THIS, MAKE SURE WE'RE CONNECTING THE DOTS AMONG THE 86 PLUS ORGANIZATIONS DOING THE WORK.

AS WELL AS FROM AN SA DIGITAL CONNECTS STANDPOINT, THAT'S ALSO WHERE OCI COMES IN, FROM BOOTS ON THE GROUND, AND THAT'S WHERE OUR PORTAL COMES IN AS WELL. WE CAN PROVIDE YOU SOME MORE INFORMATION ON THAT. BUT IF YOU GO TO OUR PORTAL, THAT'S WHERE A LOT OF THIS INFORMATION IS BEING HELD, AND WILL BE TRACKED AS WELL. SO AS ALL OF THAT INFORMATION IS COMING IN, THAT'S WHERE A LOT OF INFORMATION WILL BE MANAGED. AS YOU HAVE CORRECTLY INDICATED, THAT HOUSING OF INFORMATION AND THAT TRACKING OF INFORMATION AND WHO DOES WHAT IS WHERE OCI WILL BE HELPING AS WELL.

ROCHA GARCIA: [LAPSE IN AUDIO] LOUISA, I LOVE [INDISCERNIBLE]. I LOVE, LOVE IT. I CAN'T STRESS IT ENOUGH. I WONDER IF THERE'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER THAT MY DISTRICT IS BENEFITING, OR THE DISTRICTS BECAUSE I LOOK AT PAGE 32, AND IT'S THE HAVES VERSUS HAVES NOT. NORTH VERSUS SOUTH. EVERY TIME I SEE A MAP LIKE THAT, IT'S LIKE WE NEED TO FIX THIS. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE STEPS, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE PROGRESS MEASURED. WHEN DO WE EXPECT THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT? WE'RE ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS IN, YOU MENTIONED, BRIAN. WHEN ARE WE EXPECTING THE FIRST ONE?

LET ME ANSWER YOUR QUESTION FIRST. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PRIORITIES, OUR PRIORITIES ARE THE UNSERVED AND THE UNDERSERVED. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THAT MAP AND YOU SEE THAT BIG DARK SWATH ON THE SOUTH SIDE, THAT'S OUR PRIORITY. AND THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU HAVE YOU KNOW, THAT WAS THE REASON WHY WE GOT INVOLVED AND WE STARTED LEADING THIS EFFORT THE WAY WE HAVE. BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT IT IS OUR PEOPLE IN OUR BACKYARD THAT ARE THE ONES WHO NEED THE HELP THE MOST. AND SO THE ADVOCACY, YOU KNOW, US WANTING TO, YOU KNOW, GRAB EACH OTHER'S HANDS AND MAKING SURE THAT AS THE DOLLARS BECOME AVAILABLE, THAT THE UNDERSERVED AND THE UNSERVED REMAIN AS A PRIORITY FIRST AND FOREMOST. THAT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL. SO KNOW THAT WE ARE, YOU KNOW, I'M TALKING ABOUT TOYOTA NOW, THAT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE PRIORITIES REMAIN. AND THAT'S WHY THEY ARE SO CLEARLY STATED IN THE PLAN.

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU, LISA. AND THIS WILL BE MY FINAL POINT, CHAIR, BECAUSE BRIAN DILLARD DIDN'T HAVE A ONE ON ONE WITH ME. BUT THAT'S OKAY,

WE'LL SCHEDULE IT. IT WILL WORK. BUT SOME NEIGHBORHOODS, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT ARE STILL DEALING WITH COPPER WIRE, AND I'M LOOKING AT MY FRIENDS AT AT&T, RIGHT? EVERY TIME IT RAINS THEY LOSE INTERNET CONNECTION. SOME ROOFS ARE TOO SHORT TO HAVE A SIGNAL BOOSTER. AND THEN WE HAVE SOME THAT HAVE TREE CANOPIES. OUR NEIGHBORS CAN'T CUT DOWN THE TREES, THEY CAN'T DO IT THEMSELVES, THEY COULD HURT THEMSELVES, ET CETERA. SO HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THEY ALSO HAVE SOME SORT OF SUPPORT. IS THERE GOING TO BE IN PARTICULAR A TEAM, OR MAYBE, I'LL SAY A BRANCH, RIGHT, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TREES, THAT WORK ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS? HOW DO WE HELP OUR NEIGHBORS WHO REALLY NEED HELP WITH

SO, LET ME ASK FOR CLARITY. ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT INSTALLATION OF FIBER OR ASSISTANCE IF THEY ARE HAVING ISSUES WITH THE FIBER?

ROCHA GARCIA: THE ASSISTANCE WITH THE FIBER.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS ON. THEY ALREADY HAVE FRONT FACING CONTACT WITH THOSE RESIDENTS. MAKING SURE THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED TO PROVIDE THAT SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THAT, I DO WANT TO SET AN EXAMPLE HERE WITH TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY. WITH OUR CONNECTED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM PROJECT, WE'VE BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH DR. GRIFFIN AND BIRD DOWN THERE. THEY'VE CREATED THIS HELP DESK WHERE THEY'RE DEPLOYING STUDENTS AND TRAINING STUDENTS TO BE THE HELP DESK INSTEAD OF BEING SERVICED BY CONNECT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE HOW WE CAN USE THAT KIND OF EXAMPLE, MAYBE EXPAND IT OR REPLICATE IT ELSEWHERE FOR COMMUNITIES THAT MAY NEED THAT SUPPORT. RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU ON THAT. I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO WORK WITH THE ISPS AND TELECOMS TO SOLVE FOR.

ROCHA GARCIA: GOT IT. I'LL FOLLOW UP ON THAT. SOME OF THE RESIDENTS I REPRESENT, IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE REPORTS, THAT THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE SOCIAL SECURITY. THEY MIGHT NOT PASS THE CREDIT CHECK. THERE ARE GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN. I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND, OR THAT WE HAVE SOMEONE FOCUSING IN ON THOSE NEEDS

AS WELL.

THE SAME AS WE DID WITH THE PROGRAM WHERE WE ASSISTED RESIDENTS WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES, WE'LL BE DOING THE SAME THING WITH THIS PROGRAM, YES, MA'AM.

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU, CHAIR.

PELAEZ: COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN.

VIAGRAN: THANK YOU, CHAIR. THIS WAS A VERY INTERESTING PRESENTATION. THANK YOU. THIS WAS ONE OF MY MAIN POINTS DURING THE CAMPAIGN, THE DIGITAL DIVIDE WAS SIGNIFICANT IN DISTRICT 3. IT WAS SIGNIFICANT AMONG MY SENIORS AS WELL AS MY STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT. I DO HAVE SOME CONCERNS, BECAUSE I DON'T OTHER THAN LOUISA WHO I KNOW WORKS AT TOYOTA, AND LIZ IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR, WHERE THE SOUTH SIDE IS BEING REPRESENTED IN THIS, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE MORE WHEN YOU TALKED ABOUT THOSE 140 ORGANIZATIONS, THAT YOU ACTUALLY MAPPED THEM OUT IN 3, 5, 4 AND 2, BECAUSE THAT IS ESSENTIAL. YOU TALK ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES, AND SOME OF MY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES OR SOME PEOPLE HERE MIGHT THINK IT'S JUST, OH, WE CAN'T WE DON'T HAVE THE FIBER LINE. WE DON'T HAVE DRAINAGE. WE HAVE 100 YEAR OLD HOUSES. THIS INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUE WE TALK ABOUT, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE IN OUR DISTRICTS, IS THAT WE ARE LIVING WITH VERY OLD INFRASTRUCTURE. AND AT&T GOES IN, AND THE REASON I HAVE GREAT AT&T INTERNET IS BECAUSE I'M RIGHT IN FRONT OF A POLE. AND THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO COME OUT AND HOOK FROM THE POLE, THE LIGHT POLE, TO MY HOUSE. SO I THINK THAT WE NEED TO HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS WHEN WE USE THE TERM INFRASTRUCTURE. I ALSO HAVE CONCERNS THAT WE ARE WAITING ON BILLS TO PASS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO GET THIS FUNDING. I THINK YOU HAVE INCREDIBLE STAKEHOLDERS AT THE TABLE, AND WE NEED TO START PLANNING IN EVENT WE DON'T GET THE FUNDING WE NEED. I KNOW THE TEAM YOU'VE ESTABLISHED WE CAN GO OUT AND GET MORE PRIVATE DOLLARS TO DO THIS. SO I'M LOOKING AT YOU, MY WONDERFUL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS, ALL OF YOU OUT THERE, I KNOW YOU CAN DO BETTER. I KNOW YOU WILL DO BETTER. I KNOW THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE GOING TO GO A LOT MORE SMOOTHLY NOW THAT WE'VE HAD THIS MEETING. SO I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT. THE OTHER THING I

WANT YOU TO KEEP IN MIND, BRIAN, IS, I THINK A YEAR MAY BE A LITTLE TOO LONG BECAUSE OF THE WAY TECHNOLOGY CHANGES. AND SO IF WE ARE PASSING OUT DEVICES OR THE SCHOOLS ARE PROVIDING DEVICES, LET'S MAYBE DO A SIX OR NINE MONTH UPDATE, BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN THE NEW DEVICES COME OUT, TOO. AND WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT I'D LIKE TO GET THE UPDATE TO MAKE SURE WE'VE GOT THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY OUT THERE, OR MAYBE WE'RE INHERITING, YOU KNOW, LAST YEAR'S TECHNOLOGY TO GET OUT TO OUR STUDENTS, AND THOSE IN NEED. SO, YOU KNOW, MY BIG CONCERN, I WANT THIS BILL TO PASS SO BADLY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AND I'M WATCHING IT JUST LIKE YOU GUYS. BUT IN THE MEANTIME LET'S REALLY LOOK OUT AND GO AFTER THOSE PRIVATE DOLLARS. THANK YOU.

YES, MA'AM, THANK YOU.

PELAEZ: COUNCILMAN COURAGE.

COURAGE: THANK YOU. ANOTHER FACT THAT COMES TO MIND IS WE KNOW BOTH S.A.W.S. AND CPS ARE PUTTING IN AUTOMATIC METERS THAT ARE GOING TO READ AND BROADCAST WATER AND ELECTRIC RATES. IS THAT SOMETHING THAT WE CAN CAPITALIZE ON? BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO PUT IT IN EVERY HOME. SO IT SHOULDN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE IN A 100 YEAR OLD HOME OR 20 YEAR OLD HOME, THEY HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO READ ELECTRICITY AND WATER. CAN WE PIGGYBACK ON THAT WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION?

I CAN'T SPEAK FOR CPS, AND MY BACKGROUND IN CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECTOR IS VERY TIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO UTILIZING ANOTHER NETWORK FOR OTHER USES OUTSIDE OF THE ENERGY SECTOR. WITH CPS AND S.A.W.S. WE SAW THAT HAPPEN. WE'RE NOT AT A POINT WHERE I CAN SAY YES. THE LEAN WOULD BE TOWARD SECURITY FIRST FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND ENERGY SYSTEMS. I WOULD SAY NO TO THAT RIGHT NOW. THAT'S NOT TO SAY WE COULDN'T INNOVATE ON TECHNOLOGY, OR TECHNOLOGY WON'T GROW INTO A STATE WE COULD IN THE FUTURE.

COURAGE: PUT IT THIS WAY, THOUGH. IF THEY CAN PUT METERS ON THERE THAT THEY CAN USE, CAN'T WE PUT DEVICES ON HOMES THAT ARE SIMILAR TO ALLOW CONNECTIVITY?

POTENTIALLY, YES. I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FIBER, THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT FOLKS AREN'T TRYING TO UTILIZE A WIRELESS CONNECTION WHICH IS WHAT THE AMI SYSTEM USES. I WANT TO MAKE SURE RESIDENTS, WHEN THEY'RE DEPENDING ON THE DIGITAL INCLUSION, IT'S NOT A WIRELESS PIECE, THAT THEY HAVE A DEDICATED BROADBAND LINE COMING INTO THEIR HOME. THAT'S MY ONLY DIFFERENCE. BUT I THINK WE COULD HAVE A CONVERSATION AROUND THIS VERY EASILY TO IDENTIFY WHAT WE COULD AND COULDN'T DO WITH CPS AND S.A.W.S. TECHNOLOGY.

COURAGE: I GUESS I WAS JUST THINKING, YOU JUST MENTIONED, CPS IS CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY. THEY'RE USING WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY. SO WHY WOULD IT BE SO DIFFERENT FOR US TO USE THE WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY?

WE COULD. I'M JUST SAYING I DON'T THINK IT COULD BE ON THE SAME NETWORK. BUT YES, SIR.

COURAGE: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU.

PELAEZ: COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN?

VIAGRAN: I DON'T WANT WIRELESS, I WANT FIBER.

GOT YOU. YES, MA'AM.

I WOULD LIKE TO CHIME IN TO SUPPORT COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN ON SUGGESTING THAT WE HAVE THIS CONVERSATION DURING "B" SESSION OVER THE BOND DISCUSSION. WE SEE THAT DISTRICT 5 IS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EQUITY, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT OUR BOND PROPOSALS REFLECT TRUE EQUITY AND THAT INCLUDES ENTERING THAT WE'RE ADDRESSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. YOU KNOW, THERE'S BEEN A COUPLE OF INSTANCES WHERE I'M ON MEETINGS AT 7:00 AND 8:00 AND CITY STAFF DOWNTOWN, AND I'M LIKE, I LIVE NEAR 7 AND 7 MY WHOLE LIFE. WHEN I TRY TO GET ON WEBEX, THE CONNECTION BREAKS. SO I'M GLAD YOU CAN COME DOWN TO THE OFFICE AND JOIN THE MEETING. BUT FOR MY NEIGHBORS, THEY DON'T HAVE THAT OPTION. I DO THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION ABOUT INTEGRATING THIS INTO OUR BOND. THANK YOU.

PELAEZ: THANK YOU. COUNCILMAN COURAGE HAS THE SAME PROBLEM. THAT'S BECAUSE HE USES A PALM PILOT. IT STILL WORKS. WE DID HEAR SOME INSIGHTFUL COMMENTS ABOUT THE LEGISLATION THAT WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR. I THINK JUST TO ADD A LITTLE BIT OF CONTEXT, I'M GOING TO INVITE JEFF COYLE TO COME UP. JEFF, UNPACK THIS A LITTLE BIT FOR US. I KNOW YOU MADE AN ASK. WE ALL AS A COUNCIL MADE AN ASK. I KNOW THERE'S EXTRA MONEY WE'RE LOOKING AT AT THE STATE LEVEL, TOO, RIGHT?

SURE. THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN. AND WE'RE IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH SA DIGITAL CONNECTS. BUT THE FASTEST MONEY ON THE HORIZON RIGHT NOW IS LIKELY TO COME OUT OF THE STATE SPECIAL SESSION RIGHT NOW. THE STATE IS APPROPRIATING ABOUT 16 BILLION IN ARPA DOLLARS, AS BRIAN MENTIONED IN HIS SLIDES RIGHT NOW, ABOUT 500 MILLION IS DEDICATED FOR BROADBAND. WE WOULD ALL LIKE IT TO SEE MORE NUMBER OF ISPS THAT HAVE ASKED FOR IT TO BE 2 BILLION. RIGHT NOW THE NUMBER APPEARS TO BE 500 MILLION. BUT THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A PROGRAM, AND THERE WILL BE MORE COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE. THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR US IS, NUMBER ONE, FIGHTING AGAINST IT'S 500 MILLION STATE WIDE RIGHT NOW. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF RURAL NEEDS. SO GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE REGULAR SESSION, WE'VE BEEN CONVEYING OVER AND OVER AND OVER THAT THE NEEDS ARE NOT JUST IN RURAL TEXAS, THEY'RE IN URBAN TEXAS. AND OUR MESSAGE CONSISTENTLY WITH ALL OF OUR PARTNERS HAS BEEN SAN ANTONIO HAS DONE THE LEGWORK. WE ARE READY TO DEPLOY IT RIGHT AWAY. SO THAT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST INFUX, I THINK, OF OUTSIDE DOLLARS. AND THEN HOPEFULLY TO THE COUNCILWOMAN'S POINT, THE INFRASTRUCTURE BILL COMES ALONG FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THAT WOULD LIKELY BE ROUTED THROUGH THE STATE AS WELL. AND THERE WILL BE MORE DOWN THE LINE. BUT 500 MILLION RIGHT NOW IS NOT ENOUGH, NEARLY ENOUGH TO ADDRESS IT WHEN OUR NEEDS ARE 600 MILLION JUST IN OUR COMMUNITY. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

IT DOES. THANK YOU, JEFF. I DO WANT TO REMIND EVERYBODY, AND LOUISA KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN ANYBODY IN THE ROOM, I THINK, THAT THE TOYOTA PHILOSOPHY ALSO INCLUDES THREE LINES, OR THREE WORDS, REALLY IMPORTANT ONES, WHEN ADDRESSING THE NEW PROBLEM, OR EVEN TRYING TO SOLVE AN OLD ONE, THE KEY TO DOING IT IS, JUST DO SOMETHING. START, RIGHT? TALKING ABOUT

IT IS AND COMPLAINING ABOUT IT SOLVES NOTHING, RIGHT? THE PARTNERS HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SOLVE FOR THIS. I THINK THAT THAT'S AMAZING THAT YOU GUYS ALL SAW A PROBLEM AND DECIDED TO FIX IT. AND BE PART OF THAT SOLUTION. AND, YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT A SUPERMARKET CHAIN HERE, AND AN INSURANCE COMPANY, AND WE'VE GOT [LAPSE IN AUDIO] IN THERE, AND THE COUNTY AND CITY AND THESE PARTNERS ARE ALL COMING FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. AND FOR DIFFERENT MOTIVES. BUT I THINK THAT WHEN YOU GET THESE MANY PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND DIFFERENT SECTORS COMING TOGETHER, YOU KNOW, TO SOLVE A PROBLEM, CLEARLY THAT PROBLEM IS REAL. RIGHT? THE OTHER THING IS WHEN JEFF GOES UP TO D.C. WITH OUR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVOCATES, THE FOLKS IN D.C. SAY, WHAT ELSE ARE YOU DOING, RIGHT? ARE YOU PUTTING SKIN IN THE GAME, RIGHT? BECAUSE THEY WANT TO INVEST WHERE THERE'S PARTNERSHIPS ALREADY HAPPENING. AND SO I THINK THAT THIS REALLY PUTS WIND IN YOUR SAILS, RIGHT? BECAUSE YOU'RE ABLE TO SAY, OH, WE'RE NOT JUST ASKING FOR MONEY, WE'RE ASKING TO CO INVEST WITH US, RIGHT, IN SOLVING THIS. I THINK THAT'S IMPORTANT, TOO. THE OTHER THING IS, I SAW ON THE SLIDE, AND THEN I SAW IN THE DIGITAL CONNECTS WEBSITE THAT THESE WORDS, THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT A BROAD COALITION OF PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND COALITION PARTNERS TO REDUCE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE. I DO WANT TO ENCOURAGE Y'ALL WHO ARE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THIS NONPROFIT TO REMEMBER THAT IT'S SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE TO INSTALL THESE WIRES, IN COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD AND COUNCILWOMAN TERI CASTILLO'S NEIGHBORHOOD. THAT'S THE CWA, RIGHT? THE NEXT TIME THIS COMES TO A PRESENTATION, I THINK THAT YOU'LL GET A LOT WE'RE ALL ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT YOU'LL GET US EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN WE SEE THE CWA LOGO ON THE PAGE AS PARTNERS, AND MAYBE HAVE SOME BOARD REPRESENTATION. AND SO AT LEAST THAT'S MY REQUEST. AND, YEAH, SO DO YOU AGREE?

I WANT TO POINT OUT FOR THOSE WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS AN ABSTRACT THING AND WHETHER OR NOT REAL PEOPLE ARE BEING IMPACTED, WE CELEBRATED, OR WE DID A PROCLAMATION THIS PAST WEEK ON DEMENTIA, YOU ALL REMEMBER THAT, RIGHT? ONE OF THE THINGS THEY TOLD US IS THAT ONE IN FIVE SAN ANTONIANS WILL BE EXPERIENCING DEMENTIA, WHICH MEANS ONE IN FIVE FAMILIES IN SAN ANTONIO WILL HAVE TO CARE GIVE FOR FOLKS WITH DEMENTIA. THOSE FOLKS RIGHT NOW HAVE A VERY DIFFICULT TIME ACCESSING RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET. IT'S NOT JUST THEM, IT'S FAMILIES CARING FOR

CANCER PATIENTS, AND PEOPLE WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATIONS, AND ELDERLY FOLKS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONNECT WITH THE FOOD BANK, OR EVEN ACCESS FACEBOOK TO TALK TO THEIR GRANDKIDS WHILE EVERYBODY'S TRYING TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE AND ALL THAT. THESE ARE REAL PEOPLE, RIGHT? WE KNOW THE DIGITAL DIVIDE KILLS, TOO. IF THESE FOLKS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF SOCIALIZED SOLUTIONS. THERE'S NOT JUST STATISTICS OUT THERE, BRIAN, FOR THESE FUTURE PRESENTATIONS, BUT I THINK IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT WHEN WE SPEAK TO THE PUBLIC WE SHOW THEM CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF WHERE THERE IS REAL PAIN, AND HOW IT IS THAT WE HAVE SOLVED SOME OF THAT PAIN, AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO SOLVE FOR MORE OF IT. COUNCILWOMAN

QUICK QUESTION FOR JEFF. JEFF, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE IN EXPANDING THE ERATE FUNDING TO IN HOME INTERNET?

SORRY, COUNCILWOMAN, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT. ERATE FUNDING?

ROCHA GARCIA: YES, SCHOOLS RIGHT NOW GET TO BENEFIT FROM ERATE. BUT THEY'RE TRYING TO SEE IF WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXTEND THAT IN HOME EDUCATION. PAGE 108 OF THE PRESENTATION, THERE'S AN EXCELLENT JOB. 82% OF SCHOOLS AGREE THAT ERATE WOULD HELP THEM SOME OF THE REMOTE LEARNING. THERE WAS 37 SENATE DEMOCRATS WHO WROTE A LETTER TO THE FTC TO INCLUDE IN HOME INTERNET AND ERATE LANGUAGE. OR MAYBE YOU CAN JUST FIND OUT.

I DON'T KNOW IT OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD. WE'LL COMPARE NOTES AND

ROCHA GARCIA: THANK YOU. THANK YOU, CHAIR.

PELAEZ: [OFF MIC].

THANK YOU, CHAIR. THIS IS ACTUALLY GOING TO BE PRESENTED JOINTLY. I BELIEVE OUR CITY CLERK IS GOING TO KICK IT OFF, THOUGH.

THIS IS A BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEIR SUGGESTIONS.

THANK YOU, CITY CLERK. SO BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, SAN ANTONIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS A NONPROFIT CORPORATION THAT WAS CREATED BY CITY COUNCIL IN 2010. AND THEY HAVE THE PURPOSE OF FOCUSING ON JOB CREATION AND PROMOTING LONG TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT'S SPECIFIC TO SAN ANTONIO. SO THIS CORPORATION IS GOVERNED BY A SEVEN MEMBER BOARD, OF WHICH THREE OF THOSE MEMBERS ARE CITIZENS AT LARGE. SO THE CITIZENS WERE APPOINTED LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, EARLIER THIS YEAR, CHRIS ROSA, WHO WAS A CITIZEN, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD, HAD RESIGNED, OR HAS RESIGNED. SO IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY CLERK, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WE DID ADVERTISE FOR THIS POSITION FOR PEOPLE THAT WERE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE SA UDC BOARD. SO DURING THAT TIME, AND OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE RECEIVED 18 APPLICATIONS, OF WHICH 16 ARE ELIGIBLE. SO WITH THAT NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, WE ARE RECOMMENDING THAT THE EWDC CREATE A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW THOSE APPLICATIONS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION FOR APPLICANTS TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE EWDC. SO AS I MENTIONED, THOSE THE SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD RECOMMEND APPLICANTS, THE EWDC WOULD INTERVIEW THOSE APPLICANTS THAT ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THEN ONE APPLICANT WOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE CITY COUNCIL AFTER EWDC INTERVIEWS THOSE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES. SO WHAT WE ARE ASKING TODAY IS FOR THE EWDC TO FORM THAT SUBCOMMITTEE, AND RECOMMEND MEMBERS FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

PELAEZ: THANK YOU. SO COMMENTS? QUESTIONS? COUNCILWOMAN?

SO YOU WANT DO YOU WANT US TO BE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH PEOPLE FROM THE SA

NO, JUST THE THREE OF US.

JUST THREE OF US?

IT WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE EWDC, ALONG

JUST THREE OF US?

MM HMM.

IN THE PAST WE'VE HAD SUBCOMMITTEES THAT WERE OUTSIDE FOLKS THAT WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE. SO IT COULD BE YOUR CHIEF OF STAFF THAT YOU COULD RECOMMEND TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE. INSTEAD OF THE COUNCILMEMBER, OR YOU COULD RECOMMEND THAT A STAFF PERSON SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE AS WELL. SO THE YOUR COMMITTEE IS CAN DECIDE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOUR MEMBERS ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE, THIS IS JUST A NOMINATING COMMITTEE THAT WOULD THEN BRING A RECOMMENDATION BACK TO YOU.

SO, YOU KNOW, REALLY, I THINK WE'RE LOOKING FOR FEEDBACK FROM Y'ALL AS FAR AS HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS HAPPEN. AND WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ON THIS. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINIONS, THOUGHTS, RECOMMENDATIONS?

IT COULD BE US, OR IT COULD I WOULD HAVE PRESUMED IT WOULD BE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE. BUT IF IT'S AS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT TO HAVE OTHER PEOPLE, WE WANT TO APPOINT TO REPRESENT US IN A SUBCOMMITTEE, THAT'S FINE.

PELAEZ: DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE?

I PREFER IT BE US.

PELAEZ: OKAY. COUNCILWOMAN?

THANK YOU, SIR. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THROUGH THIS PROCESS THAT WE IDENTIFY FOLKS WHO UNDERSTAND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES BUT ALSO HAVE THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A SUBCOMMITTEE AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THAT SUBCOMMITTEE. WITH THAT, I MOVE TO ESTABLISH A SUBCOMMITTEE.

PELAEZ: ANYBODY WANT TO SECOND THAT? ALREADY, WE'VE GOT A MOTION AND SECOND. AND SO BUT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON IT?

YES.

PELAEZ: NOT

YES, I'D LIKE TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE.

CHAIR, YOU CAN HAVE TWO MEMBERS, BUT NOT THREE, BECAUSE THEN YOU HAVE A QUORUM.

PELAEZ: OH, RIGHT. COUNCILWOMAN ROCHA GARCIA? DO YOU HAVE ANY PREFERENCES?

ROCHA GARCIA: [OFF MIC].

I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THAT COUNCILMEMBER CASTILLO AND ROCHA GARCIA SERVE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

I'LL SECOND THAT.

PELAEZ: WE'VE GOT A MOTION AND A SECOND. WE DO HAVE TWO MOTIONS AND TWO SECONDS. AND [INDISCERNIBLE].

PELAEZ: IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE A SOLUTION IN THE MAKING. WE'VE GOT THE FIRST MOTION TO CREATE THE SUBCOMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR? NO OPPOSITION. THAT PASSES. AND WE'VE GOT AN EXCELLENT IDEA OF, YOU KNOW, HAVING IT IMPANELED AND THAT YOU, COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO, AND YOU COUNCILWOMAN ROCHA GARCIA SERVE ON IT. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR? THAT WAS UNANIMOUS. THAT WAS EASY. GIVE US SOMETHING HARD TO DO NEXT TIME. [OVERLAPPING SPEAKERS].

RIGHT NOW, THAT IS IT. I JUST WANT I KNOW JUSTINA DID MENTION THE COMPOSITION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD. THERE IS TWO COUNCILMEMBERS THAT SERVED PER THE BYLAWS. COUNCILMEMBER PELAEZ AND COUNCILMEMBER HAVRDA ALSO SERVED ON THAT. SO WE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE WANTED TO INCLUDE HER IN ANY WAY IN THE PRELIMINARY. SHE ISN'T A MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE, SO SHE WOULDN'T NECESSARILY COUNT TOWARD THE QUORUM, WOULD SHE? I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WANTED TO INCLUDE THAT OR

JUST KEEP IT TO

PELAEZ: I DON'T LIKE INVOKING THE NAME OF ANOTHER COUNCIL PERSON WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION. WHY DON'T WE ASK HER FIRST. UNLESS YOU HAVE ALREADY.

WE HAVE.

PELAEZ: WHO HAVE YOU ASKED?

WE COORDINATED WITH HER STAFF, I BELIEVE.

PELAEZ: WHAT DO YOU THINK, COUNCILWOMAN?

CABELLO HAVRDA.

ROCHA GARCIA: [NO MIC].

PELAEZ: ALL THOSE IN FAVOR? HEARING NO OPPOSITION, SHE'S BEEN ENROLLED ALSO. DO YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE ON THIS ITEM?

NO, SIR.

PELAEZ: LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE LAST ONE.

WHICH I BELIEVE THE LAST ITEM IS GOING TO BE PRESENTED BY OUR CHIEF PROTOCOL OFFICER.

GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND FOR THOSE OF WHO DON'T KNOW ME, MY NAME IS SHERRI. I SERVE AS THE CHIEF DIPLOMACY AND PROTOCOL OFFICER HERE AT THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO. BEFORE I START, I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF MR. WANALA AND MISS SWAIN WITH WHOM I HAVE SPOKEN EXTENSIVELY PREPARING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SESSION TODAY AND WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED EXTENSIVELY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND I KNOW THAT THE AVIATION DEPARTMENT IS IN THE ROOM, THEY MAY HAVE STEPPED OUT. BUT I KNOW GARCIA WAS GOING TO BE HERE FOR THE AIRPORT AS WELL. I'M HERE

TO TALK TO YOU AND FOLLOW UP ON A REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ON CONSIDERING THE EXPANSION OF OUR SISTER CITY PROGRAM IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA BEYOND THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE IN MEXICO. AND OUR TEAM AT THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAVE REALLY PUT TOGETHER A THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF OUR EXISTING RELATIONS, AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING NEXT. SO THE FIRST THING I'D LIKE TO START OFF WITH, YOU'LL ALL NOTICE IN FRONT OF YOU, YOU HAVE A BOOKLET CALLED SAN ANTONIO. THIS IS A BOOKLET THAT WAS PRINTED LAST YEAR. IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY, THE METRO PRIORITY PLAN THAT WE REFER TO THAT GUIDES THE WORK THAT WE DO IN THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OFFICE. THIS WAS VERY MUCH A DATA DRIVEN PROGRAM, STRATEGY PULLED TOGETHER USING DATA IN COOPERATION WITH THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTE GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE PROGRAM THAT WE HAD BEEN A PART OF SINCE 2014. WE WORKED ON THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN 2015, AND THEN IN 2017 TO 2019, WE WORKED ON A PROGRAM CALLED A METRO PRIORITY PLAN, REALLY TRYING TO FOCUS IN OUR EFFORTS AND NARROW DOWN WHERE WE WORKED INTERNATIONALLY. SO THIS BOOKLET WILL HELP PROVIDE A REFERENCE, IF YOU WANT TO READ ON IT LATER ON. BUT IT DOES INFORM THE WAY WE'RE WORKING AND THE STRATEGIES WE FOLLOW. NOW, THE BROOKINGS DATA, AND THE METRO PRIORITY PLAN, WHEN WE WENT THROUGH THEM, BASICALLY BROUGHT US TO OUR FOCUS ON FIVE PRIORITY METROS AROUND THE WORLD. THE GOAL OF OUR PLAN WAS TO CONTINUE TO LEVERAGE OUR IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS AROUND THE WORLD. WE HAVE 11 SISTER CITIES, THREE FRIENDSHIP CITIES AROUND THE WORLD. BUT WE ALSO PLAN TO AND CONTINUE TO WANT TO HAVE NEW RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO SAN ANTONIO, AND BRING INVESTMENT INTO SAN ANTONIO. SO THAT'S WHERE THIS PREMISE LIES. YOU'LL NOTICE THAT IN THAT GRAPHIC, FRANKFURT, GERMANY, TORONTO, CANADA, TOKYO, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA ARE AREAS OF THE WORLD WHERE WE HAVE A LOT OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FLOWS. AND WITH MEXICO PARTICULARLY, THE FOCUS IS MORE TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. AND AS I SAID, THE OTHER RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE HAVE, THE WORK THAT WE DO IS MORE ON THE COLLABORATION SIDE, WORKING ON DIPLOMACY, WORKING ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES AS WELL AS BUSINESS EXCHANGES. NOW, THE FOLLOWING GRAPHIC JUST SHOWS YOU OUR WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR '22. WE HAD A SIMILAR WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR '21, TOUCH POINTS WE WERE GOING TO HAVE WITH OUR FIVE PRIORITY METRO COUNTRIES. AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO KIND OF POINT OUT THAT

THIS IS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT WE'LL BE DOING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT JUST GIVES YOU A SENSE OF HOW WE'RE ADDRESSING THOSE FIVE PRIORITY METROS. NOW, WHEN WE STARTED LOOKING AT, AGAIN, HOW WE'RE GOING TO GO ABOUT CHOOSING WHAT TO BRING AS A RECOMMENDATION TO YOU, WE LOOKED AT A LOT OF FACTORS, AND THOSE FACTORS YOU CAN SEE RANGE FROM, YOU KNOW, WHAT TRADE AGREEMENTS THERE WERE BETWEEN COUNTRIES, WHAT THE DATA BROOKINGS HAD THAT WE HAD COLLECTED AS PART OF THE METRO PRIORITY PLAN, WHAT KINDS OF UNIVERSITY AGREEMENTS WERE IN PLACE WITH OUR SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. WE LOOKED AT MILITARY PARTNERSHIPS, AND AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO STRESS HERE THAT U.S. ARMY SOUTH, U.S. ARMY NORTH OF BOTH HEADQUARTERED OUT OF SAN ANTONIO. AGAIN, GENERAL AYALLA WILL BE ABLE TO TALK MORE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THE PARTNERSHIPS THAT U.S. ARMY SOUTH CULTIVATES THROUGH THE SAN ANTONIO THROUGH SAN ANTONIO. AND THEN, OF COURSE, WE HAVE OUR UNESCO DESIGNATIONS, AND COLLEEN SWAIN IS ABLE TO VERY WELL ARTICULATE THE IMPORTANT RELATIONS WE HAVE ON THE WORLD HERITAGE SIDE AS WELL AS THE CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK OF WHICH WE ARE A PART. WE ALSO TOOK INTO FACTORS MACROECONOMIC DATA, USING DATA, GDP, AND WE ALSO LOOKED AT THE DIASPORA IN SAN ANTONIO, THE LATIN AMERICANS WHO ASSOCIATE WITH CERTAIN PARTS OF LATIN AMERICA, TO KIND OF GET A BIGGER PICTURE. AND THEN WE CARRIED OUT A SURVEY. IT WAS REALLY A COMMUNITY SURVEY, BUT WITH A VERY, VERY SMALL TARGETED AUDIENCE, WHERE WE INTERVIEWED SOME OF OUR CITY DEPARTMENTS THAT I'VE ALREADY MENTIONED, AND ASKED THEM FOR SOME INPUT. AND THEN WE REACHED OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY TO OUR HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS, TO SOME BUSINESS PARTNERS AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS TO GET THEIR INPUT OVERALL. AND I WOULD SAY THAT, YOU KNOW, IN THIS WHAT REALLY COMES OUT OF THE SURVEY IS THE MILITARY CONNECTIONS, THE ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS, THE BUSINESS CONNECTIONS, THE CULTURAL CONNECTIONS, AS WELL AS TOURISM AND AVIATION. WHEN WE WERE TAKING ALL THAT DATA, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT CAME BACK. BUT THE COUNTRIES THAT GOT THE MOST MENTION IN OUR DATA WERE BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA. THOSE WERE THE COUNTRIES THAT HAD THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF MENTIONS. SO WE THEN KIND OF JUST STARTED TO DO MORE OF A DEEP DIVE INTO THOSE THREE COUNTRIES AS THE ONES WITH THE MOST MENTIONS. AND HERE YOU'LL SEE SOME DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS WHERE WE STARTED TO LOOK AT THE

POPULATION, THAT'S SELF IDENTIFIED IN SAN ANTONIO WITH THOSE COUNTRIES IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. AND YOU'LL NOTICE SOMETHING, AN INTERESTING TREND WITH ALL OF THE POPULATIONS, YOU KNOW, AND I'M GOING TO NARROW DOWN HERE IN THE PANAMANIAN AND BRAZILIANS, THERE HAS BEEN AN UPWARD GROWTH IN RESIDENTS FROM THOSE FROM THAT PART OF THE WORLD. WE SEE THAT THE NUMBER OF PANAMANIAN OR PEOPLE WHO SELF IDENTIFY AS PANAMANIAN IN THE CENSUS HAS INCREASED 78%. THE NUMBER OF COLOMBIANS INCREASED 57%. THEN THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY WHICH IS MUCH SMALLER, YET HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 294% IN SAN ANTONIO. YOU'LL NOTICE ALSO THAT OUR PANAMANIAN AND COLOMBIAN POPULATION ARE PRETTY CLOSE IN NUMBERS. YOU KNOW, THEY'RE JUST OVER 4,000, 4 1/2 THOUSAND. REMEMBER, THIS DATA IS BASED ON HOW PEOPLE SELF REPORT IN THE CENSUS. IT MAY BE MUCH HIGHER THAN WHAT WE SEE OVER THERE. NOW, IN THIS SLIDE, I THINK IT'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THAT WHEN WE WERE LOOKING AT THE CITIES AND WHAT CITY WOULD BE BEST ALIGNED, THERE'S ALIGNMENT WITH A NUMBER OF CITIES. THESE ARE NOT THE ONLY CITIES. BUT OF COURSE, WE HAD TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION. AND SO FOR BRAZIL, WE LOOKED AT CURITIBA, THE EIGHTH LARGEST CITY IN BRAZIL, FOURTH LARGEST ECONOMY. BOGÓTA IS MUCH LARGER THAN SAN ANTONIO IF WE WERE TO COMPARE POPULATION SETS. PANAMA CITY IS THE CAPITAL OF PANAMA, BUT PANAMA CITY IS JUST OVER HALF OF OUR OWN POPULATION. SO YOU SEE SOME VARIATIONS THERE. NOW, BRAZIL IS IN A DIFFERENT PART OF SOUTH AMERICA. AND THEN WHEN YOU LOOK AT COLOMBIA AND PANAMA ON A MAP, THEY ARE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IN FACT, HISTORICALLY, PANAMA WAS PART OF COLOMBIA. UNTIL PANAMA BECAME ITS OWN INDEPENDENT NATION. AND SO WE RECOMMEND, AND AGAIN, WE LOOKED AT AND I'M GOING TO SAY THAT I THINK AS WE WERE LOOKING AT ALL THE DATA, WE WERE THINKING, OKAY, WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR US IS, WHAT RELATIONSHIPS WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL TO THE WORK THAT THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO IS DOING RIGHT NOW TO AS PART OF ITS THE WORK THAT IT DOES. AND WHEN WE LOOKED AT IT WITH THAT LENS, IT BECAME QUITE OBVIOUS TO US THAT WE HAD TO TAKE THE REGIONAL APPROACH WITH COLUMBIA AND PANAMA. I WOULD SAY STARTING WITH PANAMA AND COLOMBIA, BUT THAT REGIONAL APPROACH IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS. WE HAVE, AND I'D LIKE TO SINGLE OUT HERE, OUR AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING FOR YEARS TIRELESSLY ON GETTING A DIRECT FLIGHT INTO LATIN AMERICA. AND WE KNOW THAT, AGAIN, OUR EFFORTS IN THIS

AREA COULD BENEFIT THE AVIATION PLANS. ALSO, WE KNOW THAT THE WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE, AGAIN, AS PART OF THE WORK THAT THEY DO WITH, SAY, CREATIVE CITY NETWORKS, THEY WILL ALSO POTENTIALLY BENEFIT FROM RELATIONSHIPS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. SO MOVING ON TO THE NEXT ONE, SLIDE. I THINK WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO GO AFTER ALL THREE CITIES AT THIS POINT. SO WE HAVE TO MAYBE TAKE A STAGGERED APPROACH. SO FIRST, GO WITH THIS REGIONAL APPROACH, WITH PANAMA CITY, BOGOTA, TRAVEL IS EASY TO GO TO BOTH COUNTRIES AT THE SAME TIME. AND THEN IN THE FUTURE, COME BACK AND THEN TARGET CURITIBA AND BRAZIL. IT'S NOT ELIMINATING, JUST TAKING A STAGGERED APPROACH WITH THE ARGUMENT I GAVE YOU. ABOUT BOGOTA AND COLOMBIA, SOMETHING, AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT IS BOGOTA IS A CAPITAL CITY, AND IS A CULTURAL CITY. IT'S BEEN DEEMED THE ATHENS OF SOUTH AMERICA. IT IS A UNESCO CREATIVE CITY OF MUSIC. IN TERMS OF ITS INDUSTRY, I'VE LISTED THERE MANUFACTURING, LIFE SCIENCES ARE VERY IMPORTANT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IS VERY IMPORTANT. BUT SOMETHING THAT I'D LIKE TO SINGLE OUT ABOUT BOGOTA IS THEIR BECAUSE RAPID TRANSIT. THEY MOVE 69% OF THEIR POPULATION ON THEIR WORLD RENOWNED BRT SYSTEM. AND THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN ACTUALLY LEARN FROM. AND AGAIN, THEY HAVE COLOMBIA IS A COUNTRY THAT HAS VERY IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH THE UNITED STATES. AND ALSO LOCALLY WE HAVE A NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS THROUGH OUR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, THE UNIVERSITY OF INCARNATE WORD WHICH JUST ANNOUNCED THE INSTITUTE FOR THE AMERICAS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE, YOU KNOW, LAUNCHING, AND IT'S VERY EXCITING. THEY'LL BE WORKING ACROSS LATIN AMERICA THROUGH THEIR INSTITUTE. AND THEN UTSA, WHICH ALSO HAS NOT ONLY PARTNERSHIPS AT UNIVERSITIES IN BOGOTA, BUT ALSO THROUGH THEIR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS, THEY ARE DOING SOME AMAZING WORK ACROSS LATIN AMERICA, INCLUDING COLOMBIA AND PANAMA. AND THEN WE HAVE OUR AVIATION DEPARTMENT OF SAN ANTONIO WHO REALLY HAVE THE TOURISM APPROACH. THE NEXT SLIDE TAKES US TO PANAMA CITY, SOMETHING HERE TO MENTION TO YOU IS, OF COURSE, PANAMA CITY, AGAIN, IS STRATEGICALLY VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS A CANAL THROUGH WHICH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF WORLD AND GLOBAL TRADE GOES THROUGH, BUT THEY ARE ALSO GEOPOLITICALLY ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES. SO AGAIN, FOR MILITARY, THERE IS A LOT OF IMPORTANCE THERE IN MAKING SURE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL IS SAFE, AND THEN WE HAVE GREAT COMPATIBILITY ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE AS

WELL AS OUR CREATIVE CITIES. PANAMA CITY IS A CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY. A PERFECT ALIGNMENT FOR US, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLUSTER. AND ALLOWS US TO HAVE MORE COLLABORATIONS. LOCALLY WE HAVE CONNECTIVITY THROUGH SOME OF OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AGAIN, OUR AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND THIS IS SAN ANTONIO. I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT H E B. IT'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT SAN ANTONIO COMPANY IS DOING A LARGE AMOUNT OF TRADE ACROSS MANY LATIN AMERICAN COMPANIES. IT IS BENEFICIAL ON THE BUSINESS SIDE WITH COMPANIES LIKE H E B. SO WITH THAT, I THINK I COME TO MY LAST SLIDE and talk about next steps, we would like to suggest that for fiscal year '22 we focus on bringing together a community Task Force, and this community Task Force would include members from within the City of San Antonio, from different departments I mentioned earlier, as well as from our different stakeholders in the community within the academic sector and the business sector, and would also then want to also engage the members of the organizations like the Colombian or Panamanian organizations here. We would work on a work plan where we could kind of hit the salient points that we could have collaboration on, and again, it's about the community getting involved. These are people to people relationships that we want to foster, and not direct the conversation. And then we would propose that in fiscal year '23, there be a trade and cultural mission again to the region, Columbia and Panama, to develop those relationships more. Just a quick insertion, we know that next summer, in July, again, through the work of our aviation department, there's going to be the Texas Panama business summit hosted in San Antonio, and so that's a phenomenal opportunity, again, to engage on the business side with businesses from Panama, and potentially even a visit by the Mayor of Panama city. And then in the kind of looking again at taking a long term view, we feel that as we engage and as we get to know each other and we can sign letters of agreement to cooperate in different areas, the ultimate goal will be to get to establishing a sister city relationship which could happen either, you know, over a two year period, that's why I put that as a kind of continuous two year goal, we are talking about two different cities. So with that, I end my presentation, and I'm happy to answer any questions you have. And also I know that general Ayala and Colleen Swain and Jose Luis Garcia is happy to contribute to any

Councilwoman, Viagran, any questions or comments.

Viagran: No, I think starting Panama city is a great idea. I know a lot of people super

excited about that direct flight. I think this is a good move. But I would like to make sure that we keep Brazil on the radar. I think we need to kind of work with our Latin American countries, and I would like to see an aspect of our our environmental the things that we do here, the way we can serve water, the way we take care of our river, I think that would be something that we could share with others.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Councilwoman, Rocha Garcia.

Thank you for the presentation. I like that we try to establish relationships. This morning I was at a presentation, so was councilwoman Viagran, it was for visit San Antonio, and one of their international markets that they're tapping into, strategic plan through 2025 is Brazil, and so I'm glad that we'll keep looking at that. I appreciate the thoughtful consideration as to why we would start with looking at cities in Columbia. I do have a question. Are you familiar with (indiscernible).

Yes, of course.

Okay. So I wish the innovation folks were still here, I think they created a really sustainable planet, and I would love to see something similar, which I guess is technically related, but maybe not kind of related, but is there anything like that that you could see in any of our other sister cities that we might be able to emulate.

Those two are the roots that you reference are very similar. Again, it's the part of the BRT system that Bogota has, and it all started out of Brazil. So a City of Innovation in Brazil, it was the only city that came out in the Brookings data in terms of a cybersecurity City of Brazil, and there's a lot of alignment with our local Universities and partnerships they have. So in terms of our other sister cities and innovation and transportation, we know that in Asia, there's a lot of the bullet trains that move people around, but in terms of the BRT, I think you have just touched on those examples in South America.

Rocha Garcia:. Wonderful. Anything we can do to leverage, I think they're, again, doing a wonderful job. I I I focused in on the fact that this is all about relationship building, right? And so this is a global market and so anything that we can do to share that information back and forth, I would be financially supportive of, I want to publicly thank you because you have been instrumental in our relationship with CEDA organization here, and so with the volcano eruption, which has now there's been more than 35,000 earthquakes and it's destroyed just more than 1300 buildings I think last that I read the report, and so I mean, volcanic rocks the size of cars, and so although that is not a sister city in particular, when we're referencing to the island of la Palma, we have sister cities with two of the other islands, so they're being affected by the gas, et cetera, right? And so toxic fumes that result from the buildings that are being demolished by the lava, so I want to just make the point that even though we have these sister cities that we could still learn from some of their surrounding areas and really use that to leverage some of the relationships. Thank you for your work on that, I appreciate you, thank you.

Councilwoman, I think the humanitarian assistance is one of the Pillars of relationship building, and if we look back historically, there's been a number of examples where San Antonio has stepped up and through the community have supported our sister cities in the last few years. Thank you.

Councilwoman.

(indiscernible) no questions or comment, thank you for the presentation.

Thank you, councilman courage.

Courage: Thank you, chair, as I think about building relationships with other cities, I always wonder, you know, are those cities politically stable, are they economically more stable, are there business or trade possibilities that we could develop, and what is their perception of the United States? And I think those are some important ingredients, and I wonder Colombia, you know, ten years ago was in the middle of a drug war, they had their own interior problem, they weren't on our top ten list. Panama even today, I think a lot of people have a great resentment against the United States over the Panama canal, and our continuing representation there. So I

wonder if factors like that can affect the effectiveness of trying to establish relationships with any city? And I'm just thinking about what I know about those two. I'm sure you've done your homework and you've really probably looked at some of those factors, and I hope that if we move forward on any of these cities that we're always constantly aware of those possibilities and those kinds of concerns, but I want to top that off by saying that I think the future for San Antonio really lies to the south. You know, our huge Hispanic population, and where we're situated should be San Antonio should be the gateway to North America and to the United States for central and South America. Shouldn't be Houston and it shouldn't be Los Angeles, it should be San Antonio. And so I would like to see us develop a growing relationship with central and South America for those purposes, and I think it can really pay off in the long term. But I'm always going to be a little cautious about the history of the countries that we may be, or the Cities we may be working with. But, you know, I'd like to see this go forward, but I hope we'll watch carefully as we go forward on these.

Thank you, councilman.

Well, you know I love this, because this was my CCR, and so I'll tell you Alex, I don't know if I told you, but I was baptized in Bogota, I went to Elementary School there, and I got to participate in the first Ciclovía ever, in the future, when we talk about this plan, I think it's important to mention Ciclovía, I think we were the first city in the United States to adopt a Ciclovía, it's one of the most popular activities that Colombians, that people in Bogota do. I want to tell you, Toyota manufacturing has I think a factory still there, and it's important maybe add that, right? There is a relationship there that we've got, you know, through that big company, the other thing is you help me bring the ambassador of Colombia here earlier this year, he's really excited about talking to you guys about Avianca and some of the other budget airlines they've got there, doing direct flights. It's harder and harder to fly into Miami and Houston for Colombians, the other thing I want to mention to you is the CIA, not the spook, but the Culinary institute, did I use the right word, the spooks? [Laughter] We have a really robust program teaching central and south American cooking, that's why the chefs come here, as opposed to the CIA up in the Northeast coast, because we are doing the the, you know, that kind of continuing this south American and Central American tradition of art and food and so anyway, I think this is I think this is wonderful, and I think you need action today, right, to forward this to the full

council for a green light?

We don't actually we're not going to take it to full council. We want to make sure that we had support for the next steps you see up on the slide right now.

Yeah, I don't I think yeah, I think we heard that. And then general Ayala and I, we got to visit with the head of army south, right, and he was telling us this made him really excited because of the participation of every central and south American country in army south's training program here in San Antonio.

They're going places, knuckle heads down here so sorry. [Laughter] (indiscernible) we've had the relationship, plus we've had the international Air Force school here since 1943 graduate 800 central and south American students out of San Antonio. We have a language school here, so we have a lot of existing relationships we can build on.

So lastly, I'll leave you with this, and then we can move on. I have a I go to Colombia every two years. Last time I was there, I visited with pro Colombia and their inbound and outbound Economic Development teams, and the one thing that drove me nuts, I kept saying San Antonio is open for business, come to San Antonio, right? And they said we already know San Antonio. You guys are on our map. You guys are an ideal destination for us. But your airport really is sub par and it's difficult to get to you. And by the way, you know, where have you been all these years because Houston has a fulltime office in Colombia and so does Calgary and so does Dallas, and they're here every six months. Okay, well, we can do better. We speak Spanish for God's sake, right? And so I'm excited about this, thank you, Sherri, for your presentation, thank you, Alex, for taking it seriously and putting the time into it.

Councilman, we will be welcoming a delegation from Houston who are Latin American consuls to San Antonio in the middle of December, and so we have a full program, two day program for them. It include as visit to the Culinary Institute of The Americas, as well as a visit to velocity Texas, and of course we know that velocity is also promoting a big global accelerator program across Latin America, so you will be meeting with them, it's already on your calendar.

My hope is that the other councilmembers will meet with them too, right?

Yes.

Because velocity and some of these other companies are directly impacting y'all's districts, you know, with startups and with, you know, and the companies with whom they work, and so anyway, thanks, I appreciate it very much. I think that brings us to an executive session, is that right? Thank you for showing up, thank you, appreciate it, the time is now whatever time it is the time is now 3:28. And the economic and workforce development committee will now convene in executive session to consult with the attorneys pursuant to the provisions of section 551 of the Government code, where we're going to deliberate regarding Economic Development negotiations. [Executive session]