

City of San Antonio



Minutes Intergovernmental Relations 2021 – 2023 Council Members

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5
Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6 | Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7
Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager

Monday, November 28, 2022

9:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in City Hall at 9:11 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*
Teri Castillo, *Member*
Ana Sandoval, *Member*

Members Absent: Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve the minutes from the October 17, 2002 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Sandoval
Absent: Cabello Havrda

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing and possible action on the City's Federal Legislative Program for the 118th Congress. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Governmental Affairs Director Sally Basurto provided an overview of the City's Federal Legislative Program for the 118th Congress. She reviewed the timeline for staff to receive guidelines and input from the City Council for the Legislative Session. She noted the Program development which included feedback from City departments, consultants and stakeholders. She stated that the Program structure was based on the City's identified seven pillars to include: 1) Infrastructure, Resiliency & Transportation, 2) Housing, 3) Workforce Development, 4) Public Health & Human Services, 5) Economic & Community Development, 6) Military Protection, and 7) Public Safety.

Basurto provided specifics for each pillar program concentration and sectors impacted or supported by the City of San Antonio. She spoke to current City and State Programs which could be expanded or challenged by steps taken in the 118th Legislative Session. Basurto reviewed the City's partnerships which staff utilized under the Legislative Session.

DISCUSSION

Chair Pelaez noted that City staff work with community partners was instrumental in communicating City priorities at the Legislative Session. He stated that it was important to include non-profit community input especially delegate agencies to support City programs. He also stated that community communications were key to assure that community interests were discussed at the Legislature and that a report of these items be provided to the community. Chair Pelaez asked that domestic violence and foster care issues be included in these reports.

Councilmember Sandoval expressed support to Chair Pelaez request to include the non-profit sector in the Legislature. She noted that reauthorization of the Farm Bill was important to address the need for food for children and families. She stated that she wanted to provide feedback on particulars to the Farm Bill and she requested a meeting with staff to discuss. Councilmember Sandoval asked for clarification in the Access to Internet Program efforts. Basurto provided clarification on the digital divide bi-partisan efforts to decrease broadband gaps. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle expanded on broadband efforts at the State and Federal level to include visiting with The Broadband Office for the State of Texas.

Councilmember Sandoval stated that resiliency and domestic abuse issues were crucial to address at the Legislative Session and requested expanded reports on those topics. Basurto stated that efforts of staff and partners would be communicated back to the Committee and City Council.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked for clarification on the loss of airport slots or opportunities and risks of possible losses. Basurto stated that the determination of removing or loss of slots was made at the Federal Aviation Administration and with Airline Companies. Assistant City Manager Coyle expanded the explanation of loss of airport slots at Airports and stated that it was a complicated process to lose a slot but would be brought forward for consideration mainly by an airline company.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that under the Public Safety pillar it was important to address immigration reform and anti-trafficking issues. She stressed that it was important for the City to address comprehensive immigration reform. Coyle stated that staff would work with the council districts to identify all issues associated with immigration to include the Dreamers Act, anti-

trafficking and safety.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia also stressed that it was important to address Women's Equality issues and Green Energy Economy issues to include red-lining for energy burdened households and fossil fuel dependency. She noted that research and development was still needed on these topics.

Councilmember Castillo stated that mortality rates for Veterans were higher than those of civilians for drug and substance abuse. She noted that infrastructure for drainage and flood mitigation was highly needed in her council district and asked if grant funding could be utilized for these efforts.

Councilmember Castillo asked if affordability for housing tax credits for low incomes would be continued in the future since they were up for expiration. Basurto stated that staff would research opportunities and details for the low income housing credits.

Councilmember Castillo asked if labor union leadership was included in stakeholder meetings. Basurto stated that staff had not met with labor unions in the past but would look for opportunities to obtain feedback. Councilmember Castillo asked for consideration of programs for formerly incarcerated individuals and possible grant funding for workforce training and housing. Basurto stated that staff would look into opportunities.

Chair Pelaez requested a document which highlighted issues and available grants for those issues. He stated that he would provide a sample document for staff to review and capture for the upcoming meeting briefings. Basurto stated that staff would expand on the reports to the Committee after reviewing the shared document to include issue documents for full City Council review. Chair Pelaez stated that it was also important to share the document with stakeholder partners. He stated that it was important to support partners such as the University of Texas at San Antonio at the Federal and State level. Basurto stated that she would meet with the higher education sector to discuss priorities.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Approve for B Session consideration. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Pelaez, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Sandoval
Absent: Cabello Havrda

3. Briefing on Federal Representation Services contracts. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Governmental Affairs Director Sally Basurto provided on an overview of the Federal Representative Services contract and services provided under the contract. She noted that consultants provided access to members of Congress at the State and Federal level. She noted that there were two concurrent (RFP) for a Washington DC Liaison and a Local Federal Liaison and she reviewed the scope of work, evaluation team, and the approval milestones of the solicitation. She noted that there were six respondents for the Washington DC Liaison contract and two respondents for the local representative.

Basurto stated that the evaluation team identified Akin Gump for the Washington DC Liaison contact and Serna and Serna, Inc. for the Local Federal Liaison contract. Basurto provided an overview of each of the firms' staff and service specialties and the proposed terms of each contract.

DISCUSSION

Chair Pelaez stated that Akin Gump would replace two firms into one unified firm and that he was in support of the Item.

Councilmember Sandoval asked how funding sources would be consolidated under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) especially under the Resiliency Fund. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that currently, the Resiliency Fund had not been considered for use to hire more lobbyists but that it could be considered in the future. Councilmember Sandoval stated that it was important to address environmental issues at the City level.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia stated that it was important to leverage the National League of Cities partnership to communicate City priorities.

Chair Pelaez expressed concern on only having one firm to address the City's priorities but noted that Akin Gump was a strong firm. He asked if another firm could be added if the need arose. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that a firm could be added and that Akin Gump was a very strong firm that already worked with the City of Houston and could combine Texas priorities.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM.

***Councilmember Manny Pelaez,
Chairman***

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk