

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**

City Hall Complex
San Antonio, Texas 78205

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2
Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4
Teri Castillo, Dist. 5 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6
Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7 | Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8
John Courage, Dist. 9 | Clayton Perry, Dist. 10

Thursday, September 8, 2022

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:24 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Council Members present:

PRESENT: 11 – Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

ABSENT: None

PROCEDURAL

1. Invocation

The invocation was delivered by the Father Richard Samour of St. Claire's Catholic Church, guest of Councilmember Rocha Garcia, Council District 4.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nirenberg led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes for the City Council meetings of August 23, 2022 and August 24, 2022.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to approve. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello
Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mayor Nirenberg welcomed the visiting delegations from Gwangju, South Korea and provided an official congratulations for the 40-year Sister City relationship between Gwangju and San Antonio. Councilmember Courage welcomed the delegation and Councilmember Rocha Garcia thanked local Korean-owned solar company OCI for assisting with the recent migrant tragedy in Council District 4 by providing solar lights.

Councilmember Viagran announced the annual World Heritage Festival occurring in Council District 3, its events and the Gwangju Exhibit.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recognized September as National Hunger Action Month and invited Mario Obledo, representative of the San Antonio Food Bank, to speak.

Councilmember Perry requested a moment of silence in honor of the anniversary of 9/11/2001 and spoke in honor of those who lost their lives, the first responders, and those who joined the military because of the terror attack.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez announced the upcoming Health Equity Symposium and thanked Councilmember Sandoval for her leadership and announced that September was Suicide Prevention Month.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recognized members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Commission who were in attendance at the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase of Services, Supplies and Equipment

4. 2022-09-08-0661

Ordinance approving purchase contracts with Cavender Ford Motor Company, dba Cavender Grande Ford, Doggett Freightliner of South Texas, LLC, and Santex Truck Centers, Ltd., dba Kyrish Truck Center of San Antonio, to provide medium and heavy-duty trucks for a total cost of \$4,412,299. Funding is from the FY 2022 Equipment and Renewal and Replacement Fund budget in the amount of \$3,840,220, the Solid Waste Operations and Maintenance Fund budget in the amount of \$155,334, and contingent on City Council approval of the 2023 Budget, \$416,745

from the Equipment Renewal and Replacement Fund. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

5. 2022-09-08-0662

Ordinance approving the following contracts and amendments establishing unit prices for goods and services for an estimated annual cost of \$1,016,500, included in the respective department's FY 2022 Adopted Budget: (A) Terrabella Environmental Services, Inc., for medical waste disposal services; (B) Hazcore Environmental, Inc., for cleaning and sanitation services; (C) Easy Ice, LLC, for ice machine equipment leasing services; (D) Consolidated Traffic Controls, Inc., for audible pedestrian signals; (E) Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., for HIV and Syphilis test kits; (F) Zoll Medical Corporation, for Amendment VI for Zoll Defibrillator X-Series 12 Lead defibrillators and maintenance; and (G) Medwheels, Inc., for Amendment IV for the purchase of Zoll Defibrillator X-Series 12 Lead accessories. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

Capital Improvements

6. 2022-09-08-0663

Ordinance approving the 2022 - 2024 Task Order Contract for Pavement Markings, Package A in an amount not to exceed \$3,876,426.80 to M&M Striping and Power Washing, LLC for completion of roadway pavement markings. Funding is from the General Fund and contingent upon approval of the FY 2023 Proposed Budget. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

7. 2022-09-08-0664

Ordinance approving the 2022 - 2024 Task Order Contract for Pavement Markings, Package B in an amount not to exceed \$3,526,676.80 to M&M Striping and Power Washing, LLC for completion of roadway pavement markings. Funding is from the General Fund and contingent upon approval of the FY 2023 Proposed Budget. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager;

Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works Department]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real Property

8. 2022-09-08-0665

Ordinance approving the surplus sale of an unimproved property located at 1538 W. Hermosa Drive within New City Block 7089 for a fee of \$13,700 to be deposited into the City's General Fund. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

Grant Applications and Awards

9. 2022-09-08-0666

Ordinance accepting funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury, ERA-1 Program, including a \$3,890,042.51 grant from ERA-1 Reallocated Funds, Round 3 paid directly to the City; and a \$2,000,000 grant from ERA-1 funds, as a subrecipient of Bexar County, to provide rental assistance. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department].

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

10. 2022-09-08-0667

Ordinance approving the submission of a grant application and the acceptance of funds upon award from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) as part of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Program in the amount of \$5,500,000 to fund the design, construction and safety campaign costs for the Vision Zero Program. The SS4A Grant requires a 20% match of \$1,100,000, leveraging General Fund Vision Zero funding, and authorizing the Transportation Department to execute any and all related documents. [Roderick J. Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Tomika Monterville, Director, Transportation Department]

Councilmembers Cabello Havrda and Castillo highlighted their support for the Item.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

City Code Amendments

11. 2022-09-08-0668

Ordinance amending Chapter 12 Entitled "Vacant Structures" of the City Code to adopt Deconstruction Regulations for Residential and Accessory Structures within the City of San Antonio And Establishing Penalties. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Shanon Shea Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation]

Councilmember Bravo moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage
No: Perry

Boards, Commissions and Committee Appointments

12. Approving the following Board, Commission, and Committee appointments for the remainder of an unexpired term of office to expire May 31, 2023 [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

- A. Appointing Andre Greene (District 5) to the Disability Access Advisory Committee
- B. Appointing Jennifer Ramage (District 2) to the Parks and Recreation Board
- C. Appointing Tricia Fayadh (District 5) to the City of San Antonio Commission on Strengthening Family Well-Being
- D. Reappointing Robert Gonzales (District 5) to the Transportation Advisory Board
- E. Reappointing Maria Cruz (District 5) to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

Councilmembers Castillo and McKee-Rodriguez highlighted their support for the appointments and reappointments from Council Districts 2 and 5.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

Miscellaneous

13. 2022-09-08-0669

Ordinance approving the issuance by the Public Finance Authority of its Project Revenue Bonds (Provident Group – Los Cielos Residential Rental Housing Development) in one or more series

(the “Bonds”) for purposes of Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code. [Ben Gorzell, Jr., Chief Financial Officer, Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer].

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

14. CONTINUED

Resolution consenting to the application by SJWTX, Inc. for Water and Sewer Certificates of Convenience and Necessity within the City’s Extra Territorial Jurisdiction. [Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer]

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Continue to September 29, 2022. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

Upon request of Councilmember Bravo, Chief Financial Officer Ben Gorzell provided an overview of the Item which was a consent by the City of San Antonio as owner of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to transfer a portion of its service area in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction to allow the SJWTX to operate water and sewer instead of SAWS.

Councilmember Perry requested a map of the area and proximity to Camp Bullis. Staff provided a map of the property in Kendall County and a SAWS Representative stated that the property was west of Camp Bullis. Councilmember Perry expressed concern that the property was within the five-mile radius of Camp Bullis which would allow for development in the area surrounding Camp Bullis. SAWS Representative noted that for future development, the owners would need to go through the Planning and Zoning Process. Gorzell commented that the agreement was related to who would provide the water and sewer service, not whether the property could be developed. Councilmember Perry requested an individual briefing on the Item.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that the SAWS process for providing Water and Sewer Certificates normally included a discussion with Joint Base San Antonio (Joint Base San Antonio) but JBSA had no approval authority. He explained that whichever water system serviced the area was required to provide service. City Attorney Andy Segovia confirmed the utility’s requirement.

Councilmember Pelaez commented that in the past, most of these types of items near Camp Bullis had always been coordinated with JBSA.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Continue the Item to September 29, 2022. Councilmember Perry seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, Perry

15. 2022-09-08-0670

Ordinance accepting and appropriating funds from the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma in an amount up to \$1,092,722 to the San Antonio Fire Department for the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Unit. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Charles Hood, Fire Chief]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda highlighted her support for the Item.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

16. WITHDRAWN

WITHDRAWN Ordinance approving a professional services agreement with Digitech Computer, LLC, to create and implement for a Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program for the San Antonio Fire Department. Revenues received from this program will be deposited into the General Fund. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Item was withdrawn and not discussed at this meeting.

17. 2022-09-08-0671

Ordinance extending line-of-duty injury leave for San Antonio Fire Department Firefighter Michael Guerra. [Maria Villagomez, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

18. 2022-09-08-0672

Ordinance approving the commitment of up to \$250,000 FY 2023 SAWS fee waivers for each of two affordable housing projects by Atlantic Pacific Communities that includes Vista at Silver Oaks, located at Silver Oaks and Brazil Drive and Vista at Thousand Oaks, located at Thousand Oaks near El Sendero Dr. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

DISCUSSION:

Councilmember Courage highlighted his support for the Item noting that affordable housing was

for working folks.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

19. 2022-09-08-0673

Ordinance approving a funding agreement for the Shotgun House Rehabilitation Program with the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Affordable Housing, Inc. (SAAH) in the amount of \$302,000.00, appropriated from Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund NHSD operations. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Jack Finger spoke in opposition to the Item.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve on the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Castillo, Cabello Havrda, Courage, Perry, Sandoval, Pelaez

PUBLIC HEARING

20. Public Hearings on the City's 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2023 Proposed Budget and the FY 2023 Proposed Budget. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Office of Management and Budget]

City Clerk, Debbie Racca-Sittre read the Caption.

Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Justina Tate provided a brief presentation on the Item detailing the different types and amounts of funding that made up the City's FY 2023 Proposed \$3.4 million total City Budget: General Fund, Restricted Funds and Capital Program Funds. Tate stated that the proposed ad valorem tax rate would provide \$95 million in City Property Tax relief through exemptions and a reduction in the City's property tax rate of 1.67 cents per \$100 valuation. Tate closed her presentation by providing a timeline for adoption.

Mayor Nirenberg opened the second of two Combined FY 2023 Budget & 2022 Tax Rate Public Hearings and announced that anyone who wanted to express their views could do so, however, comments were to be limited to matters about the Budget or Tax Rate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the MLK Commission (Jessica Kemp, Commission Chair Dwayne Robinson, March Chair Dana Lockridge, President Russell LeDay, and Linda Tippins) requested an increase in the

Commission's budget from \$100,000 to \$300,000 to support the 2023 MLK March.

Mariah Smith spoke in opposition to \$10 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Funding) for Texas BioMed in the FY 2023 Proposed Budget.

Jack Finger observed that the average property tax reduction was expected to be \$63 and the average rebate for CPS Energy would be \$30. Finger suggested reducing the following expenditures to save money including closing the illegal alien resource center and defunding the Arts & Culture Department.

Martin Leyvani shared his experience with the Bexar County Appraisal District's tax protest process and expressed concern that even though he protested every year, the increase was still 10% every year.

Hector Vega, small business owner of a small mechanics shop on Old Highway 90, stated that he never asked for assistance during the pandemic and has struggled but the City's construction on Old Highway 90 created extreme hardships and decreased his business. He commented that his industry was not eligible for the new ARPA Funding and requested loans and access to capital for his business.

Having heard all public comments from those citizens wishing to be heard on the Budget and Tax Rate, Mayor Nirenberg closed the second of two Combined FY 2023 Budget & 2022 Tax Rate Public Hearing.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Erik Walsh announced that TVSA won three awards from the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors. He commented that the Human Resources Department was recruiting at last night's concert at the Alamodome. He showed a video spotlighting SWMD employee Ashley Montes and Stephen Kerr with the Parks & Recreation Department.

City Manager Walsh played a video commemorating the opening of new Public Art Project at the River Walk Public Art Garden: Labor Plaza featuring narration by Krystal Jones, Director of the Department of Arts & Culture.

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting for lunch at 11:58 AM.

Mayor Nirenberg called the meeting out of recess at 1:10 PM. City Clerk Racca-Sittre took roll noting a quorum was present.

Mayor Nirenberg announced the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Budget Work Session

21. Staff presentation on the FY 2023 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments or Initiatives: [Erik Walsh, City Manager, Justina Tate, Director, Management & Budget]

- A. Convention Sports Facilities
- B. Arts & Culture
- C. VisitSA

City Manager Erik Walsh introduced the Department Directors

Patricia Muzquiz Cantor, Director of the Convention, Sports & Facilities (CSF) Department, provided an overview of the \$96.4 million Proposed FY 2023 Budget, a 60% increase over the prior year. Cantor noted that most of the cost increases were related to capital projects, facility maintenance contract, and personnel but the Proposed Budget included a level amount of staffing at 358 positions. Cantor displayed a chart of historic appropriations from FY 2019 through FY 2023.

Cantor stated that Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) collections were on the rebound since the pandemic and were proposed to be \$101.2 million, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (HBGCC) Revenues projected to collect \$18.1 million in FY 2023 and projections for Alamodome (Dome) were \$13 million. Cantor added that hosting Obligations were \$1.6 million, and \$167 million over the 6-year Capital Program with \$23.3 million to make the Dome ready for the NCAA Men's Final Four, \$12 million for HBGCC and \$1.5 million for Wolff Stadium.

Cantor provided performance measures for each facility: HBGCC, Dome and Carver Center including attendance and number of events from FY 2019 through proposed FY 2023 numbers. Cantor listed some notable events such as the US Travel Associations IPW and Spurs showcase.

Marc Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of Visit San Antonio (VSA), presented VSA's FY 2023 Proposed Budget and organizational goals noting that VSA's FY 2023 expenses were proposed to be \$28.7 million, a 44% increase with HOT funding comprising 90% of the organization's revenue. He announced that their offices would be moving to Houston Street and provided performance measures related to events bookings, leads generated, online engagement, earned media value and partner/membership revenue. Anderson stated that the forecast included a historic high for average daily hotel room rate as well as occupancy of 69%.

Anderson stated that the 2022 "Real and True" Marketing Campaign would take San Antonio's story global with the goal of increasing international media attention and positioning San Antonio as a premier domestic and international leisure destination. Anderson commented that San Antonio was only 1 of 15 US Cities that would be featured in Google Arts & Culture which was accomplished in partnership with the Department of Arts & Culture.

Anderson stated that strategic sales were a priority and were expected to drive groups to hold meetings, conventions, and tradeshow while simplifying the sales process. He added that advocacy, partnerships and diversity were a priority. Anderson concluded his presentation with

IPW conference in 2023 which included 5,000 anticipated attendees from the US Travel Association that would provide a long-term economic impact to San Antonio.

Krystal Jones, Director of the Department of Arts & Culture recognized the members of her team and provided the mission and an overview of the divisions within the department: Grants Management, Cultural Events & Exhibits, Public Art and Marketing and Film & Music. Jones outlined the \$12.4 million FY 2023 Proposed Budget which was an 11.1% increase with two proposed positions. Jones displayed a chart of historic appropriations from FY 2019 through FY 2023 for the department and information regarding the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Federal Funds.

Jones announced that the improvements included \$311,600 for the City's Film Incentive which was a 7.5% rebate for film productions that spent \$100,000 or more and 60% of their spend in San Antonio including locally hired cast and crew. Jones proposed \$47,300 to restore funding to the Plaza de Armas Gallery and \$121,000 to hire two staff to manage grant programs. Jones stated that the department was in the second year of a three-year funding cycle for Arts Non-Profit Agencies in three categories: Base Operational, Culturally Specific and Events.

Jones stated that the Public Art Division was planning and preparing for the 2022 Bond Program which included \$15.7 million for Public Art. She stated that the department was in the early planning stages to select the locations. Jones outlined the San Antonio Artists Registry and highlighted how artists were connecting to private businesses and arts patrons as well as through VSA to get work.

Mayor Nirenberg opened the discussion by noting the recognition of Public Art and noted that it was a result of hard work. He supported the Film Incentive Program and thanked all three departments for their work.

Councilmember Sandoval recognized some of the Council District 7 and Deco District arts organizations that received funding including The Network for Young Artists (NYA), Woodlawn Theater, Classic Theater, and Bihl Haus Arts. She supported funding for the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI) at \$250,000. Councilmember Sandoval requested actual expenditures for the Arts & Culture Department over the past five years.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked VSA for their work and asked where the additional funding was coming from for VSA. Anderson stated that the additional funding would come from revenues from their visitor's center, memberships and the River Walk. Councilmember Sandoval recommended that VSA focus on international marketing for the City's MLK March and Dream Week activities.

Councilmember Sandoval thanked Cantor for the Bad Bunny Concert T-Shirt. She asked Cantor to explain the HOT collections and other revenues, requested a report on the Ticketmaster Revenues, and requested a report on the proposed events and their revenues.

Councilmember Viagran recommended providing funding from the General Fund for the Arts & Culture Department because the arts did not simply support visitors, but also our residents. She supported additional funding for MACRI and noted that many arts organizations worked on an

international level such as San Antonio African American Community Archives and Museum (SAAACAM), Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center and American Indians in Texas (AIT).

Councilmember Viagran asked if the department was helping culturally specific agencies become self-sufficient. Jones stated that all Board Members were trained, the department provided letters of support for grants as well as capacity-building grants for small non-profits.

Councilmember Viagran congratulated Cantor on the 50,000 person crowd at last night's Bad Bunny Concert at the Dome and thanked staff for their work. She was pleased with the increase in HOT revenues. Councilmember Viagran thanked David Gonzalez with VSA for his work in getting the San Antonio Story out to domestic and international press.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested an economic impact study related to concerts of the magnitude of the Bad Bunny Concert. Cantor stated that the department was working with Dr. Steve Nivin on an economic impact study for the Dome overall but noted that only 15% of the tickets for last night's event were sold to those in the San Antonio market which included a large area of South Texas.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia commented that the Dome's Wi-Fi needed to be expanded as more technologically advanced shows came to the venue and suggested adding some showcases of our own culture for these audiences while the visitors were here and recommended small businesses stay open later for these events or having food trucks available for after parties.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia asked about the Food & Wine Festival and Spiritlandia event. Anderson stated that Peacock TV would showcase Spiritlandia nationally. Councilmember Rocha Garcia recommended connecting VSA with the City's Communications & Engagement Office. Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported additional funding for MACRI and recommended marketing workshops for artists. Jones agreed that more marketing training was needed for artists but added that the Department of Arts & Culture had connected artists with other entities that were holding workshops.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported the structural repairs of the Dome and funding for improvements to the Carver Center which provided a venue for smaller acts. He suggested a cultural corridor on the East Side and that the Wheatley Sports Complex, currently a Parks Facility, should be a part of CSEF.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked VSA about funding amounts and recommended using food culture, particularly soul food as well as the Creative City of Gastronomy designation to promote the City, especially restaurants in Council District 2. Tate stated that the adopted Budget for VSA was increased by \$8.2 million in HOT. Anderson commented that VSA was working on a food tour and would be sure to include soul food and Council District 2 eateries.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about some proposed state legislation related to the HOT and requested information about short-term-rental payments into HOT. Anderson stated that there was proposed legislation in the State that HOT could be expanded to be used for parks and that VSA opposed this change. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle stated that the City had remained neutral on the proposed legislation. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended increased

funding for the MLK March and suggested that there should be better coordination with existing cultural organizations for events such as Juneteenth and Pride.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda recognized CSEF staff for their hard work and a successful event last evening and asked for information related to Dome events attendance and the capital improvements timeline. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported awarding the ARPA Grants quickly to Artists, staff to outreach artists, new staff to manage the grants, increased funding for MACRI to \$250,000, and the MLK March to \$300,000. Councilmember Cabello Havrda requested information on outreach to the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany proposed by VSA. Anderson stated that VSA was seeking an international firm to expand outreach into Europe as the focus had always been on Mexico and Latin America. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported more outreach domestically to bring national morning shows and meetings to San Antonio. Anderson stated that the meetings were focused on our core assets and industries.

Councilmember Perry requested an overall slide on HOT, with the total revenue, where the money was allocated and a comparison of peer cities. Tate provided a pie chart showing the breakdown of HOT and confirmed that there was no General Fund for the departments. Councilmember Perry recommended that the proposed expanded use of HOT during the 88th Texas Legislative Session be brought to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle explained that the City did not take a position against the bill last year although VSA opposed it.

Councilmember Perry asked about the two new positions in the Arts & Culture Department and the additional funding for the Gallery. Jones explained that the positions supported oversight of the grant programs and the gallery funding was for a Security Officer so the Plaza de Armas Gallery could be open to the public for longer hours. Councilmember Perry requested metrics on the Federal Relief Grants for Artists and Arts Agencies.

Councilmember Perry requested information on the conditions of the elevators and escalator that were proposed to be replaced at the HBGCC and a breakdown of the revenues from the Carver. Councilmember Courage asked if the investments to the Dome would extend the life of the building. Cantor stated that if funding for maintenance was invested annually, the building should last in perpetuity.

Councilmember Courage asked VSA how they would promote Spiritlandia, the restaurant tours, and the MLK March, and how much they would spend on their promotion. Anderson stated that the promotions of Spiritlandia was in partnership with Johnny Hernandez and the Wine Festival was with the James Beard Foundation and Culinaria partnered on the proposed restaurant tours but there was no budget assigned to the MLK March.

Councilmember Courage recognized the focus on Europe but recommended that VSA strategically look at Asian countries and Airline Magazines. Councilmember Courage thanked the Department of Arts & Culture and the Council District 9 Arts Commissioner Freda Facey. He supported the public art in the Council District 9 Senior Center and Blossom Park. Councilmember Courage asked if the new philharmonic organization would be eligible for funding that had been programmed for the Symphony. Jones stated that the new organization was not eligible for funding and the remaining San Antonio Symphony allocation had been reallocated to other arts organizations.

Councilmember Bravo commented that VSA's numbers were trending in the right direction and asked about the restaurant trail that was planned in each council district and requested a meeting with Anderson to further discuss. Councilmember Bravo asked how visitors viewed our city's safety. Anderson stated that their convention surveys did not reveal negative comments regarding San Antonio's safety.

Councilmember Bravo asked if the City made more money for large events at the Dome. Cantor stated that each event contract was negotiated independently so it varied but noted that the City received revenue from concessions sales. City Manager Walsh commented that large events made money but some of the community events like graduations and high school football games were subsidized by those large events. Councilmember Bravo supported funding MACRI at \$250,000.

Councilmember Castillo supported Councilmember Rocha Garcia's suggestion that ancillary services such as food trucks could tag along to large events at the Dome. Councilmember Castillo supported capital improvements to the Dome and other facilities and the heated and chilled water loop systems. Councilmember Castillo requested information about the minimum wages for the maintenance and custodial contracts. Cantor commented that the contract wages were being increased to a minimum of \$18 per hour.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she had attended an art exhibit at Lanier High School that featured artwork related to social causes and asked how the Department of Arts & Culture helped schools. Jones mentioned connecting the schools with free spaces and partners. Councilmember Castillo wanted to ensure that organizations such as Say Si, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, Guadalupe Cultural Arts, San Antonio Cultural Arts, American Indians in Texas (AIT) and Urban 15 remained connected to the community and other opportunities. Jones stated that the department met with the agencies regularly and connected them with opportunities through VSA. She supported adding funding to increase the allocations to arts agencies and increasing the funding to MACRI so they could acquire a physical space.

Councilmember Castillo asked where the money from the San Antonio Symphony was allocated. Jones stated that the remaining San Antonio Symphony allocation had been reallocated to other arts organizations whose revenues had grown to make them eligible for additional funds.

Councilmember Pelaez requested clarification on whether the City's position on the legislation conflicted with VSA's position. Assistant City Manager Coyle confirmed that the positions were consistent, because while VSA opposed and the City did not take a position, the legislation as it was specific to cities under 250,000 in population and did not apply to San Antonio anyway so there was no need for action by the City.

Councilmember Pelaez commented on a movement to make art policy which included imbedding art in other departments such as within infrastructure such as drainage, streets, shade structures and at the Airport including activating with art as well as public art. He suggested that the Department of Arts & Culture could connect with Municipal Court to provide Art Therapy as a part of trauma informed care. He recommended the creation of a cultural corridor program and commented on a Council Consideration Request (CCR) that he submitted to the City Clerk today that proposed to create a Silk Road Corridor along Wurzbach Road.

Councilmember Pelaez recommended developing more technology and access at the HBGCC and requested a plan to make San Antonio the most admired venue for meetings and conventions.

Councilmember Viagran stated that improvements made to the Dome benefitted the community and recommended nontraditional uses for the Dome such as for local organizations and community events. Councilmember Viagran commented that Spiritlandia was more multicultural than the Day of the Dead or Diwali Festival of Lights, though she supported all of the events. She commented on the work of the hotels with contribution to the HOT.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed support for bringing new large concerts to San Antonio such as rapper Nikkie Minaj. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested paper surveys on Public Art at Ella Austin, Carver Center, Library, and the Council District 2 Field Office. He asked if there was funding for mural restoration. Jones stated that the department had a fund to maintain City-owned artwork but no funding for community art maintenance.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported increased funding for MACRI and requested funding for the partnership with Alamo City Studios to learn filmmaking. He encouraged his council colleagues to collaborate with schools and arts organizations to decorate the field office.

Councilmember Perry asked Cantor to add the return on investment to the charts on her slide presentation. He asked if HOT was paying for renovations to the facilities. Chief Financial Officer, Ben Gorzell stated that improvements to HBGCC and the Dome were funded by HOT revenues and the Wolff stadium improvements were funded by Certificates of Obligation. Councilmember Perry requested clarification on the Dome performance measures. Cantor explained that fluctuations in event days was due to some one-time events in FY 2021 but felt confident that the proposed event days for FY 2023 were achievable.

Councilmember Castillo commented that naturally occurring arts and cultural content was important for our community because bloggers and influencers helped promote our City for us and recommended that Greenway Trail funding could support public art murals. She recommended that VSA include organizations such as the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center for the Day of the Dead events and not try to recreate their event. Andres Munoz from VSA stated that VSA opened up their calendar to all events. Councilmember Castillo clarified that she wanted more coordination than just inclusion on a calendar.

Councilmember Pelaez requested a briefing on the Ticketmaster contract. He stated that in 2019, 40,000 people attended the Diwali celebration and he did not want the community of Southeast Asians to be forgotten noting that the media attention all seemed to focus on the simultaneous Day of the Dead event.

Mayor Nirenberg stated that the Diwali celebration was the largest in the nation and coupled with many other local events should be messaged by VSA to help market our city as a cultural destination.

Councilmember Courage commented on the number of grants that would be funded in the new year with the film incentive and asked for some examples of projects that would benefit from the

Film Incentive. Jones stated that HBO's Entre Nos and DIY TV's Pool Kings received incentives before the pandemic.

Mayor Nirenberg closed the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Approved

**Ron Nirenberg
Mayor**

**Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk**