

City of San Antonio



Minutes Intergovernmental Relations Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8, Chair

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6 | Rosie Castro, District 7

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

10:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee convened a regular meeting in the City Hall Council Briefing Room beginning at 10:06 AM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Manny Pelaez, *Chair*
Teri Castillo, *Member*
Melissa Cabello Havrda, *Member*
Rosie Castro, *Member*

Members Absent: Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from the April 14, 2023 meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Castro moved to Approve the minutes of the April 14, 2023 Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Briefing on the 88th State Legislative Session. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Sally Basurto, Government Affairs Director, provided an update of activity at the 88th Legislative Session. She reviewed State and House Bills (SB/HB) of interest to include SB 2220 associated with Project Finance Zones and noted that it was moving in the correct direction in the Ways and Means Committee. She added that the City supported the bill and that the bill passed in the Senate and was hopeful for it passing in the House.

Basurto noted that HB 2127 and SB 814 associated with Super Pre-Emption issues which the City strongly opposed due to it would prevent cities from adopting or enforcing local Ordinances related to local codes. She expressed concern that the bill had not been amended and the impact that it would have to the City.

Basurto reviewed HB 4759 addressing dangerous dog issues and stated that the City supported this bill.

Basurto reviewed HB 2 and SB 3 which addressed property tax relief issues and noted that the bills had passed both the House and Senate and that the City was watching the bills closely.

Basurto provided an overview of bills associated with Fire and Police Pensions which were HB 2649 and SB 1207 which the City supported.

Basurto reviewed HB 4207 (Utility Fund Transfers), HB 4208 (management of control of Certain MOU Systems and HB 4213 (rates for electricity and use of revenue from the rates). She noted that the City did not support HB 4207 and that the other bills were targeted to address City of Austin issues.

Other bills of interest briefed by Basurto included SB 2038 (ETJ and military installations), HB 2266 (State Licensing) and HB 78 (optional vehicle registration fee). She noted that the City supported SB 2038 but did not support HB 2266. She stated that HB 2266 could create a cause of action against municipal licensing if more stringent than State Law. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle provided clarification on concerns associated with HB 2266. Basurto added that the City supported HB 78.

Basurto provided an update on HB 2239 (removal of Ashe Juniper Trees) which had passed the house and was referred to the Senate for further review. She noted that this bill only addressed residential properties and had passed the House and had been referred to the Senate local government. Basurto reported that HB 2265 (short-term rental) bill would establish a task force to perform a study on STRs.

Chair Pelaez noted that Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) had been very useful in meetings at the Capital and he thanked staff for their collaboration.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda asked for clarification on HB 4208 and HB 4213 and how it specifically addressed the City of Austin. Basurto stated that there was specific language addressing City of Austin policies. Councilmember Cabello Havrda expressed concern on HB 2266 and its impact to zoning requirements for licensing.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on HB 17 associated with abortion and marijuana preemption. She asked that staff look into the bill and its impact to the City. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that the City would work closely with the County to review the bill. Assistant City Manager Coyle provided an update on the Bexar County Education Coalition and introduced Consultant Julia Grizzard to present on the School Safety Review Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Grizzard introduced independent school district representatives at the meeting who were instrumental in the activities of the Coalition.

Grizzard reviewed the policy priorities at the 88th Legislative Session associated with school safety and mental health issues. She noted that SB 11 addressed funding provided to school districts which could be used for securing school facilities, school safety and security training and suicide prevention. She noted that current funding was not sufficient to meet these needs and that the coalition was supporting additional funding for these efforts.

Grizzard spoke to the current state of school safety in the areas of school safety personnel, Bexar County and ISD police divisions and noted that school districts covered all costs associated with school safety provided.

Grizzard expanded on SB 11 which addressed safe and supportive school programs and allowing for behavioral treatment assessments of students. She reviewed efforts from the Collaborative Task Force on Public School Mental Health Services during the first year of implementation.

Grizzard noted that HB 3, HB 13 and SB 11 proposed bills and concerns associated with each bill. She reviewed Coalition efforts to address their concerns with the bills and work at the State Capital.

Chair Pelaez expressed his concern that the State was mandating action but had not provided sufficient funding to meet those mandates. He supported joint efforts between the Coalition, school districts, county and City to address these mandates.

Councilmember Castillo expressed her support for additional funding for school safety and mental health support. She was supportive of the Coalition efforts and involved school districts.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda stated that it was important to address school safety and mental health issues at all levels of education to include the collegiate level. She supported the Coalition and their efforts to bring school safety concerns to the forefront at the legislature.

Councilmember Castro asked for clarification on mental health assessments for parent identified referral of children and if parents could opt out of services. Olga Moucoulis, Chief of Staff and Communications with Edgewood ISD, stated that parents could opt out of identified services and that there was not much school officials could do to mandate that the student receive treatment.

Councilmember Castro asked for clarification on safety efforts associated with armed personnel at school campuses. Grizzard provided clarification on armed personnel standards and other safety technology that could be used at the school districts. She also reviewed Coalition efforts on policy at the governmental level. Councilmember Castro thanked the Coalition for their

presentation and efforts to address school needs.

Chair Pelaez stated that the goal was to identify what the City's role was in addressing school safety. He suggested that Councilmembers write a letter to address school safety at the State level and support partners dealing with school safety. He asked Assistant City Manager Coyle to provide a letter for the City Council to sign. Councilmember Pelaez stated that he had submitted a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to address school safety and asked that the Coalition monitor the CCR action brought forward from the Governance Committee.

Somerset ISD Superintendent Dr Jose Moreno expressed his support of the Coalition efforts on school safety. Chair Pelaez stated that it was important to partner City of San Antonio Police and School District Police efforts to meet school safety concerns and policies. Chair Pelaez stated that it was important to expand SAPD efforts at schools but noted that this was probably better addressed at the Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Cabello Havrda, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, expressed support of partnering efforts but expressed concern of how to properly address costs and officer staffing at the schools and welcomed continued discussions on the issue.

No action was taken on this Item.

3. Briefing on 118th Federal Legislative Program Activities and Grant Opportunities. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Sally Basurto, Director, Government Affairs]

Sally Basurto, Governmental Affairs Director, provided an overview of the 118th Federal Legislative activities and grant opportunities. She reviewed the City's efforts to providing a San Antonio direct flight to the Washington DC Reagan National Airport. She noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorized flight routes and priorities of slot rules for Reagan National Airport which were limited and stated that this was a priority for the City of San Antonio. Basurto stated that the City had secured bipartisan support for the non-stop flight approval but noted that this was still going to be a "heavy lift" to get formally approved at the FAA level.

Basurto stated that there were efforts by the Capital Access Alliance to add non-stop flights into Reagan National and addressing perimeter rule challenges. She noted that efforts were being led by Delta Airlines and a coalition of business and economic development groups. She added that there was opposition from the Virginia Delegation and Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.

Chair Pelaez asked for clarification on joint efforts on the adding of the non-stop flight. Assistant City Manager Coyle stated that other airlines had supported the issue and the City was engaged in discussions with them.

Doug Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, provided an overview of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) grant applications to receive funds totaling \$1,220,460. He noted that the block grants' purpose was to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency.

Melnick reviewed the initiatives under the funding to include: Airport Energy Master Plan

(\$500,000), Multi-Family EV Charging Incentive Program (\$475,000) and the Low-income E-bike REbate Program (\$220,460).

Melnick reviewed the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application which provided \$1 million for planning grants to develop strong climate pollution reduction strategies for MSAs. He reviewed requirements for funding and next steps of the grant application.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on the funding for the Low-Income E-bike REbate Program requirements and who would be eligible for the rebates. Melnick provided an overview of steps for bike rebates and who would first be eligible.

No action was taken on this item.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Councilmember Manny Pelaez, Chairman

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk