

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

**A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5,
2007**

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Public Hearing at 6:00 pm Wednesday, **September 5, 2007**, in the B Room with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, Gutierrez, Cortez, Galvan, Herrera, Rodriguez, Cibrian, Wolff, Clamp, and Mayor Hardberger **ABSENT**: McNeil.

**Item 1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET – PRECEDED BY
STAFF PRESENTATION SUMMARIZING COMMENTS MADE DURING THE TEN
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARINGS HELD IN EACH CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT**

Mayor Hardberger declared the Public Hearing open.

The following citizen(s) appeared to speak:

Ms. Ann Stevens with BioMed SA spoke on the Healthcare and Bioscience industry and its recent accelerated growth. She mentioned that San Antonio is one of five cities in the final round of competition for a \$500 million Federal Laboratory. She asked for the Council's continued support for same.

Mr. Leon Thomas of 1206 Picardie Drive expressed his concern with the continuous increase of Stormwater fees. He stated that his house is 1,900 sf but is paying the same as a home of 5,000 sf. He stated that he pays higher fees every year and does not get anything in return. Additionally, he expressed concern with the two dollar increase in the environmental services fee.

COPS/METRO was represented by the following individuals who spoke on behalf of Project Quest and their support for increased funding for workforce development: Ms. Christina Castro, Ms. Rosemary Barlow, Ms. Erin Hammer, Mr. Mike Phillips, and Sister Gabriela Logan.

Ms. Sandy Blanco at 404 N. Alamo advocated for increased funding for professional development of early childhood development instructors. She asked for continued support in the future and thanked the Mayor and City Council for their previous support.

Ms. Dawn White and Mr. Eric Jones with Goodwill Industries supported additional funding for workforce development. Ms. White discussed the various services that Goodwill Industries offers while Mr. Jones spoke how Goodwill helped him. Ms. White distributed "trading cards" of individuals who have been successful through this program.

Ms. Ana DeHoyos O'Connor of 5223 Sagerock Pass expressed support for additional funds for early childhood education, specifically, instructor training.

Ms. Linda Lowman and Ms. Tammy Morales-Bernal spoke on behalf of additional instructor training and quality early childhood education programs. They spoke on the importance of accreditation.

Mr. Cam Messina of 210 Lewis St. spoke in support of additional funding for early childhood education. He stated that he is a member of "Voices for Children", a children's advocacy program in San Antonio. He mentioned attending a conference where participants completed postcards requesting the Mayor and Council support professional development for early childhood instructors.

Dr. Suzanne Winter of the UTSA Downtown Campus spoke in support of early childhood education and stated various research statistics. She also brought examples from children who were thankful for the investment the City has made in their teachers. Dr. Winter reiterated the importance of investing in professional development for instructors.

Ms. Mariana Peña-Flores and Ms. Guadalupe Peña spoke in support of professional development for instructors for early childhood education. Ms. Peña-Flores operates a facility where her instructors have taken advantage of professional development via City funding. Ms. Peña, part owner of a daycare with her sister, advocated for continued funding.

Mr. Fred Cardenas of 19780 US HWY 281 S. who is a social worker spoke of his support for early childhood development. He stated that even though infrastructure is important, human services are just as important - specifically, early childhood development. He added that there is a strong need to invest in today's children early in life so that they can become productive citizens of society.

Ms. Pamela Taylor of Dress for Success stated she was disappointed that her agency was not recommended for delegate agency funding. She stated that their efforts were not a duplication of efforts. During her presentation, a video was shown which highlighted various participants served under their program. Ms. Denise Powers, Ms. Grace Rendon, and two program participants also spoke on behalf of the organization and requested financial support.

Ms. Terri Brewer, Ms. Rachel Garibay, Ms. Debbie Delgado, and Ms. Jennie Richardson of the CDA Investment Pilot Program spoke in support of early childhood education. They stated that they are instructors and feel it is important to continue investing in professional development for early childhood development.

Ms. Mari Garza-Bird of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of Workforce Development funding. She stated that the Chamber felt it important to increase small, minority-owned business participation in the community. She requested that city staff closely monitor the utilization of small, minority-owned businesses in the upcoming bond projects.

Mr. Teddy Stewart of the San Antonio Police Officers Association spoke in support of hiring additional police officers. He stated that they provide a basic service and work hard for the community. He stated that the Police Chief has a plan that should be implemented.

Dr. Cole, representing Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), spoke in support of early childhood education and the importance of professional development for instructors. She referenced recent research on the effects of early childhood development. She stated that the amount of training for early childcare instructors is minimal. Ms. Iris Reyes, Ms. Priscilla Camargo, and Ms. Maria Guillen, students of OLLU, all spoke in favor of additional funding and expressed their support for early childhood education.

Mr. Louis Nañez of 627 Bexar Dr. spoke in favor of renaming Bamberger Park to “Bamberger and Nañez Park”. He stated that his father had sold the land on which the park sits and worked hard to develop that property. Mr. Nañez provided a handout and photos from the 1800’s.

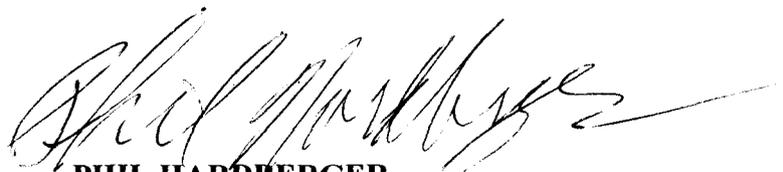
Ms. Linda Nairn of 4503 Briardale St. spoke as an advocate for the public library system. She mentioned that she belongs to “Friends of the Library” and supports funding for the Library. She thanked the Mayor and Council for the additional funding in the FY 2007-2008 budget but also requested that money be allocated for a deferred maintenance program.

Mr. Jack Finger, P.O. Box 12048, stated he was not asking for any increases in any programs or City services. He asked for decreased funding for various programs including Project Quest, San Antonio Education Partnership, and other “social” programs. Lastly, he expressed concern with the increase in the environmental services fee.

Ms. Ann Forbes spoke on behalf of Dress for Success. She stated her support for the program because it serves the entire community. She noted their stable governance structure and their accountability.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Hardberger adjourned at meeting at 8:22 pm.

A P P R O V E D


PHIL HARDBERGER
M A Y O R

ATTEST:


LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk

