

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

**A BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008.**

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Budget Work Session at 2:30 pm, Tuesday, September 2, 2008, in the Municipal Plaza B Room.

City Clerk, Leticia M. Vacek, took the Roll Call and noted a quorum of the Council with the following present: Cisneros, McNeil, Ramos, Cortez, Galvan, Herrera, Rodriguez, Cibrian, Rowe, Clamp, and Mayor Hardberger.

**1. CITY STAFF PRESENTATION, AND POSSIBLE COUNCIL ACTION, ON THE FY 2009
PROPOSED BUDGET, FOCUSING ON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:**

- A. ANIMAL CARE SERVICES**
- B. HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS**
- C. AIRPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Jef Hale, Director of Animal Care Services (ACS) presented an overview of the Animal Strategic Plan and current progress. He stated that the Five-Year Animal Strategic Plan had been adopted by City Council on September 14, 2006 and challenges the community to achieve a "No Kill" Goal by 2012. He identified the following priorities: 1) Increase community awareness and owner responsibility, 2) Reduce the number of strays/homeless animals, 3) Promote best practices among all animal care & protection organizations, 4) Implement effective public policy and ordinances, 5) Secure needed human and financial resources, and 6) Foster the development of a consortium of partners.

Mr. Hale outlined ACS City Code Chapter 5 revisions that were adopted on December 13, 2007: 1) Litter permits, 2) Excess animal permits, 3) Cat colony permits, 4) Cats roaming at large will no longer be considered an animal nuisance, 5) All outdoor cats must be spayed or neutered, and 6) Allowing for owners of impounded and un-sterilized dogs to enter into an agreement with ACS to have the dog sterilized. He added that effective January 1, 2009; intact dog permits would be available.

Mr. Hale summarized the major functions of ACS. He noted that Field Operations include ordinance enforcement and investigations of animal bites, dangerous animal, and cruelty reports. Shelter Operations include kenneling stray and owner surrendered animals, placement through adoptions, organizations, or other human shelters. Veterinary Operations provide animal care foster homes and post-adoptive services, provide sterilization of adoptable animals and free to low cost spay/neuter, vaccination, and microchip services. Lastly, he added that Public Information/Community Outreach Program responds to public and media requests, generate positive media exposure, conduct educational presentations, and are a conduit for community involvement.

Mr. Hale reviewed ACS accomplishments including: 1) The new animal care facility that opened January 7, 2008; 2) Establishing the San Antonio Area Foundation Consortium of Partners; 3) Establishing the *OwnUpSA* community awareness campaign; 4) 22 spay/neuter Clinics on and off-site, 5) 1,000 pets vaccinated and/or micro-chipped at events, 6) Weekly opportunities for low-cost microchip and rabies

vaccinations, 7) Continued participation in various offsite events including Houston Street Fair, Pucks and Paws with the Rampage, Hoops and Hounds with the Silver Stars, WellMed, AAPAW Super Saturdays, and Petco. Mr. Hale noted the increase in spay and neuter surgeries, adoptions, and animals rescued or transferred. Additionally, he noted the decrease in animals euthanized.

Mr. Hale stated that ACS had 52 partnerships with rescue groups and highlighted Maddie's Pet Rescue Project, a ten-year community collaborative project which provides support to end euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs and cats in San Antonio. He noted that the Bexar County Maddie Coalition consists of San Antonio Animal Care Services (ACS), Kirby Animal Control, Leon Valley Animal Control, Schertz Animal Control, Universal City Animal Control, and Live Oak Animal Control and that the five Adoption Guarantee Agencies consist of the Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County, Converse Animal Shelter, Animal Defense League (ADL), SNIPSA, and Homes for Pets. Mr. Hale added that three new Animal Care Attendants and three new Animal Care Representatives were added to the department in FY 2008. Lastly, he proposed that FY 2009 provide funding for an additional 19,000 free and low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and adding a mobile spay/neuter unit to deliver services directly to the community.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Hale for the budget presentation and the work that has been accomplished in the ACS Department.

Councilmember Cibrian asked to review the plan to achieve a No Kill Goal by 2012 and requested additional information on Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Services. Councilmember Cortez stated that there were not enough Animal Care Officers budgeted for FY 2009 and recommended that more be added. Councilmember Ramos asked staff to research a possible partnership with Park Police to address the issue of stray animals in parks.

At this time, the Council addressed the issue of necessary Budget Amendments. Councilmember Cibrian stated that it would not be feasible to fund the Hausman Road Reconstruction Project through the General Fund Budget and withdrew the item from consideration. She encouraged the Council to do the same. Councilmember Cisneros withdrew the Beacon Hill Linear Park Plan/Development and the King William Utility Line Conversion Projects. Councilmember Ramos withdrew the Southside Lions Lake Dredging Project. Councilmember Rowe requested that staff investigate other ways of funding said projects.

Mr. Peter Zanoni, Director of Management and Budget, presented an overview of the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. He stated that the HOT Fund accounted for all revenues and expenditures generated from the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax and that revenues were transferred to the following: 1) Community and Visitors Facilities, 2) Convention and Visitors Bureau, 3) Cultural Affairs, and 4) History and Preservation. He added that at least 50% of tax revenues must be spent on convention and tourism and not more than 15% could be spent on the arts, history and preservation. Lastly, he stated that the projected revenues for FY 2009 were \$56 million and presented a chart outlining the revenue distribution.

Mr. Michael Sawaya, Director of Convention, Sports, and Entertainment Facilities, provided an overview of the department and the FY 2008 accomplishments: 1) Revenues above budget by \$1.4 million; 2) Hosting the NCAA Men's Final Four; 3) Renegotiating long-term contracts; 4) \$475,000 reimbursement from the state relating to the Big XII Football Championship; and 5) Eligibility for a \$6 million reimbursement related to the Final Four. He outlined the FY 2009 Proposed Budget and noted a \$100,000 decrease due to the fact that they would not be hosting the Final Four.

Mr. Sawaya highlighted the FY 2009 Green Initiatives, Alamodome Business Plan Study, and Facility Capital Projects to the Lila Cockrell Theatre, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, and Alamodome. He added that building improvement expenses were reimbursable under the State's Sporting Event Trust Legislation. Lastly, he referenced the Convention Center Expansion timeline.

Councilmember Cisneros asked that the City approach representatives of the Pan American Games as something to solicit in the future. Councilmember Cibrian asked if the revenues could be utilized toward a HemisFair Master Plan since HemisFair Park is contiguous to the Convention Center.

Mr. Scott White, Director of Convention and Visitors Bureau, stated that the department mission was to promote and market San Antonio as a premier visitor and convention destination for the purpose of positively affecting the local economy. He provided an overview of the industry, and FY 2008 initiatives including: 1) Launching a new brand for San Antonio; 2) A new marketing website; 3) A new advertising campaign; and 4) A new Travel and Leisure Guide. He compared statistics from FY 2007, estimated FY 2008, and goals for FY 2009. Mr. White outlined the FY 2009 Budget and highlighted priorities.

Mayor Hardberger stated that he would like for San Antonio to be regarded as a good place to visit but an even better place to live. Councilmember McNeil requested that the San Antonio nickname of Military City USA be incorporated on advertisements. Mr. White noted that some promotional material included information on San Antonio as a place to live, but the State mandated HOT Tax usage for filling hotel rooms. Councilmember Galvan noted the need for more nightlife in the downtown area. She noted that once 6 pm comes around; the downtown area clears out.

Mr. Felix Padron, Office of Cultural Affairs Director, presented an overview of the department and FY 2008 accomplishments including: 1) Holding over 17,000 cultural events; 2) Attendance of over 3.4 million individuals at those events; 3) Launching the new Arts Brand; 4) A new marketing website; and 5) A new local marketing campaign. He reviewed the FY 2009 Proposed Budget and Arts Funding process for City Owned Facility Anchors (COFA) and Non-COFA Agencies. He noted that the funding recommendations would be presented to the Council for Consideration on September 11, 2008.

Councilmember Cibrian stated that Arts are generally located downtown and would like to see expansion into all districts. Councilmember Galvan expressed concern with the proposed decreased funding for various agencies.

Mr. Mark Webb, Aviation Director, provided an overview of the department noting that it consisted of: 1) Administration; 2) Capital Program; 3) Community Relations; 4) Facility Maintenance; 5) Finance; 6) Fire and Rescue; 7) Ground Transportation; 8) Maintenance and Construction; 9) Parking Facilities; 10) Planning and Development; 11) Security Services; and 12) Stinson Municipal Airport. He stated that although the travel industry was seeing negative trends, San Antonio International Airport (SAT) was 6% above record pace.

Mr. Webb highlighted the Active Capital Projects and outlined the FY 2009 Operating Budget and Proposed Revenues. He spoke of enhancements including: 1) Access Control; 2) Information Technology Master Plan; 3) Website Enhancements; 4) Aviation Fire Safety Initiatives; and 5) Energy Initiatives.

At this time, Mayor Hardberger excused himself from the Budget Work Session and Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez presided.

Councilmember Rowe requested a list of the Top 50 US Airports with the Fewest Seat Capacity Reductions. Councilmember Cibrian asked for recommendations on how to continue increasing the non-stop flights to San Antonio. Lastly, the Council thanked Mr. Webb for his service to the City and wished him luck in his new position with University Health Systems.

The Mayor and Council thanked Messrs. Hale, Zaroni, Sawaya, White, Padron and Webb for their budget presentations.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez adjourned the Budget Work Session at 5:45 pm.

A P P R O V E D



PHIL HARDBERGER
MAYOR

Attest:



LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk