

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



**FINAL  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex  
114 W. Commerce  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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**Tuesday, August 26, 2014**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building at 2:00 pm. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

**Present:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2015 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management and Budget]

A. Animal Care Services

B. Development Services Department and Code Enforcement Services

**A. ANIMAL CARE SERVICES**

Kathy Davis stated that the Animal Care Services (ACS) Department has evolved through innovation and cited a newspaper article entitled, “Death by the Pound” that served as a wake-up call for the Department. She noted that the article focused on a demand for

change, as it recognized that the City was killing 9 out of 10 pets representing more Pets euthanized Per Capita than any other major American City. After Public Hearings and Stakeholder Meetings, she stated that an Initial Plan was created to guide the Shelter toward a No-Kill Goal of 70%. She indicated that ACS had only increased its Live Release Rate in FY 2011 to 30%. In an effort to improve the Program, she stated that the City asked Innovation Consultants to help identify best practices. She outlined the improvements and accomplishments of ACS that included changes to its Dispatch Process and addressing 90,000 calls per year.

Ms. Davis discussed the emphasis on responsible Pet Ownership and noted that the City's Laws have made a positive change in controlling the Animal Population through Spaying and Neutering. She stated that these methods address Stray Animals in a humane and effective way. She highlighted the Neighborhood Sweeps Initiative that deploys Sweep Teams to identify areas with high concentrations of Stray Animals. She cited a change to the City Ordinance that requires all roaming pets that are impounded to be Spayed or Neutered. She stated that it holds owners accountable and ensures that pets are not reproducing. She outlined the High Volume Pet Placement (HVPP) Program that partners with many Community Shelters. She delineated the Budget for 2015 and noted that they have several Improvements combined with Reductions that will improve the overall service and performance of ACS.

Mayor Taylor expressed concern with the great amount of Stray Animals. Mrs. Davis responded that they are implementing strategies that will help them expand their Facility to increase capacity. She indicated that they would continue to focus on Enforcement and Education to ensure they target the truly Stray Animals that are roaming the streets.

Councilmember Lopez commented that the Sweeps are effective and have made a significant impact. He requested more information regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bexar County. Ms. Davis responded that the MOU had a positive impact and the County is about 600 below their Contract Level for the number of pets that they can bring in. Councilmember Lopez expressed concern with Stray Animals in Bexar County that may make their way into the City by virtue of their own mobility or owners who drop off pets near the ACS Location thinking they will be cared for there. Ms. Davis stated that the County had similar complaints, but they have seen an 8% decrease in the number of animals being picked up by Solid Waste. She added that their Bite Cases are also down approximately 25%. She explained the Appeals Process and noted that they recently changed the Process to make it more effective.

Ms. Davis reported that there were no vacancies on the ACS Board and spoke of the diverse make-up of the Board.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked her Board Appointee, Karen Spears, who represents District 5. She spoke of the Community Walks with ACS Staff to address the issue of Stray Dogs and commented that complaints have decreased. In response to Councilmember Gonzales, Ms. Davis stated that Spay and Neuter Surgeons were employed on a temporary basis. Councilmember Gonzales complimented the improved Live Release Rate and asked whether there were plans to create Marketing and Advertising in Spanish. Ms. Davis stated that they create all marketing materials in a Bilingual Format and would continue to ensure they reach the Bilingual Community.

Councilmember Viagran asked how many ACS Officers were on the schedule daily and on the weekend. Ms. Davis replied that there were 8 ACS Officers during the day responding to calls. She stated they based their schedule on the Calls for Service Trends evaluated every Quarter to ensure availability of Officers. With regard to the procedures utilized to pick up strays, Ms. Davis spoke of the training that ACS Officers receive at the Training Academy. Councilmember Viagran inquired about Pet Shop Permit Fees. Ms. Davis explained that there is an Annual Permit Fee required of Pet Shops and they have received complaints about Pet Stores not taking adequate care of the Pets. She explained that the Annual Permit Fee allows the ACS Department to inspect how they are caring for the Pets ensuring no cruelty issues.

Councilmember Gallagher recognized Sallie Scott, District 10 Representative of the ACS Board and inquired what services Bexar County was responsible for. Mrs. Sculley reported that the City used to take care of all of Bexar County's needs with regard to Animal Care Services. She noted that this was the first year the County has assumed some of that responsibility. Erik Walsh added that the County created their own ACS Department last Fall and have taken the responsibility of picking up Stray Animals.

In response to Councilmember Krier, Ms. Davis stated that the Wildlife Population falls under the purview of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Agency. She indicated that they have studied what the City of Hollywood Park has accomplished with regard to the Deer Population. Councilmember Krier stated that there were many Deer in his neighborhood, in addition to coyotes, raccoons, and other Wildlife that do not fall under the purview of ACS. He spoke of the Live Release Rate. Ms. Davis highlighted the work of Partnering Agencies that have been instrumental in caring, spaying, and neutering Pets. Councilmember Krier recognized Rita Braeutigam, District 9 ACS Board Representative.

Councilmember Bernal spoke of the hours worked by ACS Officers. Ms. Davis noted that the shifts begin at 7:00 am and end at midnight. She added that there is an Officer on call from midnight to 7:00 am. She reported that this adjustment has worked out well, as they have picked up an additional 1,300 dogs this year. Councilmember Bernal spoke of the amount of time it took to handle Animal Cruelty Cases. He noted that the newly

implemented E-Warrant Process now reduces the process time. Such process includes having the Police Department and ACS obtain a warrant, enter the Property, and retrieve the Animal subjected to Cruelty.

Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez spoke of the issue with Feral Cats in District 7 noting that this was the second greatest issue among Constituents. She asked if there were more Funds that could be utilized to address this issue. Ms. Davis replied that 10% of the \$500,000 for Spay and Neuter is designated for the Feral Cat Population to ensure there is Funding throughout the year. She stated that they have pursued Grants to assist with Gap Funding. Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez inquired what was being done in the School System to teach children about Responsible Pet Ownership. Ms. Davis highlighted their work with the Schools, and indicated that Board Members conduct presentations and met with Homeowner Associations.

Councilmember Saldaña commended Staff Member Jesse Enriquez from ACS who attends Schools throughout San Antonio presenting on Animal Advocacy. He emphasized the importance of Spaying and Neutering Pets and having the resources to make it possible.

Councilmember Toney cited the Stray Animals in District 2. Councilmember Toney commented that ACS has done a great job as this problem has improved. He inquired what was being done to make Pet Owners more responsible. Ms. Davis replied that they have moved from a Criminal Citation Process to a Civil Citation Process that gets them into Court from 10 days to 2 weeks. She noted that the Process focuses on compliance.

Mayor Taylor thanked ACS for their work and for the presentation.

## B. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Rod Sanchez reported that the Development Services Department became an Enterprise Fund in 2007 whereby the fees charged were utilized to support the Department. He stated that the Department adopted 3 goals: 1) Improved cycle time; 2) Consistency; and 3) Improved Customer Service. He noted that the Department is one of 21 Cities that is Accredited. He highlighted the 3 Major Divisions, which include: 1) Land Development; 2) Plan Review/Permits; and 3) Field Services. He highlighted the Department's Technology Enhancements and the Customer Art System that allows people to submit items On-Line. He provided an overview of the improvements relating to the review of Plats, noting that previously took 60 days but now only takes 20 days.

With regard to Code Enforcement, Mr. Sanchez reported that they set a goal for Code Officers to be at least 50% Proactive in responding to the Community and today, they are at

72%. He discussed the work of the Boarding Home Team and delineated the proposed Budget for FY2015. He stated that the Commercial Market was very strong and highlighted FY 2015 Improvements that include a Permit and Code Computer System that will make processes more efficient. He discussed the Code Enforcement Improvement Plan and stated that they will continue with the Administrative Hearing Officer Program. He informed the Council that they would be updating the Building Codes due to construction changes, new materials being utilized, and new construction techniques. He indicated that they would begin evaluating Codes and recommend changes that will be presented to the City Council.

Mayor Taylor commented that she was encouraged by the Improvements and Efficiencies that have been developed over the years.

Councilmember Nirenberg requested that the City Council be notified when the Code for America Website is available on-line. In response to Councilmember Nirenberg, Mr. Sanchez stated that they were not eliminating positions. Councilmember Nirenberg inquired of the Permitting System for Signs. Mr. Sanchez replied that they have different colors of stickers that change color every year, and stated that all signs must have the correct sticker color in order to be in compliance.

Regarding the process in changing the Building Codes, Mr. Sanchez stated that the City Council will consider it in December 2014 after Stakeholder and Board Meetings occur in the Fall. Prior to Council approval, it will be presented to the Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee. Changes will be effective March 2015.

Councilmember Viagran recommended that the coordination with large-scale Zoning Cases be implemented in phases so that affected Residents understand what is being proposed. Mr. Sanchez noted the importance of having Educational Meetings with the Community and suggested meeting with Small Groups first before the Case is presented to the Zoning Commission and the City Council. In response to Councilmember Viagran, Mr. Sanchez stated that the Enterprise Fund allowed them to match demand which provided an opportunity for the Department to improve. In response to Councilmember Viagran, Michael Shannon noted that their Volunteer Efforts are focused on Graffiti Abatement. He stated that they did not have much success with developing the Code Ranger or Code Volunteer Program, but they work on a case-by-case basis in Neighborhoods. He indicated that they had two Community Training Programs in the past month to see if they could develop a Volunteer Army in each District. He acknowledged that it was being tested as they have learned from other Jurisdictions that have had success.

Councilmember Gonzales inquired about the Software that will be implemented. Mr. Sanchez discussed the maintenance and training costs. He stated that the Software would be rolled out in phases. He indicated that the Tablets that will be purchased for Code

Officers will have better connectivity which would allow results to be quickly evidenced. Regarding Graffiti, he stated that they entered into an Agreement with CPS Energy that allowed them to completely abate the Graffiti. He highlighted the Revenue resulting from new Commercial Projects.

Councilmember Gallagher spoke of the communication with Neighborhood Leadership. He complimented the Code Enforcement Task Force and emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Community was made aware of the Home Base Program.

Councilmember Krier discussed a problem in District 9 related to a Boarding Home for Senior Citizens that the City sued due to the numerous safety violations. He stated that there had been Neighborhood complaints and inquired how a place this problematic continued to operate for so long. Mr. Sanchez replied that once the Ordinance that regulated Boarding Homes became effective in March 2014, it produced many leads. He stated that it was a difficult process to identify those not in compliance. He commented that the Boarding Team in place has been conducting their Inspections and periodically checking those Boarding Homes that are under the radar. He indicated that they were being instructed to come into compliance or risk being taken to Court and shut down.

Councilmember Lopez cited a State Statute that requires Utility Companies to have a Graffiti Abatement Plan and appropriate funding for it. He expressed concern that CPS does not pay the City to abate Graffiti thus costing the City more money to do what others should be allocating funds for required by State Regulation. He encouraged the City to continue their dialogue with Utility Partners to try and implement a budget-sharing scenario.

Councilmember Bernal gave an example (within District 1) whereby Business Owners who were tagged repeatedly decided to allow an Artist to paint a family-friendly appropriate image on the building. He stated that the City Council Office paid for the paint and scaffolding and described this as a creative way to abate Graffiti on walls that get tagged regularly. Mr. Sanchez confirmed that there is a small Mural Program for smaller projects and offered to have further discussion about a more robust Program.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

**RECESSED**

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting at 5:00 pm and announced that the meeting would resume at 6:00 pm for the Second Delegate Agency Public Hearing.

**RECONVENED**

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and addressed the Delegate Agency Public Hearing.

The City Clerk read the caption for Item 2:

2. Public Hearing for Delegate Agencies funded through the FY 2015 and FY 2016 Consolidated Funding Process for Human and Workforce Development Services. [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Human Services Director noted that at the recommendation of City Council, the City was holding two Public Hearings to provide Delegate Agencies with an opportunity to advocate for their Proposals. She noted that all 76 organizations submitting Proposals were notified of their scheduled Public Hearing Date along with guidelines for presenting on their Applications.

Ms. Woosley noted that the City Council had approved a total of \$20.4 Million in Delegate Agency Funding for FY 2015 to 56 Agencies and that the allocation was broken into 4 Service Categories. She reported that the City Council had discussed the RFP process and that the Department coordinated various community outreach events prior to the closing of RFPs on April 23, 2014. Ms. Woosley stated that a total of 152 Proposals were submitted and that the Review Committee looked at: Merits of the Proposal, Agency's Past Performance, and Alignment of the Program with Council Priorities and Policies. She noted that two changes for FY 2015 included redirecting \$1.2 Million in funding for EastPoint and designating \$250,000 for funding new agencies. She highlighted the types of services purchased as part of the RFP and noted that the City did not seek services for Early Childhood Professional Development and After-School Challenge Initiatives.

Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, provided background information on the RFP to include funding allocations by category, contract terms, solicitation criteria, selection process, and the Communication Blackout Policy. He explained that SBEDA Requirements and Preference to Local and Veteran-Owned Small Businesses were waived due to funding allocations being derived from various funding sources.

Mr. Gorzell noted that 2 Public Hearings were scheduled to allow respondents the opportunity to speak to the City Council without violating the City's Communication Policy. He stated that a total of 152 Proposals were submitted by 76 Agencies and that 12 Evaluation Teams were assembled to review and score the Proposals. He mentioned the

RFP was scheduled for consideration by the full City Council on September 18, 2014.

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing and called upon the Delegate Agencies registered to speak.

Amy Cardenas, CEO and Diane Rosete, Program Director with Joven Inc. highlighted the proposals submitted and services offered to youth from the Harlandale Independent School District.

Joleen Garcia and a Representative from the Martinez Street Women's Center spoke of their Girls Zone Program. Ms. Garcia noted their goals of the Program were to increase educational attainment and decrease teen pregnancy by encouraging academics and self-esteem.

Dr. Eli Witney with Motivate Our Students, Texas stated their services offered to youth including speakers to discuss career opportunities and organizing field trips to work sites. He reported that student achievement had increased and drop-out rates had decreased.

Judy McCormack, Executive Director of the P16Plus Council of Greater of Bexar County, detailed Program Performance Measures and stated that funding allocations would allow the organization to expand the services offered.

Stephanie Smith, President and CEO of Presa Community Center, highlighted the SKILLS Program which is aligned with SA2020 Initiatives. She stated that funding would allow the organization to expand their reading and technology programs.

Jane Thomas, Project Mend Board Vice Chairperson, noted that their agency was the only organization providing refurbished medical equipment to low income and disabled individuals. She requested funding at the amount denoted in their proposal in order to hire another staff member.

Sharon Hardie with Project New Beginnings highlighted the various services offered to young adults ages 15 to 18. She noted that funding would allow the organization to expand services and programs as well as develop additional professional partnerships.

Sister Gabriella Lohan, Project Quest Board Chairperson, spoke of the success of the organization as a result of the continued partnership with the City and detailed performance measures. The balance of the time was used by several local businesses to highlight their positive working relationship with Project Quest and the value of the Program to the community.

Kelly Rhodes, CEO of Restore Education, spoke of the educational opportunities offered to high school drop-outs. She detailed services which include test preparation, resume writing, mentoring, and job interview skills.

Representatives from Respite Care stated that the organization had submitted two Proposals to assist individuals with special needs. It was noted that funding allocations represent 4% of the Organization's Operating Budget and that city funds would be leveraged.

Robert Galant, Director of Social Services for the Salvation Army, highlighted the two Proposals submitted. He noted that due to the increase in families seeking services, funding would allow the agency to hire three Case Managers and create a Reading Program for children in First through Third Grades.

Navarra Williams with SAMM Ministries spoke of their Rapid Re-Housing Program. He detailed the goals of the Program which include assisting families find immediate housing solutions and for participants to avert homelessness as a result of disasters.

Harvey Mireles, Executive Director of San Anto Cultural Arts, highlighted how art, photography, journalism, and technology are utilized to engage at-risk youth of the Westside of San Antonio.

Eric Cooper, President and CEO of the San Antonio Food Bank, spoke of the partnerships developed to feed needy families and individuals in the community. He reported that half of the Delegate Agencies funding by the City seek assistance from the Food Bank. He spoke of the negative financial impact that proposed funding cuts would have on their organization; especially low-income seniors participating in Project HOPE.

Kitty Brietzke, CEO of San Antonio Independent Living Services (SAILS), noted that the agency served individuals with disabilities and partnered with many agencies to ensure that clients received needed medical services for a path to self-sufficiency. She read a letter from a client who was thankful for the classes offered and case management services.

Ms. Tracey Bennett with the Library Foundation spoke in support of the Book Festival and requested funding. It was reported that the Foundation leveraged funds received by the City to secure additional funding with the hope of making the event sustainable.

Christina Martinez, Executive Director of the San Antonio Youth Literacy, spoke of the services offered to Second Grade Students with reading challenges and highlighted the partnerships they developed.

Margaret Vanburt, President of Seaton Home, noted the goals of the Program which include

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providing educational opportunities and offering life skills classes to provide a better future for participants.

Frank Kiolbassa with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul highlighted the organization's Rapid Re-Housing Program. He noted that the Program assisted individuals at-risk of becoming homeless.

Curtis Ruder, Chief Financial Officer of St. Peter St. Joseph Home, spoke of the services offered by Project Ayuda. He noted that families receive immediate housing assistance which allows them to stay together.

Representatives from The Awakening Spiritual Community detailed the life coaching services offered by the S.W.A.G. Program to at-risk high school youth. It was noted that the organization was not funded this year but would continue to seek financial opportunities.

Katherine and George Cisneros with the Urban 15 Group spoke of how dancing improved overall well-being of seniors. Mr. Cisneros provided statistics of improved health levels of dance participants.

A representative highlighted UTSA's Early Childhood Professional Development Program 2014 Achievements. She reported that the goal of the Program was to provide training and educational opportunities to child-care workers while expanding career options.

Dr. Rudy Reyna spoke of the Pre-Freshman Engineering Program (PREP) administered by UTSA. He stated that the Program was available at 10 sites throughout the city and that the goal of the Program was to assist students pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

A representative from Voices for Children spoke to their research and child advocacy for infants to four-year-olds. It was noted that the goal of the Program is to offer professional development to childcare organizations and providers.

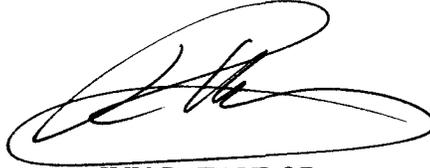
Matt Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer with the YMCA of Greater San Antonio spoke of their After School Program and detailed the negative impact the proposed reduction in funding would have on the community.

Mayor Taylor thanked all of the Delegate Agencies in attendance and closed the Public Hearing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

APPROVED



IVY R. TAYLOR  
for MAYOR

ATTEST:



LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/MMC  
CITY CLERK

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