



Council District 8
Manny Peláez

Federal & State Government Relations Working Group – COVID Response
Co-Chairs: Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Councilman Manny Peláez

Meeting Summary
May 4, 2020

Contact Information:

Chief of Staff, Pat Wallace - 210-454-1474, pat.wallace@sanantonio.gov

Five Strategic Goals:

- Identify existing City/County revenue streams that have new “added” dollars
- Identify newly established revenue streams that don’t have an existing pipeline
- Categorize dollars based on the other committees
- Track all revenue streams to include dollar amounts and destination of allocations
- Create a communications system with other committees in order to best disseminate information

Overall Goal: To acquire as much funding as possible for San Antonio/Bexar County and have a solid plan in place for distribution.

Ground Rules: For the sake of expediency, it’s important to allow our city and county staffs to focus on the work at hand as well as manage the lobbyists and report to our group with updates or challenges. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to Pat Wallace.

COSA & County Updates:

Councilman Manny Peláez:

Councilman Peláez briefed the team about a strategy call with lobbyists, a State Representative and Congressional Delegation meeting. There is widespread support (across party lines) to move forward with consistent messaging on behalf of the City and County priorities. The COSA GPA team drafted a letter for CEO’s to send to our Senate and House representatives.

Sally Basurto – City of San Antonio

- The main City and County priority is to advocate for additional funding and more importantly, flexibility to cover revenue losses. We will need assistance from our community and business partners to advocate for this request.
- FCC - \$13B for schools and \$3B in block grants to states for broadband connectivity and devices to support distance learning.

- HHS – \$250M for (Heads Start & Early Head Start) current grantees to help with mental health crisis, meals, training, supplies and technology. Applications are due May 15.
- The support letter captures the city and county ask regarding coronavirus relief funding. Sally encourages everyone to look at the letter and send on recommendations. Companies are at liberty to finalize it and alter it based on who it goes to.”
- Looking for your feedback on growing a list of key businesses that can support us in our lobbying efforts. We need to do outreach with the business community to get them on board.
- USAA, Valero, Rackspace, Landry’s, NRP Group, Spurs, Texas Research & Technology Foundation, IBC, HEB, Walmart, Toyota, SA Chamber, North Chamber

Melissa Shannon – Bexar County

- County priorities: Recovering lost revenues from property taxes, hotel/motel tax, reimbursement of all COVID-10 expenditures, Elections, Families First Coronavirus Response Act- employer paid sick leave and payroll tax credits.
- Learned in the recent weekend Lobbyist call that there may be some money coming down for elections for Bexar County.
- Commissioner’s Court will meet on Thursday. Staff will make full presentation on how to spend the COVID relief money.

Councilwoman Adriana Rocha-Garcia

- On April 30th, President Trump released the following commitment to make sure our senior citizens remain safe and have access to the healthcare resources they need during the coronavirus pandemic:
- In addition to the supplies already distributed, FEMA will send supplemental shipments of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes in America.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing States with \$81 million from the CARES Act to increase their inspections of nursing homes at this crucial time.
- Last week, they were supposed to finalize a new rule requiring information about COVID-19 cases in nursing homes to be reported directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and testing data to be posted online. The rule requires that nursing homes report cases to residents and their family members.
- The Administration is also establishing the Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes, composed of leading industry experts, doctors and scientists, resident and patient advocates, family members, infection and prevention control specialists, and State and local authorities.
- The President signed historic legislation that provides funding and flexibility for emergency nutritional aid for vulnerable Americans, including senior citizens, with that:
- There was a 40% increase in meal delivery through a \$250 million federal grant.
- Organizations are getting creative about how they ensure seniors receive assistance with meals, household chores and running errands.
- There will be new state grants for nursing homes to inspect nursing homes- Every year, the President has asked for this funding and this year Congress supported.
- There’s upcoming good news of lowering insulin prices for seniors.
- Greater flexibility may be coming with the requirements for the Aging program, but no formal notification yet, which will greatly help our ability to use the new funding. ACOG is waiting for notification about the funding they will receive in Aging from the CARES ACT; we know how much Texas gets, but not our share yet.

Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran:

- NLC Objective: Obtain direct funding of \$500 billion from the federal government to support local governments (of all sizes) for the next two years
- **Current status:**
- **Devastating economic impact**
 - 88% of cities expect to face a revenue shortfall this year
- **Layoff & Furloughs of Municipal Employees LAYOFFS**
 - Up to 1 million municipal workers under threat
- **Cuts to City Services**
 - 52% of cities say budget cuts will impact police and public safety
- **Our Need:**
 - \$250 Billion for 2020 to be split evenly between cities and counties
 - \$125 Billion for 2021 to go directly to cities
 - The Health and Safety of communities is at stake: Consider Public safety, Sanitation, First Responders and Services.

Mayor Dennis:

- Honing in on 88% of cities affected - 84% of Texas cities are under 50,000 residents (980 cities).
- Most Texas cities are small cities – they are very much affected (police, fire, library, amenities)

Walter Serna:

- Goal is to get local business to persuade Cruz and Cornyn.
- Tillman Fertitta will sign this letter
- NRP Group will sign (confirmed by Debra Guerrero)
- Texas Research Foundation is also supportive

Jeff Coyle:

- The COSA team developed more nuanced messaging. Still asking for flexibility – the ability to use this money and other appropriations to address larger budget pressures.
- We will follow NLC feedback which is not to be over reliant on budget compensation, we have adapted nuanced language.
- CARES act is helpful in addressing COVID related expenses that we are incurring. Before we even address recovering, we need to address budget shortcomings this year and next year. We want to use federal funds for local recovery efforts such as:
 1. Small business
 2. Job creation
 3. Infrastructure development
 4. Workforce development
 5. Expanding broadband.

Vic Boyer:

- VIA will host another tele townhall at 7pm
- Efforts to work congress for 50 billion backstop for state DOTs or reauthorization of FAST act.
- Likely will occur after the COVID bills as a separate infrastructure package
- We have a lot at stake – two major projects are teed up for next year. It would be a record year for us. We are nervous of legislature pulling back from TXDOT funding for other state needs.
- We are compiling numbers with TxDot and AGC and other groups to provide numbers on how transportation is impacted by the crisis.

Action Items:

- **Assigned Outreach:** Letters should be sent by Friday, May, 8th.

Member/POC	Company
John Hughes	USAA
Brian Donovan	Valero
Henry Bonilla	Rackspace
Walter Serna	Landry's
Walter Serna	NRP Group
Walter Serna	Spurs
Walter Serna	TX Research Foundation
Noe Garcia/CM Perry	IBC
Noe Garcia/ CM Perry	North Chamber
CW Viagran	HEB
CW Viagran	Toyota
CW Viagran	SA Chamber
CW Rocha-Garcia	Hispanic Chamber
CW Rocha-Garcia	Zachary
Co-Chairs	Walmart
Mayor Dennis	IKEA
Vic Boyer	SAMCo
Thomas Cummins	Labor Union
General Lenderman	JBSA
Diane Rath	AACOG

Please send your letters to the contacts below.

Senator Cornyn

Jonathan Huhn - Jonathan.Huhn@cornyn.senate.gov

Senator Cruz

Carl Mica - Carl.Mica@cruz.senate.gov

Javier Salinas - Javier_Salinas@cruz.senate.gov

Congressman Cuellar

Catherine Edmonson - catherine.edmonson@mail.house.gov

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Congressman Doggett

MaryEllen Veliz - MaryEllen.Veliz@mail.house.gov

Congressman Hurd

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Congressman Castro

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Congressman Roy

Joseph Miller - Joseph.Miller@mail.house.gov

Nathan McDaniel - Nathan.McDaniel@mail.house.gov

Next Meeting:

Monday, May 11th at 3pm. Summaries will be sent after every meeting.

Sally Basurto will be maintaining and sharing the main dashboard with all the working groups. Keep in mind, the document changes every day so it's imperative that we use the document for reference only.