



**Council District 8**  
Manny Peláez

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

**Meeting Summary**  
**April 13, 2020**

**Contact Information:**

Chief of Staff, Lauren Mandel - 713-859-2487, [lauren.mandel@bexar.org](mailto:lauren.mandel@bexar.org)

Chief of Staff, Pat Wallace - 210-454-1474, [pat.wallace@sanantonio.gov](mailto: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 managing the lobbyists and reporting to our group with updates or challenges. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to our Chiefs of Staff (Lauren Mandel or Pat Wallace).

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**COSA & County Updates:**

**Sally Basurto – City of San Antonio**

- City Staff continues to identify revenue and funding streams from the CARES Act and supplemental funding packages
- Current funding streams in focus:
  1. U.S. Health and Human Services - \$4.6 million (\$2 million to community health center, Barrio Comprehensive Health Center and \$2.6 million for El Centro Del Barrio)
  2. National Endowment for the ARTS. It’s a competitive funding opportunity \$50K-\$250K. Applications are due April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

3. U.S. Department of Treasury opened up their certification portal- related to state and local relief funds (\$139 Billion). City & County are eligible for these funds and each entity must submit their certification by Friday, April 17th at midnight.
4. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, HUD funding was announced - \$7.7 million Housing & Homeless, \$3.9 million Emergency Services Grant and \$297K Housing opportunities for persons with AIDS.
5. Aside from tracking and identifying, COSA is corresponding with local stakeholders and working groups.
6. COSA expanded the stimulus funding tracker for the working groups- it shows how identified funding streams will be assigned to the different working groups.

### **Melissa Shannon – Bexar County**

Melissa echoed COSA's efforts to identify funding streams. Melissa submitted a spreadsheet with county information which has been shared with COSA. This information will be added to COSA's main stimulus funding tracker file.

### **Questions and Comments:**

**CM Pelaez:** Signal Group, Walter Serna and Penny Farthing represent the County in Washington, D.C. and they are welcome to join us on these calls.

#### **Walter Serna:**

1. Walter spoke with Leo Gomez at Brooks and they want this group to know that they are working with the Treasury to see if Brooks would qualify for the Payment Protection Program (PPE). If not, they've solicited Congressman Cuellar and Congressman Hurd who are drafting a letter to see if that correction can be made in stimulus package version 3.5.
2. Once 3.5 occurs – filling up coffers of Pay Protection Program again and a few other items – there will be a stimulus version 4 and a stimulus version 5.
  - How do we get city and county groups engaged to support President's idea that entertainment and business deductions for entertainment meals move back to 100%?
  - Do County and City want to take leadership on behalf of the Restaurant Association?

**CW Viagran:** How much will we be submitting for stabilization? Do city and county have to do it together or can it be separate?

**Sally:** It's a formula-based allocation - \$251 million just for COSA through the current formula. Treasury had to develop guidance for large county and large city embedded with 2 entities above 500,000 population count and both entities are eligible.

**CW Viagran:** For 501-C6 organizations such as Visit San Antonio & SAEDF; Can we advocate for this designation to be included in a future stimulus bill? What is Lackland and Union Army North doing in their coordination?

**Sally:** The SA Chamber is having discussions to pursue advocacy for 501-C6 organizations and will follow up with the chamber to confirm.

**Commissioner Wolff:** *(In response to Walter & Viagran)*

Our strategic goals ask for specific things:

**1. Consolidated report** - between County and City – what’s coming down by category and how it will be distributed.

**2. List of Federal Asks** - City Staff to compile list of specific asks to give to all respective lobby teams. The idea is that this committee is the clearinghouse to articulate these goals and strategies. Pat and Laura will be the clearinghouse and committee will determine if it is something we get behind.

**Brian Donovan (Valero):** As soon as we can get an idea of what type of D.C. support you need, we will be happy to facilitate.

**Carlos Contreras Comment** (*in response to Viagran about Stabilization Fund*):

The Treasury guidance gave examples of how the city and the county could receive funding. Keep in mind this is for COVID-19 related expenditures incurred after March 1 through December 31st that were not budgeted. If we both submit certification by Friday, we can eventually get reimbursed for expenditures up to an amount based on the 2019 population for COSA (1.4 million) and the County (1.9 million).

**CW Rocha Garcia:** CW texted Carlos to remind him that we spent money before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Don’t want us to lose sight of that. Carlos said – in her offline conversation with him – that we could receive funding under something else beyond the CARES act. We started expenditures early and should qualify for other funds.

**CM Perry:** Are we going to get any document to take a look at what’s being put together? When do we get the spreadsheets so we can ask questions and make comments?

*Sally Basurto will be maintaining and sharing the main dashboard to all the working groups. Keep in mind, the document changes by the hour so it’s imperative that we use the document for reference only and Sally will provide future updates during our meetings.*

### Next Steps:

- Committee Chairs will begin to prioritize an advocacy list for the lobbyists
- Forward your ideas or comments to Pat Wallace or Lauren Mandel
- We will discuss these priorities in future meetings
- CM Pelaez is working on a letter to advocate for transportation funding
- Lauren will follow up with General Lenderman’s team
- Sally Basurto will share the Stimulus Tracker with various working groups
- Sally Basurto will follow up with the SA Chamber
- COSA will incorporate the County’s data and continue to work together to update the main stimulus tracker file

### Next Meeting:

**Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.** Summaries will be sent after every meeting.