

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Economic Development

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2010

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Kathy Dodson, PhD, Director 541-4670

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Formal report of the Economic and Community Development, Quality of Life and Tourism Legislative Review Committee meeting held on June 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. as submitted by City Representative Steve Ortega, Chair. [Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872]

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Report to the Mayor and Council of the Economic and Community Development, Quality of Life and Tourism Legislative Review Committee meeting held on June 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

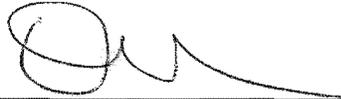
N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____



Department Head

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager



**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report**

Committee: Economic and Community Development,
Quality of Life and Tourism

Members: City Representative Steve Ortega (Chair)
City Representative Emma Acosta (absent)
City Representative Eddie Holguin
City Representative Ann Lilly

Staff Assignee: Kathryn Dodson, Ph.D., Director – Economic Development

Date of Meeting: June 10, 2010 – 10:00 p.m.

1. Discussion and action on the creation of an Infill Development Policy to spur development in vacant or underused parcels within city limit areas that are already largely developed.

Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Summary:

Overview of a proposed Infill Development Policy given was by Kathy Dodson. The aim of the policy is to incentivize infill development in order to prevent sprawl in El Paso. It is often more expensive to develop infill areas, and providing incentives that may reduce costs and make this type of development more attractive. Representative Holguin wanted to ensure that if the policy all applicants must ultimately be approved by City Council. Representative Ortega asked that Kathy Dodson present other models for infill development when the policy is presented to City Council.

Action taken:

The LRC approved unanimously the creation of an Infill Development Policy.

2. Discussion and action on the creation of a TIRZ Policy to establish guidelines for the future creation of Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones within city limits.

Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Summary:

Because of time constraints, this item was not heard.

Action taken:

No vote taken by the LRC.

3. Discussion and action on the City establishing or applying for creation of an El Paso Regional Investment Center to serve as a designated regional center under the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Immigration Investor EB-5 Visa Program (Regional Center Pilot Program) for the purpose of attracting foreign investment and promoting economic growth in the El Paso region.

Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Summary:

Kathy Dodson provided an overview of the Regional Investment Center Program, which is a federal immigration program that aims to increase investment in the U.S. economy and create full-time jobs for U.S. citizens. Immigrants who invest \$500,000-1,000,000 in a new commercial enterprise in designated Regional Centers are granted employment based visas ("green cards"). It was asked that the LRC allow the Economic Development Department to move forward with investigation of the project within the current budget. Representative Holguin wanted to ensure that costs related to investigation would not exceed the budget for this year.

Action taken:

The LRC approved unanimously to allow the Economic Development Department to move forward with investigation of the establishment of a Regional Investment Center in El Paso.

4. Discussion and action on the creation of the Air Service Development Incentive Policy to encourage new nonstop air service and competition at El Paso International Airport (EPIA) by providing temporary financial relief to an airline beginning new nonstop passenger service to a destination currently not served.
Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Summary:

Jeff Shultes with El Paso International Airport provided an overview of the Air Service Development Incentive Policy. The policy provides a one-year 50% reduction in landing fees for carriers that choose to fly to targeted cities and a \$25,000 match for marketing, a six month 50% reduction in landing fees for carriers that choose to fly to non-targeted cities and a \$25,000 match for marketing, and a three month 50% reduction in landing fees for carriers that choose to fly to seasonal cities and a \$10,000 match for marketing. A discussion followed on the necessity of providing an incentive to encourage non-stop flights if the carriers have not already done so. The response was that it may lessen the initial costs for carriers that start new routes and incentivize them to do so.

Action taken:

The LRC voted 2-1 to approve the creation of the Air Service Incentive Policy.

5. Discussion on a presentation by the El Paso Convention Visitors Bureau providing information about the levy, collection and use of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) by the City and County of El Paso.
Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Summary:

Because of time constraints, this item was not heard.

Action taken:

No vote taken by the LRC.

Executive Session Items

1. Discussion and action on economic development related negotiations and possible incentives for business prospect ND-062010. (551.087)
Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

Disposition:

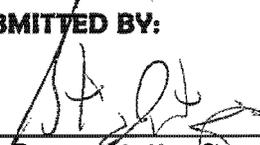
The item will be brought to City Council without a recommendation from the LRC.

2. Discussion and action on economic development related negotiations and possible incentives for business prospect SB-062010. (551.087)
Economic Development, Kathryn B. Dodson, (915) 541-4872

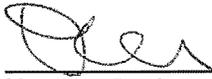
Disposition:

The item will be brought to City Council without a recommendation from the LRC.

SUBMITTED BY:



City Representative Steve Ortega, District 7
Chair, Economic and Community Development, Quality of Life
and Tourism



Kathryn Dodson, Ph.D., Director,
Economic Development