



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE ("LRC")
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Economic Development, Planning & Tourism

Members: City Representative Steve Ortega (Chair)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Ann Lilly
City Representative Cortney Niland

Date of Meeting: October 27, 2011

I. Report from the DMD (Downtown Management District).

Summary: Presentation was given by Bob Ayoub, President DMD. Mr. Ayoub explained that the DMD is working to get incentive programs in place and that there are residential and retail projects in the works. Rep Niland asked about the incentives available for downtown and would like to run the incentives by Dr. Feser. Veronica Soto, Executive Director for the DMD, noted that the DMD is compiling the information, census and surveys that have been done, and want to package that information. DCM Hamlyn stated that Economic Development staff was researching to see about getting key properties in key areas downtown, and concentrate resources on those so those buildings can be utilized. Rep. Niland would like to coordinate with the Downtown Management District (DMD) and the Central Business Association (CBA) re: the retail stimulus plan initiated in Orlando and would like to do something similar in downtown El Paso.

Ms. Soto provided maps for the Representatives that identified parking, hotels, landmarks, ATMs, and civic institutions.

Representative Niland requested that the maps could be modified to show a light watermark to indicate the different districts such as entertainment, retail, and culture, and asked that there be tours of downtown particularly for the military, but open to the entire city. Rep. Lilly asked that the Mexican Consulate be included in information about the tours.

The façade program was discussed; DCM Hamlyn explained what monies would be used for this program. Rep. Lilly asked whether TIRZ money can be used to do the basics in the old buildings.

Rep. Ortega said in the next month or so he will bring before the ED LRC an investigation of a commission of a group of people to establish 15 goals for downtown for 2015 that would coincide with the Men's Bowling Congress.

Rep. Ortega asked DCM Hamlyn when she could get back to the LRC with a proposal about the extension of the incentive program. DCM Hamlyn said she would be able to get back to the LRC within 30 days, although the deadline was not until January.

SUBMITTED BY:

City Representative Steve Ortega, District 7
Chair, Economic Development, Planning and Tourism LRC

Deborah Hamlyn, Deputy City Manager
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