

North Chamber State of the County

May 23, 2014

- I. Thank you
  - a. Chairperson Annie Turner
  - b. President Duane Wilson
  
- II. City Council shuffle
  - a. Confident the Council will select a strong leader
  - b. Will continue cooperative relationship with the City and next Mayor
  
- III. This year a Transition year for the County
  - a. Focused on transformational capital projects for last 8 years
  - b. Investments that will transition to future generations. Most completed
  - c. While we have seen returns already we will move on to ensuring programs & policies are put in place for a long term pay back:
  - d. Investments In:
    - i. Healthcare
    - ii. Technology
    - iii. Courthouse
    - iv. Transportation
    - v. Flood control
    - vi. Culture and recreation

- e. Returns are
  - i. Safety
  - ii. Health
  - iii. Education
  - iv. Criminal justice
  - v. Job creation
  - vi. Cultural renaissance
- f. These projects and programs are outlined in the Progress publications at your tables.
  - i. Thank Laura Jesse and Monica Ramos for putting it together

#### IV. HEALTHCARE

- a. \$900 million investment in UHS
  - i. 6-story Robert B. Green clinical pavilion
    - 1. Physician Specialists for adults and kids
    - 2. Advanced imaging
    - 3. Comprehensive lab
    - 4. Outpatient surgery
  - ii. 10-story Sky Tower
    - 1. Million square foot state of the art
    - 2. Level 1 trauma center
    - 3. First major upgrade in almost 40 years
    - 4. Serves 22-county region
- b. CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital
- c. Methodist Hospital facilities at Med Center

- d. Healthcare - leading economic generator
    - i. Need to build on successes
    - ii. Health care summit in '01
  - e. Changes in healthcare
    - i. Host another summit this September
    - ii. Prepare legislative agenda ahead of January
      - 1. Medicaid expansion
      - 2. Affordable health insurance
      - 3. Mental health issues
      - 4. Funding for UT Health Science Center at SA
      - 5. Expanding health care services to schools
- V. TECHNOLOGY, READING AND EDUCATION
- a. BiblioTech
    - i. Breaking down reading barriers
    - ii. Spreading virtue of technology
    - iii. More than 62,000 visitors since September.
    - iv. Average 300 patrons per day
    - v. 35,000 e-books checked out
    - vi. Opened circulation desk in the Central Jury Room
    - vii. Commit to open a branch on the East Side
    - viii. Reached out to military service overseas to open service to them
    - ix. Provided e-readers to incarcerated mothers
  - b. Expand scope of assisting public schools
    - i. Partnered with SA Reads in the Harlandale District
    - ii. Provided pre-loaded e-readers with books selected by teachers

- iii. BiblioTech Community Relations Liaison Catarina Velasquez has presented to 3,300 school children in the community.
- iv. Hidalgo Foundation
  1. Will grant \$120,000 to purchase and distribute 1,000 e-readers for school libraries
  2. BiblioTech staff will provide training

Recognize Tracy, Laura Cole and Ashley Eklof

## VI. PUBLIC SAFETY

- a. Millions invested in upgrading facilities and equipment
  - i. Juvenile and adult probation buildings
  - ii. Video visitation facility
  - iii. Courtrooms
  - iv. State of the art children's court
  - v. Technology
  - vi. Communications
  - vii. Ballistic shields and vests
  - viii. SWAT
  - ix. Tasers
  - x. Patrol cars equipped with video systems
  - xi. Training facilities
  - xii. The jail
- b. Six areas we will focus on to enhance our investments in public safety:
  - i. Judicial Support Services
    1. Manage dockets
    2. Quarterly reports
    3. Those charged spend less time awaiting trial

## ii. Specialty courts

1. Nonviolent offenders receive treatment
2. Saves space in jail for true criminals
3. Deals with root causes
  - a. Substance abuse
  - b. Mental health diagnosis
4. 6 criminal specialty courts, 3 civil
  - a. Rehabilitated more than 1,200 people
  - b. Less likely to reoffend
  - c. Reunited families
  - d. Every dollar invested = \$10 taxpayers save

## iii. Mental Health Department

1. Brings three professionals to evaluate programs and money allocation
2. Gilbert Gonzales
3. Screen individuals and prescribe treatment before released or enter judicial process

## iv. Re-Entry

1. Commissioner Adkisson convened committee few years ago to help for prisoners adjust to life after incarceration
  - a. Improves odds of them not entering revolving door of incarceration
  - b. Jobs
  - c. Housing
  - d. Social services
  - e. Education

- f. Re-entry program being constructed within county-owned facility near jail (Old Toudouze building)
  - 1. Inmates being released will go here to access services
- v. Abused and neglected children
  - 1. Find better prevention methods
  - 2. Work with Judge Sakai to address allocation of resources
- vi. Expand Public defender office
  - 1. \$11 million a year defending those who can't pay on their own
  - 2. Pilot program to expand public defender office to county and district courts
  - 3. Need judges to give it a try
- vii. These 6 reform measures helps free resources to put toward patrol officers
  - 1. Substations in northeast and northwest

Recognize Sheriff Pamerleau and District Attorney Susan Reed

## VII. TRANSPORTATION, FLOOD CONTROL

- a. Report at tables delineates only part of investment
  - i. Hundreds of millions with TxDOT
    - 1. Accelerating projects by financing upfront
    - 2. TxDOT reimburses based on traffic counts
  - ii. \$1.2 billion on 281, 1604 and I-10

- iii. Alamo RMA
  - 1. Absorbed operations
  - 2. Legislature granted \$10 vehicle registration fee = \$12 million per year
- b. Voters have choice to approve funding through Rainy Day Fund

Thank Kevin for work on RMA and transportation funding

- c. 500,000 more cars on roads in next few years = can't build our way out of it
- d. Public transportation options important
  - i. VIA has to play more vital role, they are doing that
    - 1. Park and Ride at Brooks and at Stone Oak
    - 2. Two multi-modal terminals in city center
    - 3. Bus rapid transit
    - 4. 5.9 miles of streetcar line
  - ii. Dallas and Houston have successful systems
    - 1. Started with controversy, ended with demand for expansion
  - iii. Streetcar v. bus
    - 1. 3 times more passengers
    - 2. Lasts 3 times longer
    - 3. Cheaper to run
    - 4. Reduces pollution and congestion
    - 5. Inner city connections – museums, residential, business
    - 6. No tax increase

- iv. Simple request = Make an informed decision
  - 1. Get facts
  - 2. Alex Briseno
    - a. Former City Manager
    - b. SAWS Board Chair
    - c. Trusted community member
  - 3. Jeff Arndt
    - a. Key role in Houston's rail system
  - 4. Charlie Gonzalez

## VIII. CULTURE AND RECREATION

- a. Mission Reach of river \$200 million
  - i. UNESCO World Heritage Site
  - ii. Would be only site in Texas
- b. 13 regional sports facilities
  - i. Bexar county games
- c. The county arenas and exposition halls
  - i. 300,000 sq. ft. exposition facilities
  - ii. Coliseum
  - iii. AT&T center
  - iv. Rodeo
    - 1. Best indoor rodeo every year since 2005
    - 2. \$11.5 million this year in scholarships
    - 3. \$147 million total
    - 4. Keith Martin, thousands of volunteers
- v. Spurs

- d. Tobin Center for the Performing Arts
  - i. \$108 million County investment
  - ii. Set new national standard
  - iii. 1,750 seat auditorium
  - iv. 300-set black box theater
  - v. Outside performance space
  - vi. Incredible and diverse line-up for its first year Sept. 4 opening.
  - vii. Expanding the ability to attract top-notch performers
    - 1. Renee Fleming
    - 2. Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
    - 3. Lang Lang
    - 4. Bill Cosby
  - viii. Continue to support local cultural institutions
    - 1. San Antonio Symphony
    - 2. Ballet San Antonio
    - 3. Opera San Antonio
    - 4. Local performing groups
  - ix. Bexar County Arts Internship Program
    - 1. Help local arts organizations attract talented college students
    - 2. County pays for 10-week internship
      - a. Focus on special project or program
    - 3. In second year with organizations like
      - a. Youth Orchestras of San Antonio
      - b. Ballet San Antonio
      - c. Cactus Pear Music Festival
      - d. The Playhouse

- e. Music venues
  - i. Maverick Music Festival successful in 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - ii. Stage more events using proximity of multiple venues in City Center
    - 1. I will convene meeting with venue owners and concert promoters to take this from concept to concerts.
    - 2. Festival should be as diverse as our population
- f. Museums on a cultural corridor
  - i. Alameda under construction
    - 1. Tribute to Spanish language film and theater
  - ii. Children's Museum
  - iii. Witte Museum
  - iv. McNay
  - v. SAMA
  - vi. Briscoe Western Arts Museum
  - vii. Blue Star
  - viii. All support connection by streetcar

## IX. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a. All of these investments comes full circle to support job growth
  - i. Capital investment
  - ii. Public safety
  - iii. Culture, recreation
  - iv. All lead to continued economic growth
- b. Investments and Incentives for central city growth is good for all of us regardless of where we live

- c. Housing developments from Pearl to Big Tex (South Town)
- d. City Center is coming to life and that's good
  - i. Sprawl is expensive
    - 1. Provision of city-like services = double tax rate
    - 2. Every city dweller = less money needed for new extension of services, infrastructure
  - ii. Urban living = more young professionals
- e. Bringing more economic growth requires building on all investments
  - i. 381 grants
  - ii. Tax abatement programs
  - iii. Texas Enterprise Zone nominations
  - iv. More than \$4 billion investment in capital by private companies over 10 years
- f. Results
  - i. 167,000 jobs added, 22% growth since 2001
  - ii. Unemployment down to 4.8% compared to 6.7% nationally

## X. BUDGET

- a. Fiscally conservative
- b. Reduced tax rate over 13 years
  - i. Senior Citizen freeze
  - ii. Disabled veteran exemption
  - iii. Still maintain triple A credit rating
- c. FY 13-14 budget
  - i. First post-recession
  - ii. Increase in valuations – up nearly 5.5%

- iii. \$1.6 billion across all funds
- d. Next fiscal year
  - i. Should be even better
  - ii. Asking David Smith to prepare a budget with additional tax rate cut
  - iii. Stimulate more economic development
  
- XI. Leave you with four philosophical thoughts that I believe in.
  - 1. That it's not about talking, but about doing
  - 2. Not about what you are against but what are you for.
  - 3. Not about equivocation but standing up for what you believe in and not being afraid to make hard decisions.
  - 4. It's not about whether you are Democrat or Republican but rather are you willing to work together for the best of the community on a bipartisan basis.

Thank you.