



STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS
COUNTY JUDGE NELSON W. WOLFF
JUNE 22, 2010

THANK CHAMBER, RICHARD PEREZ AND CARRIE WELLS

MAYOR CASTRO- GREAT TO WORK WITH. IN CUBE, CPS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT . NATIONAL REPUTATION, PUTTING SA ON MAP, IN DEMAND NATIONWIDE. GREAT FOR US BACK HOME BECAUSE HE CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONE TIME.

TOUGH BEING A POLITICAN, CRITICISM, RIDICULE

SIGN ON 1604 AND 10 STOP ORGANIZED CRIME DO NOT RE-ELECT ANYONE.

POLITICS IS ALL ABOUT SINCERITY. IF YOU CAN FAKE IT YOU HAVE GOT IT MADE.

COUNTY BUDGET

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS THAT BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 2008 HAS AFFECTED OUR ECONOMY AND CONSEQUENTLY THE COUNTY'S OPERATING BUDGET.

COMMISSIONERS COURT IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TAKING PREEMPTIVE ACTION TO FORESTALL A DEFICIT THAT WOULD GROW TO \$70 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS IF WE DID NOT ACT EARLY.

WE IMPLEMENTED A HIRING AND SALARY FREEZE AND REFUSED ANY OUT OF CYCLE BUDGET REQUESTS. WE CUT OUR 2008-09 OPERATING BUDGET AND DOUBLED THOSE CUTS IN THE 2009-10 BUDGET.

THIS YEAR WE PLAN TO HAVE A ZERO-GROWTH OPERATING BUDGET WITH NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. ONE WAY THAT WE HAVE CONTROLLED OUR OPERATING BUDGET IS BY BRINGING MORE EFFICIENCY TO OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WHERE 60% OF OUR OVERALL BUDGET IS SPENT.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NINE YEARS AGO WHEN I BECAME COUNTY JUDGE I RECEIVED A REPORT THAT SAID WE WOULD NEED TO BUILD ANOTHER JAIL THAT WOULD COST TAXPAYERS TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

INSTEAD WE EMBARKED ON AN EFFORT TO TRANSFORM OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM BY TREATING, RATHER THAN INCARCERATING INDIVIDUALS WHEN WE CAN, AND INSTILLING BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN OUR COURTS.

ABOUT 25% OF THE APPROXIMATELY 4000 PEOPLE WE INCARCERATE HAVE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES THAT OFTEN CARRY A DUAL DIAGNOSIS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE. WE CREATED A MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PROGRAM AND A DETOX CENTER OPERATED BY THE CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

NOW, PEOPLE WHO ARE ARRESTED WITH OBVIOUS MENTAL ISSUES ARE TAKEN TO A CRISIS CENTER AND INEBRIATED PEOPLE GO TO THE DETOX CENTER.

WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED A MENTAL HEALTH COURT ALONG WITH TWO CASE WORKERS TO SEEK TREATMENT RATHER THAN INCARCERATION FOR THESE NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS.

WE ARE ALSO WORKING TO CREATE A VETERANS' COURT TO DIVERT VETERANS' WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES TO TREATMENT AND OTHER SERVICES.

WE HAVE CREATED THREE DRUG COURTS TO WORK WITH THOSE ARRESTED WHO HAVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS. INSTEAD OF GOING TO JAIL THEY ARE PUT ON PROBATION AND INTENSELY MONITORED BY THE COURTS AND PROBATION STAFF. WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN 500 SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES OF THE ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM WITH A LITTLE LESS THAN 9% RE-OFFENDING. COMPARE THAT TO A STATEWIDE RECIDIVISM STUDY SHOWING THAT 97% OF DRUG USERS WHO ARE SENT TO PRISON WITHOUT TREATMENT WILL BE RE-ARRESTED WITHIN A YEAR OF RELEASE.

WE WERE AMONG THE FIRST COUNTIES IN TEXAS TO SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISH THESE COURTS, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF COUNTY COURT JUDGE AL ALONSO, AND WE HAVE GROWN THIS PROGRAM INTO A NATIONAL MODEL FOR SMART JUSTICE.

THANK JUDGE AL ALONSO FOR LEADING THE CREATION OF THE DRUG COURT PROGRAM.

WE HAVE INVESTED \$11 MILLION IN THE HAVEN FOR HOPE AND PLACED OUR DRUG COURTS NEXT DOOR TO THE CAMPUS IN THE DETOX CENTER, WHERE TREATMENT IS READILY AVAILABLE.

WE HAVE CREATED A JOINT MAGISTRATION EFFORT WITH THE CITY, HOUSING ALL DEPARTMENTS IN THE FRANK WING BUILDING. THE COMMISSIONERS COURT, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES, NOW APPOINTS THOSE MAGISTRATES.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART MAGISTRATION BUILDING THAT WOULD BE LOCATED NEXT TO THE COUNTY JAIL.

IT WILL HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HOUSE 400 ARRESTED PEOPLE FOR 72 HOURS GIVING THE PERSON AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE MINOR CASES OR TO POST BAIL. THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO TRANSPORT PRISONERS FROM THE MAGISTRATION CENTER TO THE JAIL.

WE HAVE CREATED 3 NEW COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS TO HELP EXPEDITE THE OVERLOADED COURT SYSTEM. THEY HAVE REPLACED VISITING JUDGES AND ARE USING EXISITING STAFF.

WE HIRED FORMER JUDGE TIM JOHNSON, WHO WAS OUR MOST EFFICIENT AND EXPERIENCED CRIMINAL JUDGE. IN ADDITION TO OTHER DUITES, WE CHARGED HIM WITH BRINGING A STATE-OF-THE-ART MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO 23 CRIMINAL COURTS.

WE PRODUCE A QUARTERLY JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT THAT COMPILES AND COMPARES STATISTICS FOR THE CRIMINAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY COURTS AND THE D.A.'S OFFICE. THIS TOOL ALLOWS THE JUDGES TO COMPARE THEIR EFFICIENCY TO OTHER JUDGES AND HELPS THEM ADOPT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS HAVE SHOWN GREAT SUCCESS, BUT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF D.A. SUSAN REED AND THE CRIMINAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

WE ARE NOT BUILDING A NEW JAIL. WE HAVE 500 LESS INMATES THAN WE DID A YEAR AGO WHICH MEANS WE ARE NOT PAYING OTHER COUNTIES TO HOUSE OUR INMATES, THESE SAVINGS ALONG WITH A REDUCTION IN OVERTIME PAID TO JAILERS HAS PRODUCED SAVINGS OF JUST OVER \$2 MILLION.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DESPITE TRYING ECONOMIC TIMES, OUR FUTURE FOR NEW JOB CREATION LOOKS SOLID AND IT'S BEING NOTICED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. TRAVIS TULLOS, AN ANALYST FOR AUSTIN-BASED TXP INC SAID, "I HAVEN'T FELT THIS GOOD ABOUT SAN ANTONIO'S ECONOMY EVER."

- THE EXPANSION OF MILITARY MEDICINE AT FT. SAM AND THE ADDITION OF THOUSANDS OF JOBS;
- TOYOTA'S EXPANDED PRODUCTION OF THE TACOMA;
- 600 NEW EMPLOYEES AT ALL STATE,
- AND OTHER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES UNDERWAY ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THAT SENTIMENT.

BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, WITH VERY LIMITED RESOURCES, HAS DONE A MARVELOUS JOB IN ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES. BUT WE ARE NOW COMPETING AGAINST MORE AGGRESSIVE

CITIES WITH MUCH LARGER BUDGETS AND SOPHISTICATED ECONOMIC STRATEGIES.

TWO YEARS AGO IN A SPEECH TO THE CHAMBER I CALLED FOR A NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, ONE THAT WOULD MARSHAL OUR LIMITED RESOURCES AND ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO OUR EFFORTS. A LOT OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

A TASK FORCE HEADED BY DAVID ZACHRY AND WAYNE PEAKCOCK DEVELOPED A PLAN. BOTH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSIONERS COURT HAVE GIVEN TENTATIVE APPROVAL TO AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION THAT INCLUDES AN INFUSION OF \$1 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY FROM THE CITY AND COUNTY.

A 13-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CREATED WITH THE CITY AND COUNTY APPOINTING ONE PERSON EACH. I MET TWO WEEKS AGO WITH CITY AND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS MET TO CONTINUE REFINING OUR AGREEMENT.

MAYOR CASTRO AND I ARE CHARGED WITH CREATING A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL VISION AND LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES WOULD BE TO:

- COORDINATE WITH ALAMO AREA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS WHO REPRESENTS 12 COUNTIES SURROUNDING BEXAR;
- INCREASE OUR PRIORITY TO TARGET JOBS IN INDUSTRY CLUSTERS THAT HOLD THE MOST PROMISE FOR THE NEXT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS;
- ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES;
- AND DEVELOP NEW INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT SMART, HIGH PAYING JOBS.

- MAYOR CASTRO IS LEADING THE EFFORT TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ENHANCE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND REINFORCE OUR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES. PRIVATE BUSINESSES THAT WANT TO CONTINUE TO THRIVE IN THIS COMMUNITY MUST BACK HIM IN THESE EFFORTS.

WITNESS OUR RECENT SUCCESS IN USING NEW INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT INCUBE, OUR LATEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRIUMPH. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE COORDINATED WITH MAYOR CASTRO'S VISION 2020 PLAN.

THANK COMMISSIONER KEVIN WOLFF FOR TAKING THE LEAD ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

TRANSPORTATION

OUR GREATEST THREAT TO THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPANSION OF OUR REGION IS OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

OUR ABILITY TO MOVE PEOPLE AND GOODS IN AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANNER IS SLOWLY GRINDING TO A HALT. IN THE LAST 10 YEARS OUR TRAFFIC CONGESTION HAS BEEN GROWING FASTER THAN MANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIES.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT SAN ANTONIO DRIVERS WASTE ABOUT ONE WEEK A YEAR IN HEAVY TRAFFIC, ADDING POLLUTANTS TO OUR AIR AND TAKING AWAY FROM OUR OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF LIFE.

SAN ANTONIO IS THE ONLY AMERICAN CITY THAT HAS NOT BEEN DECLARED NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT. BUT THAT STATUS IS NOW IN JEORPARDY.

51 PROJECTS AT A TOTAL OF 3.3 BILLION DOLLARS HAD TO BE DROPPED FROM OUR LOCAL MOBILITY 2035 PLAN BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FUNDING. TXDOT HAS ANNOUNCED THERE WILL BE NO NEW FUNDING FOR NEW HIGHWAY PROJECTS AFTER THE YEAR 2012.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY WE ARE IN TROUBLE.

THE FUEL TAX WAS LAST INCREASED IN 1991. IT IS NOT A PERCENTAGE TAX BUT A SET 20 CENTS. THAT 20 CENTS TODAY HAS A BUYING POWER OF 9.6 CENTS.

CARS ALSO GET BETTER GAS MILEAGE TODAY, AND WHILE THAT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND AIR QUALITY, IT ALSO RESULTS IN LESS TAX REVENUE.

THE LEGISLATURE HAS DIVERTED TRANSPORTATION FUNDS TO SUBSIDIZE OTHER PROGRAMS.

IN ORDER TO MEET CRITICAL DEMANDS THE LEGISLATURE AUTHORIZED TXDOT TO BORROW MONEY, WHICH WILL RESULT IN LESS FUNDING FOR THE FUTURE. AS A RESULT OF THE MISGUIDED STATE DECISIONS WE FIND OUR LONG TERM ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN JEOPARDY.

BECAUSE THE STATE HAS FAILED TO ADDRESS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES WE HAVE USED EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO ENHANCE TRANSPORTATION.

IN 2004 I LED A CAMPAIGN TO PASS A 1/8TH CENT SALES TAX THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR MASS TRANSIT AS WELL AS FOR LEVERAGING FUNDS FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS. THIS EFFORT PASSED WITH 60% OF THE VOTE.

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT CREATED THE ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY TO ASSIST IN BUILDING HIGHWAYS USING PUBLIC FUNDS AS WELL AS TOLLS AS A LAST CHOICE.

THE RMA IS USING ONE TIME FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS TO BUILD 4 CONNECTORS FROM 281 TO 1604. THEY ARE BUILDING THE SUPER STREET ON 281 (FINISH BY OCTOBER) AND WILL SOON START A SUPER STREET ON LOOP 1604 FROM BRAUN ROAD TO STATE HIGHWAY 151. (START JAN 2011).

WE ALSO HAVE RECEIVED FEDERAL STIMULUS DOLLARS FOR THE COMPLETION OF WURZBACH PARKWAY AND THE EXTENSION OF 36TH STREET INTO PORT SAN ANTONIO. AGAIN THESE PROJECTS WILL USE ONE-TIME FEDERAL FUNDS.

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT HAS ISSUED BONDS, USING PASS THRU FINANCING AGREEMENTS, TO ADVANCE TXDOT PROJECTS ON CULEBRA AND BLANCO ROADS. WE WILL SOON START POTRANCO AND CONNECTING SECTIONS OF STATE HIGHWAY 211 USING A SIMILAR FUNDING AGREEMENT. WITHOUT THESE AGREEMENTS, TXDOT WOULD NOT HAVE STARTED THESE PROJECTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

TWO WEEKS AGO SEN. WENTWORTH AND REP MCCLENDON, WHO ARE GREAT CHAMPIONS OF INCREASED FUNDING, HOSTED A TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE. HOUSE TRANSPORTATION CHAIRMAN REP. JOE PICKET ATTENDED.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- STOP DIVERSION OF \$610 MILLION A YEAR IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDING;
- RAISE THE STATEWIDE FUEL TAX BY 10 CENTS, WHICH WOULD GENERATE \$1.5 BILLION A YEAR, BUT COST A MOTORIST ONLY \$50 A YEAR;
- INDEX THE FUEL TAX;
- AND GIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THE OPTION TO SUBMIT TO VOTERS TO PASS A LOCAL 10-CENT FUEL TAX THAT WOULD RAISE \$1.2 BILLION OVER 25 YEARS AND COULD BE USED FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANIST, AND ARTERIAL ROADS.

A FIRST CLASS INNERCITY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS VITAL TO DISCOURAGE URBAN SPRAWL, WHICH IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE.

WE ARE WORKING WITH VIA TO CREATE AN INNERCITY STREET CAR SYSTEM. IT WOULD INITIALLY START DOWNTOWN WITH A DOUBLE TRACK 2.7 MILES EAST AND WEST AND 2.2 MILES NORTH AND SOUTH. THE FUNDING WOULD BE MIX OF FEDERAL, VIA, CITY, COUNTY AND PRIVATE SECTOR DOLLARS.

STREET CARS HELP CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENCOURAGE COMPACT DEVELOPMENT, A STRATEGY BACKED BY THE CENTRO PARTNERSHIP, OF WHICH I AM A BOARD MEMBER, TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THANK COMMISSIONER TOMMY ADKISSON FOR LEADERSHIP ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM ALSO NEEDS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE PROPOSED LONESTAR PASSENGER LINE THAT WOULD USE EXISTING UNION PACIFIC TRACKS BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO AND GEORGETOWN SERVING SOME 3 MILLION PEOPLE. EXPRESS SERVICE FROM DOWNTOWN AUSTIN TO DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO WOULD TAKE 90 MINUTES.

PASS-THROUGH FREIGHT RAIL TRAFFIC WOULD BE MOVED OUT OF THE URBAN CORRIDOR TO EAST OF HWY 35 WHERE THERE ARE EXISTING TRACKS. WE NEED THE STATE TO FUND RAIL RELOCATION TO MAKE THESE PASSENGER PROJECTS VIABLE.

BEXAR COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

THE BEXAR COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT IS MANAGED BY A 7-MEMBER BOARD THAT IS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT. WE ALSO APPROVE THEIR BUDGET AND TAX RATE.

WE ARE THE TEACHING HOSPITAL OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND WE TREAT ALL WHO COME OUR WAY REGARDLESS OF THEIR FINANCIAL ABILITY TO PAY. THE ONLY DOCTORS WHO CAN PRACTICE IN OUR HOSPITAL ARE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AT UHS, WE HAVE BEEN RANKED AMONG THE TOP HOSPITALS NATIONWIDE FOR YEARS.

THE COMMISSIONERS COURT VOTED IN 2008 TO RAISE THE BEXAR COUNTY HOSPITAL TAX IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ALMOST \$1 BILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDING THAT WILL DOUBLE THE SIZE OF OUR FACILITIES.

THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER PAUL ELIZONDO, FOR WORKING ON THAT FINANCING PACKAGE.

THE IMPROVEMENTS AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN THE MEDICAL CENTER WILL INCLUDE AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY CENTER, ADD INPATIENT ROOMS, IMPROVE DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT AREAS AND ADD PARKING.

AT THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER – DOWNTOWN, WE WILL PROVIDE ACUTE AND CRISIS CARE FACILITIES, DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING, PHARMACY SERVICES AND ADD PARKING.

THOSE IMPROVEMENTS WILL MAKE THE OLD BRADY GREEN HOSPITAL THE PERFECT LABORATORY FOR A HEALTH CAREERS HIGH SCHOOL LOCATED AT FOX TECH.

THE CAPITAL PROGRAM IS BY FAR THE LARGEST AMOUNT EVER INVESTED IN OUR SYSTEM. CONSTRUCTION ALREADY IS UNDERWAY AND PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 2012.

PLEASE RECOGNIZE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM CEO AND PRESIDENT GEORGE HERNANDEZ, THE BOARD MEMBERS AND THE SOME 5,000 PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PATIENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

NATIONWIDE THERE ARE 50 FREESTANDING CRITICAL CARE CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS THAT HAVE AN ACADEMIC AFFILIATION WITH A CO-LOCATED RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

THESE HOSPITALS OFFER COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FROM BIRTH TO AGE 21, WHICH INCULDE TRANSPLANTATION OF BOTH SOLID ORGANS AND STEM CELLS. AND THEY ALL HAVE A LEVEL ONE TRAUMA CENTER.

THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY A PRIVATE FOUNDATION AND THEY SERVE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS AS WELL AS LOCAL CHILDREN. THESE HOSPITALS ALSO SERVE AS A MAGNET FOR GENERALISTS AND SUBSPECIALISTS.

SAN ANTONIO HAS FOUR HOSPITALS PROVIDING SOME CHILDREN'S SERVICES. BUT WE FACE CRITICAL SHORTAGES IN NEUROLOGY, GASTROENTEROLOGY, AND UROLOGY BECAUSE THESE DOCTORS ARE MIGRATING TOWARD FREESTANDING CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS IN HOUSTON, DALLAS, FT. WORTH, AND AUSTIN WITH ANOTHER ONE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN EL PASO.

SUBSPECIALISTS ARE THE DRIVERS OF RESEARCH, BUT WE HAVE LOST 15 SUBSPECIALISTS IN THE LAST 4 YEARS – 13 TO FREESTANDING CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.

WITH OUR GROWING BIO SCIENCES INDUSTRY, SAN ANTONIO MAKES AN OBVIOUS LOCATION FOR A CRITICAL CARE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. SUCH A FACILITY WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE CARE FOR OUR MOST SICK CHILDREN, IT WILL EXPAND OUR ROLE IN CREATING SMART, HIGH PAYING BIO SCIENCES JOBS.

A NEW FACILITY WOULD BE BETWEEN 220-250 BEDS AND COST \$300 TO \$400 MILLION DOLLARS. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR THE LAST YEAR TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP WITH SOME OR ALL OF THE OTHER 3 HOSPITAL SYSTEMS IN TOWN.

IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT, BUT WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH FORWARD.

COUNTY CAPITAL PROGRAM

BECAUSE WE HAVE CONTROLLED OUR OPERATING BUDGET AT BEXAR COUNTY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE OUR CAPITAL BUDGET AND ADVANCE PROJECTS IN AN EFFORT TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

WE BELIEVE THAT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS PROVIDE LONG TERM BENEFITS AND CREATE JOBS. IN ADDITION TO THE ALMOST \$1 BILLION IN HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION WE HAVE ALSO ALLOCATED ANOTHER BILLION DOLLARS TO COUNTY CAPITAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING:

- THE EXPANSION OF THE CADENA-REEVES JUSTICE CENTER, A 200,000 SQUARE FOOT, LEED SILVER CERTIFIED BUILDING. IT WILL BE COMPLETELY OPEN IN OCTOBER.
- ONE YEAR AGO WE OPENED A NEW ADULT PROBATION BUILDING.
- WE RECENTLY DEDICATED THE NEW JUVENLE PROBATION CENTER TO THE LATE JUDGE ANDY MIRELES.
- AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING A NEW 500-SPACE PARKING GARAGE THAT WILL USE SOLAR PANELS TO POWER SOME OF ITS OPERATIONS.

THE COUNTY'S \$415 MILLION COMMUNITY VENUES PROGRAM USING VISITOR TAX FUNDS WILL GARNER ANOTHER \$300 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND UNTOLD MILLIONS IN ECONOMIC IMPACT ONCE THE PROJECTS ARE COMPLETE.

WE HAVE INVESTED SOME OF THAT MONEY RIGHT HERE IN THE RODEO GROUNDS AND FREEMAN COLISEUM. AND SOON WE WILL REINVEST IN THIS VERY FACILITY TO KEEP THIS A COMPETITIVE STADIUM AND FITTING HOME FOR OUR CHAMPION SPURS.

PERFORMING ARTS

WITH \$100 MILLION IN VISITOR TAX FUNDING, THE BEXAR COUNTY PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION WILL TURN MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM INTO A TOP NOTCH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

RECOGNIZE BRUCE BUGG FOR LEADING FOUNDATION

A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO THE FOUNDATION RECRUITED RODNEY SMITH TO SERVE AS GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER. HE BRINGS WITH HIM A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN THEATER DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF PERFORMING ARTS SPACES, HAVING MANAGED THE DENVER PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX AND EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER.

THE DESIGN TEAM OF MARMON MOK AND SEATTLE-BASED LMN ARCHITECTS, WHO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION FOR DESIGNING QUALITY CULTURAL ARTS VENUES, HAS STARTED WORKING ON TRANSFORMING THE HISTORIC AUDITORIUM.

WE WILL BREAK GROUND ON THIS MONUMENTAL PROJECT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETE IN TWO YEARS.

I WANT TO SEE A PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL EVENTUALLY OPEN IN THE INNERCITY AND USE THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AS A LABORATORY. THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ITSELF WILL HAVE A STRONG EDUCATION COMPONENT.

SAN ANTONIO RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

THE MISSION REACH ECOSYSTEM AND RECREATION PROJECT IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TO COME ALONG FOR THE SOUTH SIDE IN DECADES.

THANK COMMISSIONER CHICO RODRIGUEZ FOR SUPPORT OF THE MISSION REACH.

THE EIGHT-MILE MEANDERING STRETCH OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER FROM LONESTAR BOULEVARD TO MISSION ESPADA WAS STRAIGHTENED AND CHANNELED INTO A TRAPEZOIDAL DITCH IN THE 50s.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY, WE ARE TURNING THE RIVER BACK TO A NATURAL FORM AND RESTORING THE RIPARIAN AND WILDLIFE HABITATS WHILE PRESERVING FLOOD CONTROL FEATURES.

BEXAR COUNTY HAS COMMITTED \$213 MILLION OF THE \$285.5 MILLION PROJECT, INCLUDING \$125 MILLION IN VISITOR TAX FUNDING. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT AND WANT TO SEE IT COMPLETED WITHOUT DELAY.

ALONG THE FIRST 1-MILE PHASE YOU CAN ALREADY SEE BIRDS, TURTLES AND OTHER WILDLIFE ENJOYING THE NEW RIVER. SOON RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE FIRST PHASE.

ZACHRY CONSTRUCTION BEGAN THE SECOND PHASE IN FEBRUARY AND WE KNOW FROM WORKING WITH THEM ON THE MUSEUM REACH THEY WILL DO A GOOD JOB, ON BUDGET AND ON TIME.

SOON SARA WILL AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE AND THE ENTIRE 8-MILE MISSION REACH WILL BE COMPLETED IN 2013.

THE PROJECT IS EXCITING, BUT IN A WAY ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM THE MUSEUM REACH. WHILE WE WILL HAVE SOME PUBLIC ART AND EMBELLISHED PORTALS LEADING TO THE FOUR MISSIONS, THE GOAL OF THE MISSION REACH PROJECT IS TO BRING BACK THE NATURAL LOOK AND FEEL OF THE RIVER. THE LANDSCAPING WILL BE LESS MANICURED AND MORE LIKE THAT OF AN UNTOUCHED RIVER BANK.

AMATEUR SPORTS FIELDS

PERHAPS THE MOST FAR-REACHING OF THE VISITOR TAX PROPOSALS IS OUR \$80 MILLION INVESTMENT IN 13 AMATEUR SPORTS FIELDS AND COMPLEXES.

WE HAVE OPENED TWO FACILITIES ALREADY — GORDON HARTMAN'S SPECTACULAR STAR SOCCER COMPLEX AND THE SOUTHEAST SKYLINE PONY STADIUM. WE ARE READY TO OPEN ANOTHER TWO THIS FALL — CLASSICS ELITE SOCCER AND MCALLISTER LITTLE LEAGUE — AND WE JUST KICKED OFF CONSTRUCTION FOR CULEBRA CREEK SOCCER.

NORTHSIDE ISD JUST PASSED A BOND ISSUE THAT WILL FUND THE REST OF THE NATIONAL SWIM CENTER IT INTENDS TO BUILD WITH VISITOR TAX FUNDS.

ALL OF THESE FACILITIES WILL INCREASE BEXAR COUNTY'S APPEAL WHEN IT COMES TO ATTRACTING YOUTH SPORTING EVENTS ON A REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.