

2016 NORTH CHAMBER SPEECH

THANK CHAIR GARY HOYACK AND PRESIDENT DUANE WILSON

I. OVERALL ECONOMY IS DOING GREAT

- A. POPULATION IN SAN ANTONIO MSA GREW BY 37,479
PEOPLE FROM JULY 2014 TO JULY 2015**
- B. ADDED NEARLY AS MANY JOBS WITH 35,000 ADDED IN
2015**
- C. UNEMPOLMENT RATE 3.7% - 5TH LOWEST OF METRO
AREAS WITH POPULATION MORE THAN 1 MILLION**

II. LAST YEAR'S SPEECH ABOUT A SECTOR THAT WAS LAGGING — TECH.

- A. UBER AND LYFT LEFT SA WHILE AUSTIN EMBRACED THEM**
- B. AUSTIN HAD GOOGLE FIBER, WE DIDN'T**
- C. WE WERE BEHIND AUSTIN IN DEVELOPING A TECH
INDUSTRY**
- D. I METIONED WE HAD SOME STRONG BUILDING BLOCKS
UNDERWAY. TECH BLOC, GEEKDOM, CYBER SECURITY,
TALENT DEVELOPMENT, INCENTIVES**
- E. NOW A YEAR LATER - BETTER PICTURE**
 - 1. UBER AND LYFT LEFT AUSTIN BUT THRIVE IN SA**
 - 2. GOOGLE FIBER IS HERE**
 - 3. THANK MAYOR TAYLOR**

III. TECH IN BEXAR COUNTY

A. SHAUN WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF SA-TECOSYTEM, LAST WEEK RELEASED A STUDY ON TRADITIONAL TECH INDUSTRY

- 1. GREW FROM 15,000 JOBS IN 2008 TO 34,000 JOBS IN 2016.**
- 2. THE TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IS \$10 BILLION.**
- 3. AVERAGE WAGE \$78,000 COMPARED TO \$45,000 ACROSS ECONOMY**
- 4. CONTINUE TO GROW THE INDUSTRY THROUGH TECH FIRMS, EMBEDDED TECH DEPARTMENTS IN COMPANIES, AND THE LARGE MILITARY PRESENCE.**
- 5. CYBER SECURITY, 24th AND AIRFORCE AT PORT SAN ANTONIO-OVER 1000 PEOPLE WORKING. IN LAST YEAR 4 CYBERSECURITY FIRMS SET UP SHOP**
- 6. ENCOURAGE THE PORT AUTHORITY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A STATE OF THE ART FACILITY THAT WOULD PROVIDE A HOME FOR MORE PRIVATE SECTOR CYBER SECURITY FIRMS.**

B. INNOVATION AT BEXAR COUNTY:

- 1. BIBLIOTECH - 3RD BRANCH OPENING IN EARLY 2017.**
 - a. JUST THIS TUESDAY COMMISSIONERS COURT APPROVED AGREEMENT WITH ALAMO COLLEGES FOR NETWORK+ CERTIFICATION-A PATHWAY TO RACKSPACE'S CLOUD ACADEMY.**
 - b. THANK TRACY AND LAURA COLE**

2. INNOVATION FUND

- a. \$1 MILLION TO FOCUS ON RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & EXPANSION, TALENT DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND BRAND BUILDING**
- b. TECHFUEL COMPETITION - WINNERS OF \$50,000 STARTUP COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TECH BLOC RALLY ON JUNE 16TH. THANK JORDANA DECAMPS AND DAVID MARQUEZ**

C. TALENT DEVELOPMENT, RECRUITMENT

- 1. SA WORKS -PETER JOHN HOLT AND KATE ROGERS**
 - a. INDUSTRY DRIVEN EFFORT TO TEACH TO JOB**
 - b. INDUSTRY CERTIFICATES**
 - c. PARTNER WITH ALAMO COLLEGES TO OFFER COLLEGE CREDITS**
 - d. HIGH SCHOOLERS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY EARN AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE**
 - e. ASK FOR INTERN POSITIONS THIS SUMMER**
- 2. THANK TOMMY CALVERT**

D. RETAIN TALENT - URBAN HUBS - LIVE WORK AND PLAY

- 1. CENTRAL**
- 2. CULTURE**
- 3. RESTAURANTS**
- 4. PARK/SIDEWALKS/PUBLIC TRANSIT**

5. HUNDREDS OF MORE HOUSING UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

6. OFFICE SPACE FROST TOWER

7. CONDO/HOTELS ANNOUNCED

8. HEMISFAIR PARK

9. PEARL/SOUTHTOWN CONTINUING TO GROW

E. URBAN HUBS OUTSIDE DOWNTOWN

1. LA CANTERA & THE RIM

2. THE QUARRY

F. NEW DEVELOPMENT OFF I-10 AT UTSA BOULEVARD

1. AT 114 ACRES, IT IS MORE THAN 5 TIMES THE SIZE OF PEARL

2. DEVELOPERS ARE IMAGINING A VERY LARGE PEARL WITH WALKABLE PATHS BETWEEN DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE MULTI-USE DEVELOPMENT.

G. TRANSPORTATION- CONNECT URBAN HUBS

1. SINCE BEXAR COUNTY ASSUMED THE STAFFING RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ALAMO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY IN 2013

a. RECENTLY APPROVED \$179 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR 13 NEW NON-TOLLED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS. THANK RENEE GREEN AND DAVID SMITH

2. IN JUST THE PAST 4 YEARS, IN TOTAL, BEXAR COUNTY HAS CONTRIBUTED OVER \$527 MILLION DOLLARS FOR 21 REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT MAJOR MOBILITY PROJECTS TO KEEP OUR COUNTY MOVING.

3. MEETING IN AUSTIN THURSDAY, MAY 26, REGARDING IH 10 AND 281 FOR FINAL APPROVAL

a. 281 - BID IN FEBRUARY, START SPRING 2017; WILL BUILD OUT FROM 1604 TO STONE OAK - FULLY FUNDED

b. FROM STONE OAK TO COUNTY LINE ONLY HAVE RIGHT OF WAY MONEY AND WILL NEED TO GET CONSTRUCTION FUNDED.

c. IH 10 - MID SPRING 2017

d. 1604 CULEBRA TO HIGHWAY 90 - EARLY THIS FALL

4. THANK KEVIN

IV. PROFESSIONAL SOCCER

A. FASTEST GROWING SPORT FOR MILLENIALS AND A PERFECT FIT FOR SAN ANTONIO.

B. COUNTY COMMISSIONED STUDY IN 2011 THAT CONCLUDED SAN ANTONIO IS READY FOR MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

1. THANKS TO GORDON HARTMAN, WE HAVE AN EXPANDABLE STADIUM LOCATED RIGHT OFF WURZBACH PARKWAY READY FOR MLS

2. CITY AND COUNTY CAME TO AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE THE STADIUM AND LEASE IT TO THE SPURS.

C. WITH SPURS SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT AS OWNERS OF SAN ANTONIO'S NEW USL FRANCHISE, WE HAVE THE RIGHT PARTNERSHIP TO PURSUE AN MLS FRANCHISE

1. MLS HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEY'LL BE EXPANDING TO FOUR NEW MARKETS BY 2020.

2. SAN ANTONIO IS UNDER CONSIDERATION

3. WITH SACRAMENTO NEARLY GUARANTEED THE NEXT SLOT, WE ARE COMPETING WITH

- ST. LOUIS

- DETROIT

- SAN DIEGO

- AND AUSTIN FOR THE REMAINING THREE EXPANSION SLOTS

4. STADIUM EXPANSION FOR MLS WILL REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL

V. QUALITY OF LIFE

A. TRICENTENNIAL

1 WORLD HERITAGE-

2. LEADING UP TO 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

- 3. EVENTS ALREADY HAPPENING - NUESTRA HISTORIA EXHIBIT AT COUNTY BUILDING AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AT COURTHOUSE IN BEGINNING OF MAY**
- 4. MOST OF YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW OUR COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED ON THE BANKS OF SAN PEDRO CREEK, NOT THE RIVER.**
- 5. COUNTY COMMITMENT OF \$125 MILLION TO TURN THE DRAINAGE DITCH BACK INTO A CREEK WITH A CULTURE PARK ON ITS BANKS.**
- 6. AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE DEVELOPMENT ALONG WESTERN EDGE OF DOWNTOWN**
- 7. ISSUED A REQUEST FOR INTEREST TO DEVELOP 8 ACRES OF CITY- AND COUNTY-OWNED LAND ALONG CREEK NEAR CITY HALL AND THE COURTHOUSE.**
- 8. WILL NOT BE LIKE ANY OTHER PROJECT IN CITY**
- 9. WILL TELL STORY OF FIRST SETTLEMENTS ALONG SAN PEDRO CREEK**
 - a. ORIGINAL SITE OF MISSION DE VALERO - THE ALAMO**
- 10. THIS PAST TUESDAY APPROVED CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WITH SUNDT.**
- 11. THANK PAUL ELIZONDO**

B. SHERIFF SUB STATIONS

- 1. EAST SIDE ON ROCKET LANE - LATE SUMMER GROUND BREAKING**
- 2. WEST SIDE ON CAGNON ROAD - ALSO LATE SUMMER**
- 3. TRAINING ACADEMY WILL MOVE TO AN OLD SCHOOL ON GILLETTE BLVD. IN 4 MONTHS — THANK CHICO**
- 4. WILL OPEN SHERIFF'S AND FIRE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN THE NEW REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER OWNED BY BEXAR METRO 911 IN JULY**
- 5. THIS WEEK WE OPENED THE REENTRY SERVICES CENTER NEAR THE JAIL WHERE THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED WILL RECEIVE SERVICES TO HELP TRANSITION BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.**
- 6. THANK SHERIFF PAMERLEAU**

C. CULTURE

- 1. CONFLUENCE PARK - OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ON MISSION REACH**
 - a. GROUND BREAKING LAST WEEK.**
- 2. HOTWELLS**
- 3. THANK CHICO**
- 4. BOTANICAL GARDEN EXPANSION**
- 5. WITTE EXPANSION**
 - a. NEW VIA SERVICE, VIVA CULTURE, WILL CONNECT CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS ALONG BROADWAY -**

**MCNAY, WITTE, BOTANICAL GARDEN, ZOO, DOSEUM,
PEARL DOWN TO BLUE STAR AND SOUTHTOWN**

6. MUSIC/FILM

a. KERRY VALDERAMA/1133 EAST HOUSTON

**7. SA SOUND GARDEN - EDWIN J. STEPHENS - REP DIEGO
BERNAL**

**a. A PLACE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES,
PRODUCTION TALENT, NETWORKING, AUDIO
ENGINEERS, PRODUCERS**

**8. 100,000 SQ FT WAREHOUSE ON EAST SIDE
TOMMY CALVERT**

D. SYMPHONY

The County put in \$100 million to build the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. The Center is ranked #1 in the world for theaters with 2,000 seats or less based on performances and attendance.

We built it primarily to foster local performing arts organizations and in particular the San Antonio Symphony. If we do not support the symphony and our performing arts groups then the main purpose of the Tobin would be lost.

Great American cities are defined by their commitment to classical music. Our historical and cultural roots are tied to classical music. Trace back to a 49-piece orchestra directed by German immigrant Carl Becker in 1887. By 1939 we had a major orchestra that was one of only 19 in the country.

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We got nationwide attention by hosting several world premieres by important composers and by making major recordings.

Today we have another great orchestra led by Sebastian Lang Lessing, recognized across the world as one of the very best. They are playing great music. Every school orchestra, band, and string quartet depends on help and inspiration from the symphony.

Symphonic music has played a role in various forms of music we hear today. In fact the most famous pop band ever, the Beatles, can trace its success to producer George Martin. He had produced symphonic music and used his classical expertise to create 22 singles and 13 albums for them, a body of work that revolutionized popular music.

Most symphonies across the nation financially struggle. They are a large performing group, 72 members of the orchestra. Our cost is significantly less than other major cities. They only make about \$30,000 a year. Our community needs to step up our support. I encourage you to do so. Thank Bruce Bugg, Tullos Wells and Denny Ware.

A couple years ago I closed this speech with the rock n roll sounds of Girl in a Coma. Today I'm going to close this speech with a taste of the San Antonio Symphony - a string quartet of very talented musicians from the Symphony.

Eric Gratz and Bonnie Terry on violin

Kayleigh Miller on viola

And Morgen Johnson on cello.

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**THEY WILL BE PLAYING THE LAST MOVEMENT FROM
DVORAK'S FAMOUS "AMERICAN QUARTET."**

**DURING THE PERFORMANCE WE WILL HAVE A LIVE POLL
YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN WITH YOUR PHONES. THE
INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ON THE SCREENS.**

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