

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact:** Di Galvan, 210-207-7234Di.galvan@sanantonio.gov

Mayor Taylor Tells Police Union it's Time to Settle Labor Contract

SAN ANTONIO (June 18, 2015)— Today, Mayor Ivy Taylor met with San Antonio Police Officers Association (SAPOA) President Mike Helle and communicated her expectations regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations. In a letter to Helle this afternoon, she said the police labor union needs to return to the bargaining table and finalize the contract by July 31, 2015.

Mayor Taylor told the union that the total public safety budget cannot exceed 66% of the City's General Fund Budget.

"The City's numbers and assumptions have been independently verified; we will not spend any more time debating them," said Mayor Taylor.

On March 20, 2015, the City's negotiating team offered a proposed contract to the union that included 10.8% in pay increases for all officers over the four-year contract, including a 2% lump sum payment for FY 2015, which ends September 30, 2015. The proposal also had the City covering 100% of healthcare premiums for all police officers, with officers sharing in the cost of premiums for their dependents. The union has not responded to the March 20th proposal.

"The City's proposal is both fair to the officers and affordable to taxpayers," said Mayor Taylor. "We look forward to the union's response at the next meeting. Let's get back to the bargaining table."

The FY 2016 Budget preparation process is underway. If there is no agreement by July 31st, the mayor said it would not be possible for the City to offer a pay increase for officers in FY 2015. The City Council's direction to the negotiating team from the beginning has been no retroactive pay increases.

Following the mayor's meeting this morning, Jeff Londa, the City's chief negotiator, sent a letter to the union's chief negotiator, Ron DeLord, proposing several meeting dates in June and early July.

"The City's negotiating team has my full support; they will negotiate the contract under City Council policy direction," said Mayor Taylor.

The legal challenge to the constitutionality of the ten-year "evergreen clause" in the CBA that expired September 30, 2014 remains pending in district court.

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

June 18, 2015

Mike Helle
President, San Antonio Police Officers Association
1939 NE Loop 410, Suite 300
San Antonio, Texas 78217

Dear Mike:

Thank you for meeting with me this morning at my request. As mayor, I believe the community is ready to see the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations come to a successful resolution. As discussed, here are my expectations.

The police labor union must return to the bargaining table as soon as possible and respond to the City's March 20th proposal. The City's chief negotiator, Jeff Londa, has sent proposed meeting dates in June and early July to your chief negotiator, Ron DeLord. With the FY 2016 Budget process already underway, time is running out. We want to finalize the contract by July 31, 2015. If there is no agreement by this date, it will not be possible to offer a pay increase for officers in FY 2015, and the City Council's direction to the negotiating team from the beginning has been no retroactive pay increases.

I remain committed to ensuring that the total public safety budget does not exceed 66 percent of the General Fund budget. The City's numbers and assumptions have been independently verified; we will not spend any more time debating them.

Finally, the City's negotiating team has my full support; they will negotiate the contract under City Council policy direction. The City's March 20th proposal is both fair to the officers and affordable to taxpayers, and we look forward to your response to it at our next bargaining meeting.

Let's get back to the negotiating table. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ivy R. Taylor'.

Ivy R. Taylor
MAYOR



**OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.**

Attorneys at Law

One Allen Center
500 Dallas Street, Suite 3000
Houston, TX 77002
Telephone: 713.655.0855
Facsimile: 713.655.0020
www.ogletreedeakins.com

Jeffrey C. Londa
713.655.5750
jeffrey.londa@ogletreedeakins.com

June 18, 2015

Mr. Ron DeLord
Attorney at Law
30320 La Quinta Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78628

Re: City of San Antonio/SAPOA Collective Bargaining

Dear Ron:

The City of San Antonio and SAPOA's last collective bargaining session was held on March 31. At that session, SAPOA chose not to respond to the proposal made by the City of San Antonio at our March 20 bargaining session. SAPOA stated that it would not respond to the City's proposal or schedule additional bargaining sessions until after the election. The election is now behind us.

We propose scheduling bargaining sessions on June 23, 24, 26 and July 2 and 10, with an expectation that we will receive an acceptance of, or counter to, the City's latest proposal during the first session.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Londa

JCL:mdc

cc: Ms. Betty Lynn (*via email*)
Mr. Michael Bernard (*via email*)