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## NEWS RELEASE

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Press Release: Councilperson Steve Kozachik calls for Convention Center Hotel Projects Submissions

On Monday, August 27th, the Rio Nuevo Board is scheduled to meet at 2pm. On their agenda is the following item:

"5. Chairman's Update (10 minutes)

Given interactions with the legislature and city of Tucson recently regarding the Notice to Proceed issue it has become clear to us that the only way to resolve the differences between legislative counsel and the city is to issue a new notice to proceed.

We are working diligently to partner with a hotel operator so such notice can be issued. Once issued the District would then be able to look at funding other projects like the Mission Gardens, Westside development, TCC grounds and the TCC Arena. The chairman will update the board and public regarding these initiatives."

The City has recently implemented the review process through the City Manager's Office by which prospective proposals requesting some level of Statutory financial incentives can be reviewed through a neutral third party. At present, the city has the first proposal under review.

In order for Rio Nuevo to issue a Notice to Proceed, in all likelihood they will need the City to be a party to the agreement at some level. For the City to be included, under the current policy the city would need to engage the neutral third party review process on each possible candidate for a convention center hotel.

"I agree with the Rio Nuevo Chairman's sense that finding an acceptable candidate for a hotel is the most expeditious way to clear the constraints imposed by SB1003. To that end, why would we not proactively solicit proposals from the several potential candidates we know may be ready to move ahead?" Councilperson Kozachik wrote in a memo to the Mayor and City Manager.

"By way of this memo, I am requesting that the City Manager's economic development staff reach out to four potential hotel candidates, each of whom we know are close to having hotel deals ready for consideration.



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Those include:

- a) Scott Stiteler - east end / Depot Plaza Garage site
- b) Riverpark Inn - west end
- c) Allan Norville site
- d) Bert Lopez site

I am not suggesting that each of these will pass muster when reviewed financially. And there may be others you're aware of that I have not heard about. Include those, too. But we have the shingle - let's go out and proactively see which of these are ready for review so we have the basis for sharing options with Rio Nuevo when they approach us formally.

It costs us nothing to invite them in and begin the conversation. It also costs us nothing to have financial reviews moving ahead on multiple projects. Assuming these candidates pass your initial review, we could conceivably have them on the 9/5 or 9/11 agendas, seeking authorization to move them into the third party review stage of the process.”

The time is right for Rio Nuevo and the City to move forward in addressing the need for a revitalized Convention Center and Hotel.

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