

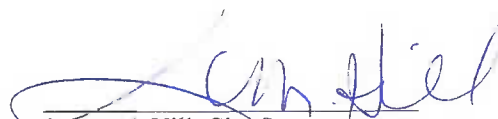
**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS, WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON:

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015**  
9:00 A.M. AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
4601 PADRE BOULEVARD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

1. Call to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments and Announcements: *This is an opportunity for citizens to speak to Council relating to agenda or non-agenda items. Speakers are required to address Council at the podium and give their name before addressing their concerns. [Note: State law will not permit the City Council to discuss, debate or consider items that are not on the agenda. Citizen comments may be referred to City Staff or may be placed on the agenda of a future City Council meeting]*
4. Discussion and action to approve Resolution No. 2015-11 in support of bills filed in the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislation to allow the voters of Cameron County to choose to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a future local election. (Patel)
5. Discussion and action to approve Letter of Support to encourage the U.S. government to level the playing field for fair competition with government-subsidized, state-owned airlines of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). (Patel)
6. Discussion and action regarding request for community support/letter of support to establish a 320 acre artificial reef to be located a few miles northeast of the Jetties. (Patel)
7. Adjourn.

DATED THIS THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2015.

  
Susan M. Hill, City Secretary

I, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE AND THAT I POSTED A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CITY HALL/MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON **APRIL 2, 2015** AT/OR BEFORE 5:00 P.M. AND REMAINED SO POSTED CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF SAID MEETING.



  
Susan M. Hill, City Secretary

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT BUILDING OFFICIAL, JAY MITCHIM; ADA DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PARTY AT (956) 761-1025.

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

**MEETING DATE:** April 9, 2015  
**NAME & TITLE:** Bharat Patel, Mayor  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Council

**ITEM**

Discussion and action to approve Resolution No. 2015-11 in support of bills filed in the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislation to allow the voters of Cameron County to choose to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a future local election.

**ITEM BACKGROUND**

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL**

**LEGAL REVIEW**

Sent to Legal: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Legal: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

**RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS**



**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-11**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS,**

**WHEREAS,** Cameron County has a disproportionately large population of men, women and children who are uninsured and do not have adequate income or resources to pay for health care for themselves or their families; and

**WHEREAS,** each community in Cameron County, including the City of South Padre Island, has a substantial number of needy individuals either residing in or employed and working within its boundaries; and

**WHEREAS,** the burden of providing health care for the indigent population is currently the responsibility of the Cameron County government and also falls on the shoulders of local hospitals and other private medical providers who treat and care for the needy for little or no compensation; and

**WHEREAS,** under the Texas constitution and our laws, local voters can be given an opportunity to decide through an election whether to create a district, known as a hospital or healthcare district, to assume the responsibility from the county to provide medical care for the indigent population; and

**WHEREAS,** compared to the rest of Texas and the United States, there is a severe shortage of primary care and specialty physicians, as well as most other health care professionals, throughout Cameron County and the rest of the Rio Grande Valley; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout Texas, medical schools and hospital districts are partners in arrangements through which the medical school and its faculty play a critically important role in the medical care of indigent patients and the hospital district, through payments for those services, provides opportunities and support for the education and training of medical students and residents; and

**WHEREAS,** to help address indigent health care needs in Cameron County and to support The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representatives Rene Oliveira and Eddie Lucio III are willing to introduce bills in the 84th Texas Legislature to allow the voters of Cameron County to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a local election if they choose to do so; and

**WHEREAS,** the proposed bill does not actually create a hospital or healthcare district but instead reserves that decision exclusively to the voters of Cameron County in an election which may be held in the future for that specific purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, as an additional safeguard for Cameron County taxpayers, the proposed bill will include an absolute maximum tax rate of \$0.25 per \$100 valuation (although most hospital districts across Texas have a cap of \$0.75 per \$100) and will also require the Cameron County Commissioners Court to lower its tax rate in the first year after the creation of a healthcare district to account for the reduction in Cameron County spending on indigent health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the elected members of the governing body of [Name of Town/City] believe it is essential that the voters in their community and throughout Cameron County have the opportunity to make an informed choice about the creation of a healthcare district which could improve the quality of and access to medical treatment for indigent residents while, at the same time, enhancing education opportunities at the UTRGV School of Medicine and increasing the numbers of physicians and health care professionals available to treat the entire population of our county and region.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of South Padre Island, Texas:

**Section 1.** We, the elected members of the governing body of **City of South Padre Island** join Cameron County and cities and towns throughout our county in a showing and spirit of unity and cooperation and do hereby wholeheartedly and enthusiastically express our full support for the bills filed or to be filed in the 84th Texas Legislature by Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and Representatives Rene Oliveira and Eddie Lucio III to allow the voters of Cameron County to choose to create a Cameron County Healthcare District through a future local election.

**Section 2.** Be it further resolved that we applaud the efforts of Senator Lucio and Representatives Oliveira and Lucio to take bold action to improve healthcare in our community and to maximize the potential of our new UTRGV medical school while, at the same time, including protections for our local taxpayers.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this the 9th day of April 2015

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bharat R. Patel, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan M. Hill, City Secretary

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

**MEETING DATE:** April 9, 2015  
**NAME & TITLE:** Bharat Patel, Mayor  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Council

**ITEM**

Discussion and action to approve Letter of Support to encourage the U.S. government to level the playing field for fair competition with government-subsidized, state-owned airlines of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**ITEM BACKGROUND**

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL**

**LEGAL REVIEW**

Sent to Legal: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Legal: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

**RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS**

**Subject:** Fwd: Open Skies Treaty  
**Date:** Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 1:44:15 AM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** Barry Patel  
**To:** Susan Hill, Michael Jones  
**CC:** William DiLibero, Paul Cunningham

Susan,

Can you please draft a letter for Michael Jones in support of the open skies treaty and have it ready for city council approval at next Thursday mornings 9am special meeting.

Barry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael D. Jones** <[mdjones@cob.us](mailto:mdjones@cob.us)>  
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
Subject: Open Skies Treaty  
To: Barry Patel <[barryspi@gmail.com](mailto:barryspi@gmail.com)>

Hi Barry,

I hope we can call on you to help keep Aviation jobs in South Padre Island and the Rio Grande Valley and across the nation. The Open Skies Treaty which insures a level playing field for all airlines is being violated. Evidence gathered during a global, two-year long investigation reveals that two countries with Open Skies agreements, Qatar and the UAE, have been providing massive subsidies and other extraordinary benefits to their state-owned airlines that have already caused a substantial distortion of international markets. If unchecked, these practices could threaten the airline industry, aviation jobs, and communities throughout the United States. In fact every round trip lost by a U.S. carrier, caused by the subsidies, can cost more than 800 U.S. jobs.

The airlines involved are Qatar, Ehitad, and Emirates will never fly to the Rio Grande Valley but their unfair business practices will hurt the carriers that do especially American Airlines and United. American Airlines and other carriers are pleading with the U.S. Secretarys of State and Transportation to work to ensure fair and equal competition. You can help by writing, on your letter to Secretarys Kerry and Foxx. A sample letter, as well as a fact sheet is attached. Please send your letter to me and let me know if you have any questions.

Thanking you in advance,

My best wishes,

Michael

Michael D. Jones

Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport

700 Amelia Earhart Drive

Brownsville, Texas 78521

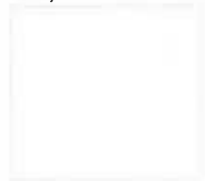
[www.flybrownsville.com](http://www.flybrownsville.com)

[mdjones@cob.us](mailto:mdjones@cob.us)

956-542-4373

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE PRIVACY NOTICE: This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and contains information that may be privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable federal or state law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, contact the sender and delete the original and all copies from any computer. Any views or opinions expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and not necessarily those of the City of Brownsville.

--  
Thanks  
Bharat ( Barry ) R. Patel.  
Mayor South Padre Island.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58nGxcPq9D0>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSLgsgGQ-tg>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f92jllf4IHw>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_TgA5zclM60](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_TgA5zclM60) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLIAC5KOz7k&feature=youtu.be>



## **Subsidies and Other Unfair Benefits Received by Gulf Carriers Threaten U.S. Aviation Jobs, the Industry and our Economy**

*Beginning in 1992 with the negotiation of the very first Open Skies agreement, the United States has explicitly and rigorously insisted that in exchange for granting foreign airlines the freedom to fly to and from the United States, Open Skies partners ensure a level, competitive playing field. Anticipating that circumstances could change, the United States and its Open Skies partners have also agreed that every Open Skies agreement has a provision for consultations to address problems relating to the agreements and to agree in good faith on measures to resolve them.*

Evidence gathered during a global, two-year long investigation reveals that two countries with Open Skies agreements, Qatar and the UAE, have been providing massive subsidies and other extraordinary benefits to their state-owned airlines that have already caused a substantial distortion of international markets. If unchecked, these practices could threaten the airline industry, aviation jobs, and communities throughout the United States.

### **The Playing Field Isn't Level**

Because these Gulf carriers are highly subsidized, they have grown at an astounding rate, expanding their global presence without concern for financial returns.

- Over the past decade, the governments of Qatar and the UAE have granted \$42 billion in subsidies and other unfair benefits to their state-owned carriers.
- These Gulf carriers aren't subject to corporate income taxes or fuel taxes and are exempt from costly requirements imposed on their foreign competitors, allowing the carriers to avoid paying their own way.
- The governments of Qatar and the UAE have banned unions and suppress the rights of their employees, saving their carriers billions of dollars from below-market labor costs.

### **Specific Subsidies**

- Over \$12 billion in Interest Free Loans & Shareholder Advances
- Over \$11 billion in Equity Infusions, Grants, & Future Committed Subsidies
- Almost \$9 billion in Interest Savings from Government Loan Guarantees & Interest Free Loans
- Over \$2 billion in Government Assumption of Fuel Hedging Losses
- Over \$2 billion in Subsidized Airport Charges
- Almost \$2 billion in Passenger Fee Exemptions, Rebates and other Miscellaneous Subsidies

### **How This Hurts U.S. Carriers and Impacts American Jobs**

The massive subsidies for state-owned Gulf carriers undermine fair competition, provides a substantial cost advantage over U.S. and other non-Gulf competitors, and violates Open Skies. Even a small cost advantage can result in a significant shift in market share to the Gulf carriers' advantage and substantial losses for their unsubsidized competitors. Ultimately, the distortion caused by unfair competition is not in the best interests of the aviation industry, or consumers.

**Every round trip route lost or forgone by a U.S. carrier because of subsidized Gulf carrier competition results in a net loss of over 800 U.S. jobs.**

### **The Solution**

We urge the U.S. government to request consultations about Gulf airline subsidization, through the existing Open Skies agreements, to ensure fair and equal competition. The U.S. government should also freeze the introduction of new passenger service by the Gulf carriers during these consultations.

*For more information visit [Openandfairskies.com](http://Openandfairskies.com) or follow us on Twitter at [@OpenFairSkies](https://twitter.com/OpenFairSkies)*





April 9, 2015

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries Foxx and Kerry -

Earlier this month, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines, as well as the largest unions in the airline industry, announced a partnership to encourage the U.S. government to level the playing field for fair competition with the government-subsidized, state-owned airlines of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Fueled by massive subsidies, these governments' carriers have been expanding at a rapid pace in order to divert traffic through their own hubs. This subsidized expansion is distorting the international aviation marketplace. Importantly, this unfair competition is threatening the airline routes and jobs that we depend on in [Placeholder City] and across the country.

The state-owned Gulf airlines – Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways and Emirates Airline – have collectively received at least \$42 billion dollars in government subsidies and other unfair benefits over the last ten years. The economic development strategies that their governments are pursuing through subsidization contradict Open Skies policy, which is predicated on fair competition, undistorted by government actions, including subsidies. Open Skies policies have allowed for greater access and growth of the aviation industry in the United States, to the benefit of U.S. travelers and the U.S. economy, but these tactics by the Gulf airlines and their state sponsors have created an un-level playing field. If we allow this to continue, citizens of [Placeholder City] will ultimately lose out.

Because these Gulf carriers are highly subsidized they have grown at astounding rates, rapidly expanding their fleets and routes untethered to commercial realities (such as profits). If we stand by and allow this unfair competition to continue, the service to small and mid-sized communities that we depend on will suffer as our domestic airlines are forced to curtail flights.

*"Visit South Padre Island – A Great Place to Be!"*

If our U.S. airlines are pushed off of international routes and lose market share to the government-owned Gulf airlines, it will mean American job losses. Every international roundtrip flight that is lost to results in an average net loss of 821 good U.S. jobs – think of all the pilots, flight attendants, maintenance workers, baggage crew, ticketing agents, and others that are involved in a single overseas route. They and others whose livelihoods depend on a healthy U.S. airline industry are the people who have the most to lose if this issue is not addressed.

U.S. Open Skies policy has served the citizens of [Placeholder City] well. Please help to keep all Open Skies agreements open and fair by addressing the subsidies that are being provided to these three carriers.

Sincerely,

Bharat “Barry” Patel,  
Mayor

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

**MEETING DATE:** April 9, 2015  
**NAME & TITLE:** Bharat Patel, Mayor  
**DEPARTMENT:** City Council

**ITEM**

Discussion and action regarding request for community support/letter of support to establish a 320 acre artificial reef to be located a few miles northeast of the Jetties.

**ITEM BACKGROUND**

This artificial reefing project, a joint effort between local stakeholders, conservation groups, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be comprised of a 320 acre reefing site located in State waters a few miles northeast of the South Padre Island Jetties. Initially provided with 800 concrete culverts and concrete rip-rap, the site will provide enhanced recreational fishing and juvenile fish nursery/survival habitat. This reef is envisioned as a multi-year, ongoing project with multiple deployments and the goal of continued improvement of the site to it's capacity with possible expansion.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL**

**LEGAL REVIEW**

Sent to Legal:                    YES: \_\_\_\_\_                    NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Legal:            YES: \_\_\_\_\_                    NO: \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS**



[Hula Dance on South Padre Island - E Hula Mai](#)  
[Family Surfing in South Padre Island](#)  
[Stay, Work & Chill Out](#)  
[Eco Tourism in South Padre Island Birds, Turtles, Wildlife Abounds](#) [Nightlife in South Padre Island - Live Music, Dancing](#)  
[Kiteboarding in South Padre Island](#)  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#sent/145231ed32598e7c?projector=1>  
[Stay, Work & Chill Out](#)  
[South Padre Island Bikefest](#)  
[Welcome to My Island - South Padre Island](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gary Glick** <[gary@thompsonproperties.com](mailto:gary@thompsonproperties.com)>  
Date: Wed, Apr 1, 2015 at 3:51 PM  
Subject: Request for support letter for the City of Port Isabell  
To: [barryspi@gmail.com](mailto:barryspi@gmail.com)  
Cc: "[daniel78597@gmail.com](mailto:daniel78597@gmail.com)" <[daniel78597@gmail.com](mailto:daniel78597@gmail.com)>

Dear Mayor Patel:

We are in the process of establishing a 320 acre artificial reef site to be located a few miles northeast of the Jetties. We have 800 donated concrete culverts, the support of the Coastal Conservation Association, many stakeholder groups, and most importantly of Dale Shively, head of Texas Parks and Wildlife Reefing Program. Mr. Shively secures the permits to establish the reef, and controls about half the funds to make the project happen. He has agreed to meet with us at the Port of Brownsville offices on Tuesday, 7 April at 11:00, and has told us that if we can show him the support of the community and stakeholders, that he will commit to the project.

This communication is to request evidence of that community support, possibly in the form of a letter, or with attendance of someone speaking for the city at the meeting. This reef will provide enhanced recreational fishing close enough to the jetties to allow small boat participation, and provide nursery/survival areas for juvenile fish for the future. We hope that it will promote fishing in particular and tourism in general in your area for years to come.

Daniel Bryant or I would love to talk to you about the project, a critical part of the reefing involves using concrete rip rap from decommissioned construction to provide the little hidey holes for the baby fish to grow in, such materials may be produced as a byproduct of the growth of the City.

Thanks

Gary Glick  
[512-923-1904](tel:512-923-1904)

PS: We are so fancy now, we even have a mission statement:

Port Isabel, South Padre Island Reefing Project Mission Statement: