[Week 3: Problem](https://ncuone.ncu.edu/d2l/le/content/17838/viewContent/268667/View) Identification

Learning Team E

Kristal Bonner, Jovan Chapman, Natell Farmer, Michael Jackson, Nedra James

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Doctor Richsarod Hudson

**Problem Identification**

Research is critical to resolving problems and is consistently a resource for identifying problems to offer feasible solutions. Social issues or problems requiring research should discuss how to develop potential solutions beneficial to solving these issues or problems. In any business these problems can occur requiring research that recognizes the problem and examines hypothetical resolutions; therefore, a group of students taking the Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Business online course at the University of Phoenix, participating as Learning Team E, is conducting basic research relating to a business problem. Learning Team E will choose a business situation using articles from the University Library concerning a specific subject. The research study will include a summary of the issue, identification of the problem, and an explanation as to why the team believes this is the underlying problem. The use of additional research relating the study of this problem and clarifying a clear problem definition could facilitate solutions the team is considering that will be helpful to offering a precise conclusion that any business could use with proper implementation. Using information from the articles will help Learning Team E begin to incorporate an effective research effort of the business issue.

***Selecting and Summarizing a Business Situation***

**Research considering the expansion of a business is the** specific business situation Learning Team E is choosing to explore and summarize. After utilizing the University of Phoenix’s online library to view diverse articles, Learning Team E is deciding to use the article, *More Conflict Ahead on Convention Center Expansion*, concerning the expansion of a convention center in San Diego, California. In the editorial, the Mayor of San Diego talks to the San Diego City Council about expanding the San Diego convention center. The estimating costs of expanding the Convention Center is more than 520 million dollars (Hirsh, 2017). Therefore, the Mayor wants to finance this enlargement by raising city hotel taxes from one to three percent (Hirsh, 2017). This is a second attempt at developmental expansion of the Convention Center; however, an attorney representing Hotel Development has sent letters to the Mayor, the San Diego City Council members, and officials of the Convention Center asking all three entities to cease efforts of the tax increase to these hotels (Hirsh, 2017). These letters cite recent events, including the Mayor's recent meeting with Port Officials and City Council Rule Committee members in favor of Convention Center growth over hotel projects. The expansion of San Diego Convention Center would set hotel investment developers back 13 million dollars (Hirsh, 2017). The letter informs the entities of a prior leasehold purchase agreement that property developers for the hotels already have that came into existence after the expansion was shut down in 2014 (Hirsh, 2017). The Mayor is confident the lawsuit will end in his favor and plans to take the necessary financial steps to secure the extension by asking the citizens of San Diego to vote to approve the funding. Although City officials want to try to make both projects happen, it is not financially possible (Hirsh, 2017). It is necessary for the group to identify and explain the underlying problem to offer the City Council the best resolve.

***Problem Identification and Explanation***

The underlying problem in this scenario concerns lack of sufficient funding to expand both the San Diego Convention Center and the Hotel Development’s project; therefore, leading to a conflict between the Mayor and attorney’s representing the management of the Hotel Development (Hirsh, 2017). The hotel management argues that the Mayor is overlooking development projects in favor of Convention Center expansion. A lack of adequate funds makes the Mayor opt increasing taxes from one to three percent; however, the hotel’s attorney is protesting this expansion program and demanding a stop be put to it before going any further. Expansion of convention project is costly, and it will hinder its growth making them uncomfortable with the expansion program. Lastly, lack of sufficient funds is the main problem in this case because if funds were available, there would be no conflict between the hotel management and the Mayor. Also, the Mayor would not have opted to increase taxes for the hotel.

***Relating Research to Provide Solutions***

Learning Team E has also found articles relating this research to help with possible resolutions to solve this problem. The article, *Budget Woes lead to Assessor Office Closures*, details the impact of budgetary constraints to the San Diego County recorder's and county clerk's offices in San Diego County, California; therefore, resulting in the closure of hubs and reduction of operating hours. This is an underlying problem because employees are losing pay due to the lack of hours to work and money is not being generated if the office is only open for a few hours out the day, or even a few days out of a work week. The head of the agency David Butler, said he intends to reopen branches if the budget improves (Chambers, 2009). Therefore, how and what measures can be taken to draw in revenue for the county's assessor office has to be assessed. By studying what other neighboring counties assessors are doing to be successful and partnering with these counties to figure out possible ways to avoid raising taxes or writing more tickets. Unfortunately, after all considerations, San Diego still plans on raising taxes and writing out more tickets for people in the community to bring increase county revenue (Chambers, 2009). However, eliminating some positions can also be an option.

***Possible Solutions***

If the residents of San Diego agree to the expansion of the convention center it can lead to a few problems such as less public transportation, bad roads, homelessness and a high increase in hotel taxes. The community of San Diego mentioned to the City Council that they do not need an expansion of the convention Center due to the fact that it can take up too much space (Hirsh, 2017). Most of the community believe the only way to come up with a better solution is to leave the convention Center the way it is. According to the Mayor, who decided to push the expansion forward, the budget will increase in public housing, hotels, and give the city the ability to buy more buses for the community. Learning Team E has to incorporate factors from the similar case study concerning the employees losing pay due to the lack of hours to work and constraints to the San Diego County recorder's and county clerk's office in San Diego County, California, that resulted in the closure of hubs and reduction of operating hours in order to offer feasible solution to this research study case (Chambers, 2009). Therefore, money is not being generated if the office is only open for a few hours out the day, are even a few days out of a work week. Therefore, this research study can be investigated further to help draw conclusions about this developmental growth.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, Learning Team E’s business situation concerns using articles from the University Library concerning the specific subject of building expansion. The research study included a summary of the issue, identification of the problem, and an explanation as to why Learning Team E believes this is the underlying problem. Additional research was used to relate the study of this problem and clarify a clear problem definition that could facilitate solutions the team was considering. Using information from the diverse articles helped Learning Team E to incorporate an effective research effort concerning the expansion of the San Diego Convention Center and the impacts of budgetary and political power. The Mayor and City Council have the power over the decision and a vote will be taken concerning rather or not to move forward with the plans of expansion or not in 2017 or follow the prior agreements with the Hotel Development and its attorney. Either way one party will walk away unhappy with the outcome, while the other continues to happily move forward.

**References**

Chambers, H. (2009) *Budget Woes lead to Assessor Office Closures*. San Diego Business Journal. Vol 30 Issue 28, P9-9 1/9P.

Hirsh, L. (2017). More Conflict Ahead on Convention Center Expansion. San Diego, 6.