

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 114th Congress convened in January 2015 and will continue throughout 2016; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October 2015, the Governmental Relations staff, in conjunction with the City's federal legislative consultants, received input from various members of the Fort Worth City Council, the City Manager's office, and department directors to identify the City's programmatic and funding needs that could, potentially, be resolved by Congressional or federal administrative actions; and

WHEREAS, based upon those recommendations, the Governmental Relations staff and federal legislative consultants made a presentation to the Fort Worth City Council's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on October 20, 2015 for review of the recommendations; and

WHEREAS, following the Committee's approval of the proposed program, the proposal was presented to the full City Council on November 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, following that presentation, staff was directed to proceed with a resolution for the City Council's approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH:

That the City Council:

- 1.** Adopts the 2016 Federal Legislative Program as outlined in the attached document; and
- 2.** Authorizes and directs the City Manager to distribute copies of the City's 2016 Federal Legislative program to members of Congress, to other cities, and to other interested parties; and
- 3.** Authorizes and directs the appropriate City officials to send letters of support or to meet with federal officials to discuss the City's position on the attached initiatives; and



4. Authorizes and directs the City's Government Relations staff and the City's federal legislative consultants to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2016 Federal Legislative Program before Congress, the Administration and corresponding federal agencies.

Adopted the _____ day of November 2015.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary





CITY OF FORT WORTH 2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Fighting for Mass Transit

Summary: Traditional and alternative forms of mass transit are essential to Fort Worth's current and planned investments in economic growth and community development. Support for ongoing highway improvements (I-35W North, I-30, I-20, and HWY 199), robust passenger rail, and alternative transit opportunities, including bike trails, will be continuing priorities in the 114th Congress.

Supporting Our Local Military

Summary: Fort Worth's economic growth and development are inextricably tied to the health of America's military and defense industries. The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) and Fort Worth's synergistic relationship with top military contractors in the United States are models for many cities across our nation. Continuing support for NASJRB and sustaining the growth of our defense contracting industries will be key priorities. Additionally, Fort Worth is home to a large and growing population of active duty and reservist military personnel as well as veterans of all ages. Supporting those who have served and continue to serve our country will be a top priority in the 114th Congress.

Supporting the Trinity River Vision

Summary: Fort Worth is one of the fastest growing large cities in America. The Trinity River Vision (TRV) project is a key element in flood control, recreational river access, and sustaining our enormous growth and capturing its full potential. The TRV will drive new economic development north and east of our current downtown while providing much needed urban renewal to these communities. Ongoing support for TRV will remain a key priority.

Support for Educational Development

Summary: Fort Worth's continued growth and economic success depend in large part on our city's ability to deliver quality educational opportunities for our future workforce. Families in our community deserve access to programs that provide a diverse continuum of educational resources with a particular emphasis on workforce development. Supporting high school programs that encourage workforce preparedness, better equipping students for the needs of today's job market, will be a priority in our Washington, DC engagement in 2016. Additionally, early childhood education programs are critical to the long-term success of Fort Worth's school aged children. Identifying opportunities to enhance and create programs that increase quality and access to early childhood education, including quality pre-kindergarten programs in Fort Worth, will be a key priority in the 114th Congress.

CITY OF FORT WORTH 2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES

Pursuing Community Development and Renewal

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC)
- Second Chance Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP/WAP)
- HOME Grants
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Education Opportunity Programs
- Healthy Communities Initiative

Pursuing Community Development and Renewal continued

- Long-term Transportation Reauthorization/“Highway Trust Fund”
- HHS and Community Health
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorization
- Library and Arts Funding (IMLS)
- Energy/Sustainability Grants
- Flood Insurance Premiums
- Employment Non-discrimination Initiatives

CITY OF FORT WORTH 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES CONTINUED

Exploring Economic Development Opportunities

- Mixed Income Community Development Funding
- Municipal Debt Income Tax Exemption
- Municipal Debt Liquidity (HQLA)
- Clean Energy and Natural Gas Initiatives
- Marketplace Fairness Act
- Wireless Tax Authority
- Management and Collection for use on Local Rights of Way
- Wet Weather Facility
- Alternative Asbestos Control Method (AACM) Wet demolition

Fighting for Public Safety Funding and Support

- Emergency Management Preparedness Grants (EMPG)
- Homeland Security Top 10 Re-Designation for Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding
- CASA Funding (innovative weather satellite pilot)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Broadband Spectrum for First Responders
- Opposition to Collective Bargaining Issues

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

As a general policy, the City of Fort Worth seeks to preserve its authority to responsibly govern the city, its citizens, and its property. The City **supports** any legislation viewed as advancing the City's Comprehensive Plan or the City's Strategic Goals; or that improves the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that reduces the cost of governing the City.

In addition, the City will **oppose** any legislation viewed as detrimental to its Comprehensive Plan or its Strategic Goals; or that is contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that mandates increased costs or decreased revenues; or that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City.