

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 10, 2017 and pre-filing of legislative bills will begin November 14, 2016; and

WHEREAS, each biennium, prior to the beginning of the regular session of the Texas Legislature, staff seeks input from the Mayor and Council, the City Manager's Office, City staff, and members of the Legislative delegation representing the City regarding legislative issues that affect the City and the way in which it conducts its business; and

WHEREAS, based upon the input received, proposed legislative initiatives are then taken to the City Council Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee for discussion and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the attached City of Fort Worth 2017 State Legislative Program represents the recommended initiatives forwarded to City Council by the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee following its review of recommended initiatives on May 3, 2016, June 7, 2016, August 2, 2016 and September 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that other issues may arise prior to and during the 2017 legislative session and these will be brought before City Council at a later time; and

WHEREAS, once City Council adopts the 2017 State Legislative Program, staff will distribute the program to members of the local state delegation, departments, and agencies and upon request and to major cities in the state in furtherance of the 2017 State Legislative Program.

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

1. That the 2017 State Legislative Program as outlined in the attached document be adopted.
2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to distribute copies of the City's 2017 State Legislative program to members of the Texas Legislature, other cities and other interested parties.
3. That the appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to send letters



of support or to meet with legislators or state officials to discuss the City's position on the attached initiative.

4. That the City's Government Relations staff and the City's state legislative consultants are authorized and directed to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2017 State Legislative Program before the Texas Legislature, the Administration and corresponding state agencies.

Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2016.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Mary Kayser, City Secretary





2017 State Legislative Program

STATE FUNDING CATEGORY

Funding for Transportation

Support legislative appropriations and options to fund transportation investment in Texas

Funding for the Local Parks Grant Program

Support the continued funding of local parks

Funding for Housing Retention and Supportive Services for the Homeless

Support the continued statewide funding for supportive services, work and housing retention services for the homeless

Funding for Library Resource Sharing

Support the use of state funding for local libraries through shared partnerships with the state and other entities

Funding for Mental Health Services for Homelessness

Support the continued funding for mental health services for the homeless

Funding for Business Assistance Center & UNTHSC

Support continued funding for the City of Fort Worth and UNT Health Science Cent for the Economic Development and Technology Commercialization Partnership

Funding for Training for the Law Enforcement and Fire

Support increased funding for Training for police officers and firefighters

Funding to Support Institutions of Higher Education including Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, University of North Texas Health Science Center and Texas A&M Law School

Support for continued funding and support for Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, University of North Texas Health Science Center and Texas A&M Law School

Continued Funding for Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEEAG)

Support for continued support for Texas military installations by providing funding through the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program

SUPPORT LEGISLATION CATEGORY

Reduction in Prima Facie Speed Limit

Support Legislative efforts to Reduce the prima facie speed limit on local roadways in Texas to 25 mph.

State Wide Standard for Tethering of Dogs

Support the creation of a statewide minimum humane standard for the tethering of a dog and allow law enforcement officers an efficient method to carry out the law.

Airspace Compatibility

Support legislation to address vertical obstructions, radar interference and emerging technologies that inhibit the operations around military installations.

Land Use / Ground Compatibility

Support legislation to address Incompatible land use near military installation boundaries, training ranges, operating areas, flight paths that can have long-term negative impacts.

Encroachment Mitigation

Support positive control of unincorporated lands along with tools and resources to buffer development near defense installations, including measures to allow purchasing rights and restrictive easements for non-conservation lands.

Increase Veterans Benefits

Support Legislation to increase meaningful employment and on-going education opportunities for veterans and cooperative integration of state, county, and local workforce training, education, and job placement resources.

Non-discrimination Initiatives

Support legislation seeking to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, transgender, gender identity or gender expression, consistent with City ordinances

Non-disclosure of Animal Adoption Information

Support legislation seeking to protect the personal information of adopters of animals from government and non-profit shelters and adoption centers

Land Use Authority in Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction

Support legislation that will grant increased land use authority to local governments to promote responsible land development in extra-territorial jurisdictions

Public, Education and Government (PEG) Funds

Support legislation to allow flexibility in the expenditure by local governments of PEG Funds

Texas Education System

Support legislation that improves the Texas education system and appropriations that provide adequate funding to the Texas public school finance system

Community Health and Wellness Programs

Support legislation that will promote increased Community Health and Wellness Programs

Healthy Work Environments and Healthy Work Places

Support legislation that promotes healthy places of employment and healthy work environments

Sales Tax Revenue for State and Local Parks

Support legislation for the constitutional dedication of sporting goods' sales tax revenue for the funding of state and local parks

Special Events Trust Fund

Support legislation that will continue to allow special events to be incentivized

Recycling Facilities

Support legislation that will give municipalities and the state greater authority to address illegal recycling facilities

Graffiti Legislation

Support legislation that will enhance the ability of municipalities to address prevention and control of graffiti

Compatible Growth around Military Installations

Support legislation that enable tools to promote compatible growth such as: Protecting the voluntary participation of coordinated efforts by municipalities surrounding military installations



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.



Preserve

City's ability to uniformly impose property taxes

City's ability to raise revenue

City's ability to zone property

City's ability to safely and fairly annex property

City's ability to impose and collect reasonable storm water fees

City's ability to impose and collect reasonable impact fees

City's ability to participate in development in the ETJ

City's authority under the current vesting laws

City's rights under the current sovereign immunity statutes

City's rights and authority under the special districts' laws

City's rights and authority under the current eminent domain laws

City's rights and authority under current environmental laws

**City's ability to make responsible decisions regarding its
Municipal Pension System**

**City's ability to make decisions regarding responsible drilling
within its jurisdiction**

**City's ability to utilize Red Light Cameras to promote public
safety**

**City's ability to assure that there is adequate water supply and
sources for the citizenry in the future**