

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2012 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 112th United States Congress second session convened on January 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, prior to the beginning of each U.S. Congressional session, the City Manager seeks input from the Mayor and Council, City staff, and members of the City's legislative delegation regarding legislative issues that affect the City and the way in which the City 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 2012 Federal Legislative Program represents the recommended initiatives forwarded to City Council by the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee following its review of recommended initiatives on February 7, 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that other issues may arise prior to and during the 2012 legislative session and these will be brought before City Council at a later date; and

WHEREAS, once City Council adopts the 2012 Federal Legislative Program, staff will distribute the program to members of our delegation, departments, agencies and upon request to major cities in furtherance of the 2012 Federal Legislative Program.

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

1.

That the City Council adopts the 2012 Federal Legislative Program as outlined in the attached document.

2.

That the City Council authorizes and directs the City Manager to distribute copies of the City's 2012 Federal Legislative program to members of the Legislature, other cities, and other interested parties.



3.

That the City Council authorizes and directs the appropriate City officials to send letters of support and to meet with legislators or federal officials to discuss the City's position on the initiatives outlined in the attachment.

4.

That the City Council authorizes and directs the City's Government Relations staff and the City's federal legislative consultants to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2012 Federal Legislative Program before the U.S. Congress, the Administration and corresponding federal agencies.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2012.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Mary J.Kayser, City Secretary



2012 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE PROGRAM SUMMARY
By the Governmental Relations Division
Presented on February 7, 2012

It is recommended, that the major issues the City should consider for a federal advocacy plan in 2012 include:

TIER I - PROPOSED MAJOR 2012 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:
(The City will actively pursue these major initiatives)

1. Support and pursue funding for Transportation initiatives, including I-35 funding and TexRail. Concentrate on funding and enhancing the TIFIA program. It is undercapitalized and one of the major methods that NTTA and NTEMP are trying to raise capital to support the I-35W and related projects. Support for the US Public Transit New Starts application for the TEXRAIL Commuter Rail Line
2. Support and pursue funding for all Trinity River Vision initiatives
3. Oppose and defend against cuts or elimination of funding to critical municipality operations programs such as CDBG, CSBG, LIHEAP, Weatherization, EB-5 (Immigrant Investor Program), New Markets Tax Credit Program, HEARTH Act (homelessness), Workforce Investment Act, Second Chance Act and HOME grants
4. Support and pursue funding initiatives through Department of Justice for Police and Fire Training Facility

TIER II - PROPOSED MAJOR 2012 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:
(The city will support and make agency visits on these issues)

- Support NASJRB (BRAC issues)
- Support Alternative Asbestos Abatement Method (Wet Demolition)
- Support UASI funding (Homeland Security)
- Support Clean Energy and Natural Gas Initiatives

TIER III – OTHER PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:
(The city will monitor and be supportive of any efforts on these issues, including agency visits as necessary)

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support Broadband for First Responders Act (Improve Interoperability)
- Support CASA funding (weather satellite pilot for North Texas)

AVIATION

- Support FAA reauthorization

WATER

- Support funding for Wet Weather Facility
- Support legislation to lower cost of infrastructure investments and increase availability of lower cost capital

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support increase on administration cap for Stimulus Grant Funding
- Oppose cuts to Low Income Housing Credits Program

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Support increasing Land Water Conservation Fund
- Support reinstatement of Urban Park funding to 2002 levels (UPARR)

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Support Energy /Sustainability Plan – 3 year EECBG funding program which would include legislation for planning and strategy initiatives, lighting efficiency improvements, “Green” building initiatives, traffic signalization, bicycle commuting, renewable energy initiatives

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Oppose any collective bargaining issues

EDUCATION

- Monitor and support appropriate bills on education in conjunction with FWISD

HEALTH

- Monitor and support appropriate bills on health/human services issues that the City of Fort Worth can use to address appropriate health issues within the community

FINANCE

- Oppose legislation to preempt state and local taxing authority over wireless communications
- Work with FCC on protecting local government's ability to manage and collect for use on public rights-of-way
- Work with GAO on municipal disclosure regime
- Work with GASB on allowing continued use of annual required contribution as an essential part of pension accounting and reporting
- Work with SEC on forthcoming rule on financial advisors and need to exempt appointed members of state/local boards
- Work with SEC on rule to provide clarification on how advice may or may not be given to issuers by underwriters
- Work with SEC/MSRB on rule placing standards on types of disclosures underwriters must make to issuers
- Work with SEC/FDIC regarding clarification on definition of municipal securities in proposed Volcker Rule

LIBRARY

- Oppose Cancellation of funding on Perkins Loans (SB 1121)
- Support for assuring rights for libraries to provide services without exorbitant vendor costs for web based communication service access (SB 215)
- Support for preservation of materials for public libraries (HR 1201)