

# A Resolution

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 83rd<sup>st</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 8, 2013, and pre-filing of legislative bills began November 12, 2012; 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 2013 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 September 11, 2012 and October 9, 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that other issues may arise prior to and during the 2013 legislative session and these will be brought before City Council at a later time; and

WHEREAS, upon adoption of the 2013 State Legislative Program, staff will distribute the program to members of the local state delegation, departments, agencies and, upon request, and to major cities in the state in furtherance of the 2013 State Legislative Program.

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

That the City Council:

1. Adopts the 2013 State Legislative Program as outlined in the attached document; and



**2. Authorizes and directs the City Manager to distribute copies of the City's 2013 State Legislative program to members of the Texas Legislature, to other cities, and other interested parties; and**

**3. Authorizes and directs the appropriate City officials to send letters of support or to meet with legislators or state 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 state legislative consultants to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2013 State Legislative Program before the Texas Legislature, the Administration and corresponding state agencies.**

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary J.Kayser, City Secretary





## **2013 State Legislative Program**

### **SUPPORTIVE LEGISLATION**

#### **Funding for Transportation**

*Support legislative appropriations and options to fund transportation investment in Texas*

#### **Funding for Homelessness Initiative**

*Support the continue the statewide funding for supportive services, work and housing retention 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*

#### **Compatible Growth around Military Installations**

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

## **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*

## **Simplification of Tax Notices**

*Support legislation that will promote clear and simple notices to property owners about property taxes owed to the state*

## **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 provides adequate funding to the Texas public school finance system*

## **Harassment, Bullying and Cyberbullying**

*Support legislation that will prohibit harassment, bullying and cyberbullying*

## **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*

## **Unlawful Carrying Weapons (UCW) Statute**

*Support legislation to amend the Texas Penal Code to include the word "Firearm" in the Unlawful Carrying Weapons (UCW) Statute*

## **Special Events Trust Fund**

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

## **Dangerous Dogs**

*Support appropriate breed specific legislation*

## **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*



## **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**