LB
09/01/16
Item No. 27

AN ORDINANCE 2016-09-01-0663

APPROVING THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE 85TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE TEXAS STATE LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENES ON JANUARY 10, 2017.

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WHEREAS, prior to the convening of each biennial State legislative session, the City of San Antonio identifies policy priorities that it would like the Texas Legislature to address and in May 2016, the City's Government & Public Affairs Department began working with City departments to identify issues for the upcoming session; and

WHEREAS, the result of this work is the pending State Legislative Program ("Program"), containing legislative matters categorized into Priorities, Endorsements, Protection of Community Interests and Partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City Council Intergovernmental Relations Committee considered the Program on August 16, 2016 and is now recommending the Program for consideration by the full Council and the City Council was briefed on the Program in B Session on August 17, 2016; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City Council approves the City of San Antonio's State Legislative Program for the 85th Legislative Session. A copy of the proposed Program is attached to this Ordinance as **Exhibit I**.

SECTION 2. Staff is directed to inform the Bexar County Legislative Delegation of the Program and to undertake such steps as are reasonably necessary to obtain passage of the City's various initiatives during the upcoming 85th Legislative Session.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise it shall be effective ten days after its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 1st day of September, 2016.

Ivy R. Taylor

M A Y O R
Ivy R. Taylor

ATTEST:

Leticia M. Vacek

Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Agenda Item:	**27**
Date:	09/01/2016
Time:	02:10:20 PM
Vote Type:	Motion to Approve
Description:	An Ordinance approving the City's State Legislative Program for the 85th State Legislative Session. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Government & Public Affairs]
Result:	Passed

Voter	Group	Not Present	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Ivy R. Taylor	Mayor		x				
Roberto C. Treviño	District 1		x				
Alan Warrick	District 2		x				
Rebecca Viagran	District 3		x				
Rey Saldaña	District 4		x				
Shirley Gonzales	District 5		x				
Ray Lopez	District 6		x				
Cris Medina	District 7		x				
Ron Nirenberg	District 8		x				
Joe Krier	District 9		x			x	
Michael Gallagher	District 10		x				x

City of San Antonio
85th State Legislative Program

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Jeff Coyle
Government & Public Affairs

PRIORITIES

Revenue Caps

Cities receive virtually no funding from the State of Texas, yet are partners with the state to keep Texas' economy and quality of life vibrant by providing services that reflect the will of local taxpayers.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local officials to determine the amount of revenue necessary to provide critical services for the protection, safety and welfare of its residents.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that would impose a stricter revenue cap, which would limit the City's ability to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.**

Annexation Authority

Current state law allows local elected officials to decide when and where to annex within the parameters established by statute. With more than one million additional residents anticipated in the next 25 years, annexation authority allows for cohesive planning to ensure the effective and efficient allocation of city services and resources.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials to responsibly manage growth through annexation and protect the rights of city taxpayers, who bear the costs of providing services to the region's growing population.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that would erode its annexation authority, without any financial assistance from the state.**

Local Control

Cities – the level of government closest to the people – are best equipped to respond to the unique needs and priorities of its citizens.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued ability of local elected officials to pass ordinances for the benefit and best interests of their constituents.**

- ✓ **The City supports the continued municipal ownership and local control of the San Antonio Water System and CPS Energy.**

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Alamo Funding

The Alamo is the cradle of Texas liberty, a World Heritage Site and one of the top tourist destinations in Texas with more than one million visitors annually. The State of Texas General Land Office, the City of San Antonio, and the private Alamo Endowment entered into a Cooperative Agreement to Reimagine the Alamo by developing a new master plan for the Alamo and surrounding acres.

- ✓ **The City supports continued state investment in the Alamo to be leveraged with local and private funding.**

Military Protection

In addition to providing for our nation's defense, military installations in Texas contribute $150 billion annually to the Texas economy. Joint Base San Antonio alone is responsible for an estimated economic impact of $49 billion per year.

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that enhances military value and protects military installations from future base realignment and closure (BRAC) activities.**

- ✓ **The City opposes legislation that facilitates encroachment on military installations, including legislation that would undermine the City's tree ordinance.**

- ✓ **The City supports continued funding for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG), Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund and other programs.**

- ✓ **The City seeks introduction and passage of legislation that would support our military community by allowing municipalities to exempt military bases from stormwater/drainage utility charges.**

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that facilitates the redevelopment of former military installations.**

Economic Competitiveness

San Antonio is an attractive location for major sporting events, conventions and corporate relocations. San Antonio was recently selected as the site for the NCAA Men's Final Four in 2018.

- ✓ **The City supports the continued viability of San Antonio to attract business and compete for major sporting events and conventions that grow the local and state economy.**

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- ✓ **The City supports the current structure of the Major Events Reimbursement Fund and Events Trust Fund as tools to attract and host major events and conventions.**

- ✓ **The City seeks introduction and passage of legislation that would add women's professional golf (LPGA) to the list of eligible events under the Major Events Reimbursement Fund.**

Transportation Funding

The City maintains more than 4,000 miles of streets and has an estimated $1.4 billion in needs in its street network and $1.0 billion in sidewalks. The City recently completed a comprehensive planning effort – *SA Tomorrow* – which includes multimodal investments to manage and accommodate the influx of more than 1 million new residents by 2040.

- ✓ **The City supports legislation that would allow local elected officials and/or voters to consider additional funding options for cities to address streets, sidewalks and other transportation needs that are not otherwise met by current funding sources.**

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ENDORSEMENTS

An Endorsement is an issue in which the City will not be the primary advocate, but will collaborate with other interested parties and communicate its support for legislation that has a direct impact on or benefit to the City.

Economic Development

- The City supports the continuation of state incentives to supplement local economic development strategies to recruit and retain employers.

- The City supports legislation to improve and restore funding to the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program.

- The City supports legislation that directs the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs to provide tax credits for housing redevelopment in areas targeted for community revitalization in San Antonio.

Education & Workforce Development

- The City of San Antonio supports legislation that provides funding for programs that provide career pathway opportunities in targeted industries, such as dual credit courses.

- The City supports expanded state funding of Pre-K to provide high quality, full-day programs for Texas four-year-olds.

- The City of San Antonio supports legislation that provides mentoring and educational opportunities for underserved youth.

- The City supports legislation that enhances formula and non-formula funding for institutions of higher education.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- The City supports legislation that provides additional funding for transportation projects and initiatives in the San Antonio region dedicated to improved mobility and to maintain, expand and improve transportation infrastructure.

- The City supports funding and policies that facilitate complete streets development to encourage walking and bicycling, including transportation and safety enhancements near schools.

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Public Health & Safety

- The City supports continued air quality funding through the Rider 7 grant program that helps the San Antonio region's ability to meet its air quality goals.

- The City supports legislation that strengthens the state's mental health system, by improving long-term treatment to severely addicted individuals and addressing the challenges of homelessness through solutions that combine public health and safety and social services.

- The City supports the continuation of funding of the Texas Anti-Gang (TAG) grant program.

- The City supports legislation that would enhance pedestrian safety and continue to support safety initiatives, such as Vision Zero.

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PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY INTERESTS

The City of San Antonio supports legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposes legislation that would be detrimental to the City's interests, including bills that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Undermine the principles of self-government;
- Mandate increased cost to cities, including environmental mandates;
- Result in the loss of revenue to cities or negatively impacts the authority of the City to generate revenues; and
- Result in diminishing the fundamental authority of cities to operate in a manner consistent with the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

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PARTNERSHIPS

The City of San Antonio coordinates with the following local partners in support of their legislative agendas that enhance the health, safety and vitality of the community, provided it does not conflict with the City's own legislative agenda.

- CPS Energy
- Brooks City-Base
- Port San Antonio
- Joint Base San Antonio
- San Antonio River Authority
- San Antonio Housing Authority
- San Antonio Water System
- Bexar County
- Texas A&M University – San Antonio
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Texas Health Science Center
- VIA
- San Antonio area Independent School Districts

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