LB
5/2/13
Item No. 15

AN ORDINANCE 2013-05-02-0299

APPROVING THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE 113TH CONGRESS, WHICH BEGAN JANUARY 3, 2013.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, development of the City's Federal Legislative Program ("Program") began in September 2012 with collaboration between City departments and our federal consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Program contains four COSA Top Federal Priorities, focused on securing funding to construct a new federal courthouse, early childhood education, Brownfields, the Urban Areas Securities Initiative ("UASI"), and ten funding priorities and policy positions; and

WHEREAS, the 113th Congress began on January 3, 2013 and through this proposed Ordinance the City is aligning its Federal Priorities with Congress and the Administration in an effort to secure the greatest amount of funding; **NOW THEREFORE:**

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

SECTION 1. The City of San Antonio's Federal Legislative Program for the 113th Congress is authorized and approved. A copy of the Program is attached to this Ordinance as Exhibit I.

SECTION 2. 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 2nd day of May, 2013.

M A Y O R
Julián Castro

ATTEST:

Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael D. Bernard, City Attorney

Request for COUNCIL ACTION

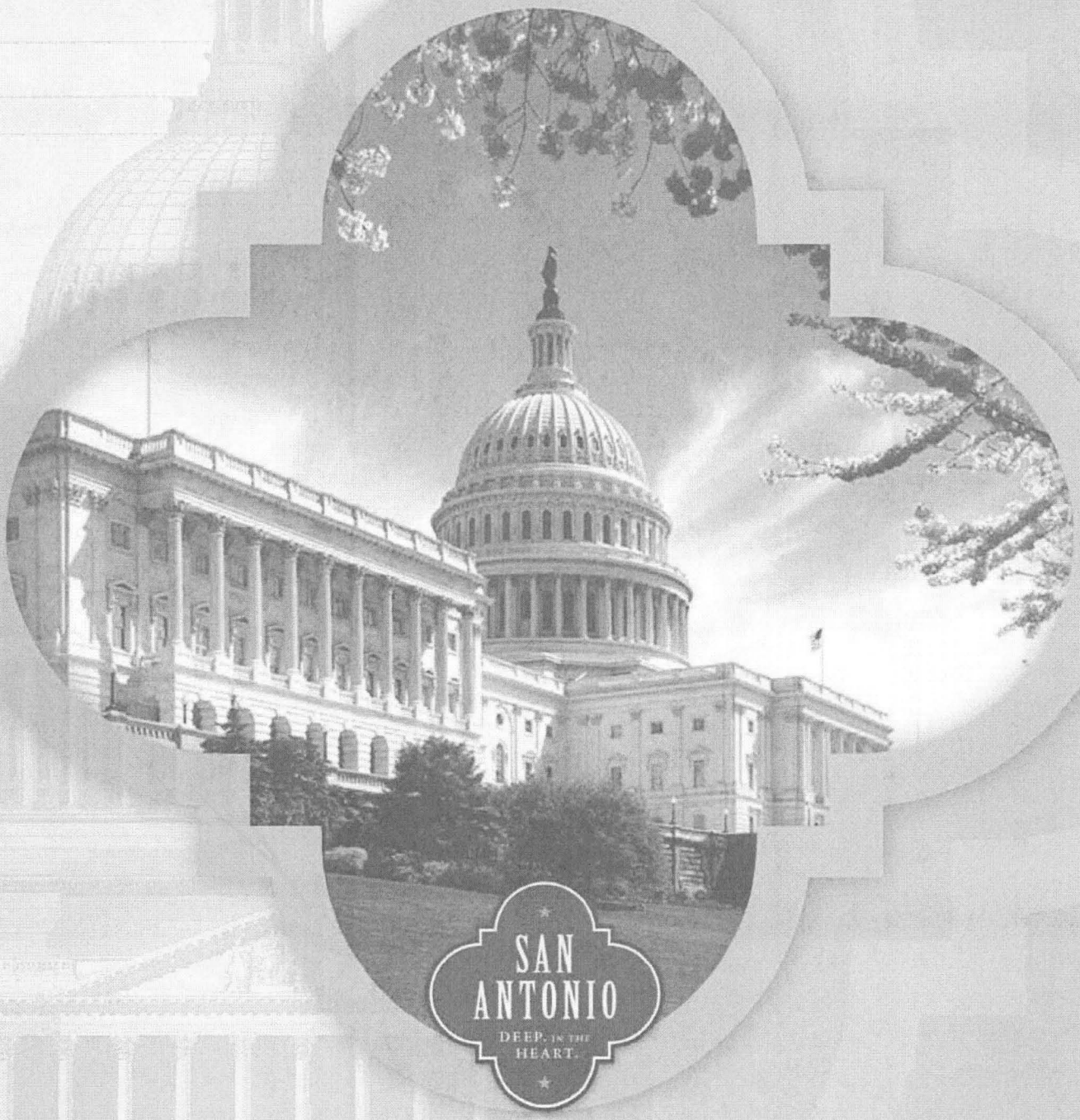
City of San Antonio

Agenda Voting Results - 15

Name:	6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17
Date:	05/02/2013
Time:	10:53:34 AM
Vote Type:	Motion to Approve
Description:	An Ordinance approving the City of San Antonio's Federal Legislative Program for the 113th Congress, which began January 3, 2013. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jeff Coyle, Director, Intergovernmental Relations]
Result:	Passed

Voter	Group	Not Present	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Julián Castro	Mayor		x				
Diego Bernal	District 1		x				
Ivy R. Taylor	District 2		x				
Leticia Ozuna	District 3		x				
Rey Saldaña	District 4		x				
David Medina Jr.	District 5		x				
Ray Lopez	District 6		x				
Cris Medina	District 7		x			x	
W. Reed Williams	District 8		x				x
Elisa Chan	District 9		x				
Carlton Soules	District 10		x				

113th United States Congress Federal Legislative Program



City of San Antonio, Texas

Photos: Architect of the Capitol

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CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

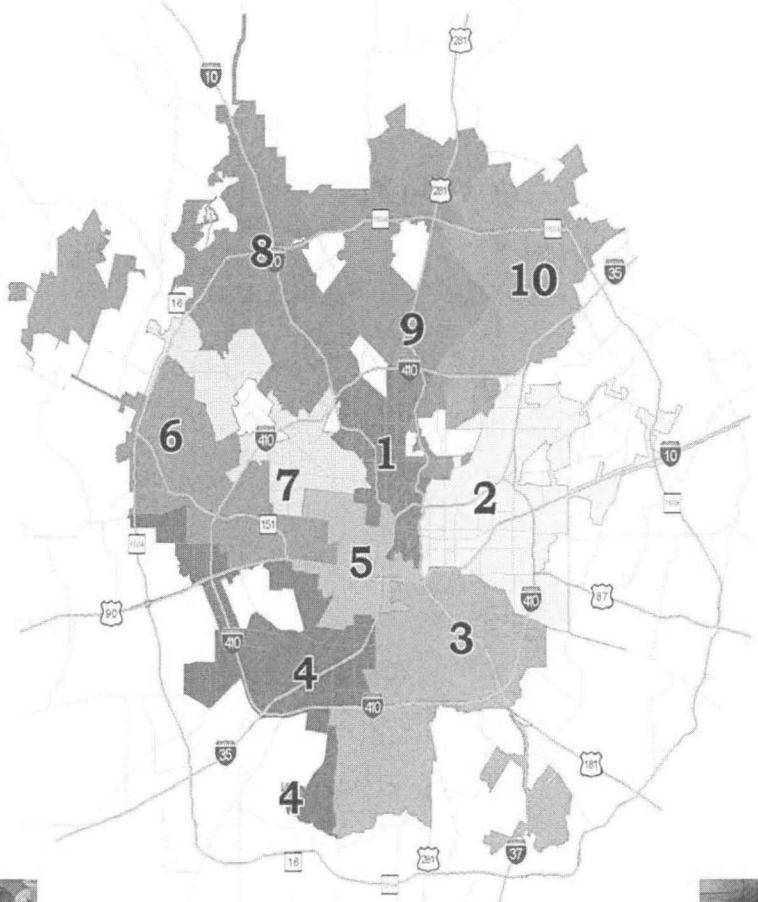
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR

RAY LOPEZ
CHAIR, IGR COMMITTEE
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

DIEGO M. BERNAL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

CRIS MEDINA
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7



IVY R. TAYLOR
COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

W. REED WILLIAMS
COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

LETICIA OZUNA
COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

ELISA CHAN
COUNCIL DISTRICT 9

REY SALDAÑA
COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

DAVID MEDINA, JR.
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

CARLTON SOULES
COUNCIL DISTRICT 10

To the Honorable Mayor and Council:

The City of San Antonio continues its efforts to enhance the quality of life of our residents while building and protecting city priorities and interests at the federal level. With this objective in mind, I present to you the proposed City of San Antonio's 113th United States Congress Federal Legislative Program.

The legislative program supports federal regulations and legislation that benefit the City and opposes any regulations or legislation that would be adverse to City interests. The preparation of the legislative program was a collaborative effort between the Intergovernmental Relations Department (IGR), City Departments and the City's Federal Consultant Team. The 113th Federal Legislative Program focuses on the City's federal legislative priorities and the nine categories below:

- Economic Development
- Education & Workforce
- Environmental & Sustainability
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Protection of Municipal Interests
- Public Safety
- Telecommunications
- Transportation
- Travel & Tourism

The aforementioned categories focus on issues that align with City priorities and enhance our continued commitment to leverage national resources and partnerships. The City's federal legislative efforts include the protection of municipal interests, identification of federal funding to support local investments, and advocacy to ensure that federal resources continue to be available for local governments.

With the guidance and leadership of the Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee, the IGR Department will closely monitor federal regulatory and legislative activity to promote the fiscal sustainability and protection of municipal interests for the City of San Antonio.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Sculley
City Manager

Federal Courthouse

PROPOSAL

The City supports federal funding for construction of a new federal courthouse for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division.

BACKGROUND

San Antonio is headquarters to the Western District of Texas -- the fifth busiest court in the country on a weighted per judge basis -- and the current federal courthouse is neither large enough nor adequately designed to meet the needs and demands of such a busy court.

The current courthouse in San Antonio was originally built in 1968, to serve as the United States Pavilion and theater for the 1968 HemisFair. In 1975, that pavilion/theater was renovated to house two United States District Court Judges, a part-time Magistrate Judge, the Office of the Clerk for the Western District of Texas, and other federal agencies.

Since 1975, the Western District of Texas has increased 69% in personnel. Originally, staffing level was at 24 employees and now it exceeds 280 employees. In addition, the current federal courthouse in San Antonio now houses seven federal judges and their staffs, the Clerk's office, and others. Under the revised design guidelines, the United States Marshal's office requires 41% more space than is presently available, to safely conduct its business. In addition, the vast majority of federal employees must work in a separate, nearby office building. The San Antonio Division of the Western District of Texas has long since outgrown the current courthouse. The existing federal courthouse also lacks many important security features, including a sallyport, sufficient detention space, and secured elevators and corridors. Judges, staff, jurors, and attorneys often encounter criminal defendants in the corridors because of these serious security lapses. Further, the courthouse is not ADA compliant, is functionally obsolete in many respects, and has been plagued by environmental and water-quality issues.

The new federal courthouse project promises to have far-reaching economic benefits to San Antonio. To acquire the land for the new federal courthouse project, the City and the Government Services Administration (GSA) entered into a land exchange plan, under which the City agreed to transfer certain property to the GSA and, in return, reclaim the property on which the current courthouse stands. That property is attractively located in the middle of HemisFair Park, very close to San Antonio's major Convention Center complex. Reacquisition of that property will permit the City -- under the management and oversight of the HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Local Government Corporation -- to revitalize and develop HemisFair Park as a complement to the Convention Center complex, thereby maximizing tourism dollars upon which San Antonio so greatly relies. The land exchange also will promote revitalization of the City areas surrounding the site of the new federal courthouse, which will be part of a greater San Antonio River Improvements Project for downtown San Antonio.

Early Childhood Education

PROPOSAL

The City supports increased federal funding for education programs in early childhood education.

BACKGROUND

Research shows that the earliest years (0-5) are critical in a child's brain development, and yet government subsidies for infants and toddlers reach far fewer children than at any other age, leading schools to play catch up with respect to kinder readiness. This model proposes to begin with very young children and keep them in their home neighborhood, developing a network of high performing schools to help reach key indicators such as kinder readiness and third grade reading success.

Pre-K 4 San Antonio

In 2011, Mayor Julián Castro convened a blue ribbon task-force of Chief Executive Officers, Superintendents, and education professionals to identify the most effective method for improving the quality of education in San Antonio. The Brainpower Taskforce recommended the development of a program focused on high quality prekindergarten services for four-year-old children.

Research shows high-quality prekindergarten has the most impact in improving overall education outcomes for a community and helps children to learn and read on grade-level, making them less likely to fall behind their classmates and more likely to graduate and attend college.

On November 7, 2012, fifty-four percent (54%) of local voters approved the funding of this initiative by the City's remaining 1/8 cent sales tax capacity that is projected to generate approximately $31 million annually. The 1/8 cent equates to less than $8.00 a year for a household of median income in San Antonio.

The initiative is governed by a City Council created corporation for education with a Council appointed 11 member board. City Council provides fiduciary oversight for the initiative to include approval of the program's annual budget. The initiative includes annual performance audits and assessments to measure success that will be conducted by independent third-party entities.

Pre-K 4 San Antonio will be for an eight-year period and will be subject to voter re-authorization in November 2020. When the program is fully implemented, 3,700 four-year-olds will be educated annually, with 22,400 served over an eight-year period. The City will partner with school districts and other education entities to provide service.

In order to improve quality and quantity of pre-kindergarten education for four-year-olds citywide, the program includes the following goals and objectives:

- Achievement gaps reduced by at least 25% in language, 33% in math, and 90% in literacy when compared to kindergarten students who do not attend Centers;
- By 3rd grade, students from Centers should close the achievement gap in STAAR reading and math assessments by at least 10%;
- 20% to 40% Reduction in special education placement and grade retention;
- To provide high-quality professional development for all Pre-K through 3rd grade educators in the City; and
- To help prepare our children for the 21st century job market.

Brownfields Program

PROPOSAL

The City supports federal funding for the Brownfields Program in the areas of Assessment, Clean-up and Technical Assistance and other applicable funding streams as available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its partners.

BACKGROUND

Brownfields are lands for which redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance. Cleaning up and reinvesting in Brownfields properties increases local tax bases, facilitates job growth, protects the environment, reduces blight, and takes development pressures off green spaces and working lands.

The EPA Brownfields Program is a results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed and managed. The program is designed to empower communities and stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse Brownfields. EPA funds Planning Pilot Project Grants; Assessment Grants; Cleanup Grants; Revolving Loan Fund Grants; Job Training Grants; Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants; and Targeted Brownfields Assessment Grants. The City of San Antonio was awarded EPA Assessment Grants in 1999 and 2004. During 2013, the City of San Antonio has the opportunity to apply for new EPA Brownfields funding.

In addition to EPA funding, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) works in conjunction with community development block grants to provide near-term results and demonstrable economic benefits, such as job creation and increases in the local tax base. HUD seeks to increase economic development opportunity for those areas of the country experiencing the greatest distress.

There are also federal economic revitalization tax incentives which could help spur economic development of underutilized property in San Antonio. These include Empowerment

Zone/Enterprise Community program designations. San Antonio has had such a designation in the past and could participate in future program designations. Additionally, municipal finance tools such as New Markets Tax Credits, Build America Bonds, Recovery Zone Bonds, and other instruments can help advance redevelopment in San Antonio.

Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC)

PROPOSAL

In the event of a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the City supports advocacy to place San Antonio in the best possible position with the intent of furthering San Antonio's and the country's economic and national security interests.

BACKGROUND

To cope with a reduced defense budget both DOD, and in particular the Air Force, have advocated for a future BRAC. The planned reduction in both personnel and equipment will require less infrastructure support and therefore fewer bases. The Air Force has indicated that they may be able to close one third of their installations.

Joint Base San Antonio is home to several high-priority missions, 24th Air Force "Cyber Command" and basic training for all enlisted personnel at JBSA-Lackland AFB, the Medical Education and Training Campus and home of Army medicine at JBSA-Ft Sam Houston, and instructor pilot and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) training at JBSA-Randolph AFB.

In the area of training alone, JBSA installations, with a footprint of 55,000 acres, 80,000 personnel, and a replacement plant value of over $32 billion, train over 152,000 students a year. In total, the DOD economic impact is $27.7 billion within the local community.

The San Antonio civilian community has similar interests and entities involved with cyber security, medical and bioscience and aviation training that could benefit from mission growth in these vital national security areas.

Taking a proactive approach to a possible BRAC may tend to lead to a more favorable outcome if a military contraction should occur.

The 2005 BRAC resulted in significant military growth for the San Antonio community. As a result of its diverse military missions, San Antonio is ideally postured for continued growth from a future BRAC.

International Export and Trade

PROPOSAL

The City supports the National Export Initiative, coordination with the U.S. Department of Commerce to identify potential future technical assistance and federal funding in support of implementing export and trade initiatives. In addition, to strengthen export growth in San Antonio and through the US and to meet the goals of the National Export Initiative, the City supports:

- Standardizing regulations for product certification (i.e. medical devices and drugs), strengthening intellectual property laws and minimizing double-taxation through tax treaties or agreements
- Expanding bilateral air transport agreements to increase business and leisure traffic between the U.S. and other countries.
- Establishing bilateral and multilateral agreements free trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership or the US-European Union Free Trade negotiations to increase exports and attract foreign direct investment.

BACKGROUND

To strengthen America's economy, support additional jobs here at home, and ensure long-term, sustainable growth. The National Export Initiative (NEI) is one essential component of the national trade strategy.

The Obama Administration has made it a top priority to improve the conditions that directly affect the private sector's ability to export, working to remove trade barriers abroad, help firms and farmers overcome hurdles to entering new markets, and assist with financing. In addition, we have renewed and revitalized our efforts to promote American exports abroad.

These efforts are paying off – and helping to change the way America does business. Now more than at any time in our history, Americans are selling more U.S. goods and services to the 95 percent of consumers who live outside of our borders.

We are making historic progress toward the President's goal of doubling exports by the end of 2014. In 2012, U.S. exports hit an all-time record of $2.2 trillion. Particular success stories included the growth of exports to America's free trade agreement partners, record exports for the motor vehicle industry and agricultural products, and a robust travel and tourism sector. Significant export growth since 2009 has contributed to America creating 6.1 million private sector jobs over the past 35 months.

There is still more work to do. U.S. businesses faced economic headwinds from Europe and other parts of the globe in 2012. That is why the Obama Administration continues to do everything possible to support American farmers, workers, and businesses as they compete in the global marketplace.

***Emergency Preparedness:* Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI)**

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Urban Areas Securities Initiative (UASI).

BACKGROUND
UASI funds promote a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary approach to regional prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Funds also allow national security coordination among law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, public health and medical, public works, and similar special operation capabilities.

UASI funds provide support for the following key initiatives:

- Cyber Security Initiatives;
- Digital Radio Interoperability;
- Southwest Texas Regional Fusion Center;
- Regional Response Teams – The Bomb Squad; Helicopter USAR team; Negotiator Team; Canine Team, Special Weapons and Tactical (SWAT) team; and Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Regional Response Teams – The HazMat teams; Technical Rescue teams; Helicopter USAR team; Medical Support Operations Unit (MSOU); Wildland Fire Team and the Incident Management Team (IMT).

Activities implemented under UASI must support terrorism and disaster preparedness by building or enhancing capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, or response to terrorism in order to be considered eligible. However, many capabilities which support terrorism preparedness simultaneously support preparedness for other hazards. Grantees must demonstrate the dual-use quality for any activities implemented that are not explicitly focused on terrorism preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness: Fusion Center

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for Regional Fusion Centers.

BACKGROUND
Fusion Centers work with federal, state, regional, and local law enforcement and serve as the state repository for homeland security information and incident reporting. They aim to provide real-time intelligence support to law enforcement and public safety authorities, and consolidate information and data on suspicious activities and threats from all jurisdictions and disciplines as well as the public. During emergencies or periods of increased threat, centers may increase activities in order to receive and process additional information.

The Southwest Texas Regional Fusion Center (SWTFC) is a partnership between South Texas regional law enforcement, fire, and emergency management agencies and services. This partnership functions to enhance the safety and security of the region by serving as an all crimes/all hazards information sharing center. The Southwest Texas Regional Fusion Center prioritizes intelligence sharing on organized criminal gangs, border violence and terrorism through a strategy of information collection, analysis and dissemination to partners in the region. The Southwest Texas Regional Fusion Center serves to enhance the effectiveness, strength, and coordination of the region's public safety and private industry partners and support the overall State of Texas Homeland Security Strategy, while preserving the rights and privacy of the citizens –it protects.

In October, 2011, the Southwest Texas Fusion Center was designated a Category 2–Recognized Fusion Center by the State of Texas and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The SWTFC has been successful in meeting and exceeding its role as a regional analytic hub, responsible for applying local context to the national threat environment and supporting prevention and protection activities at the local, state and federal levels.

Municipal Bonds Tax Exemption

PROPOSAL

The City opposes any changes to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

BACKGROUND

Currently, there are proposals in Congress that would cap or eliminate all together the tax-exempt financing associated with municipal bonds. Municipal bonds provide a low-cost and efficient way for cities and counties to finance critical infrastructure including schools, hospitals, airports, water and sewer systems, and roads and bridges. The National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Counties (NACO) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors are all in agreement on this issue and oppose any change to the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. The concern is that as any limitation on the tax-exempt status would impact the cities, counties and state governments' ability to finance infrastructure projects and create jobs.

In the last decade, state and local governments financed more than $1.65 trillion infrastructure investment using tax-exempt bonds – nearly all in just six categories:

- $514 billion in primary and secondary schools;
- $288 billion in hospitals;
- $258 billion in water and sewer facilities;
- $178 billion in roads, highways and streets;
- $147 billion in public power projects; and
- $106 billion in mass transit.

If the current congressionally proposed 28-percent cap on tax-exempt municipal bonds had been in effect during that time, the borrowing costs to states and localities of these bonds would have increased by $173 billion and would have prevented many infrastructure projects from moving forward. In 2012 alone, more than 6,600 tax-exempt municipal bonds financed over $179 billion worth of infrastructure projects. A 28 percent cap on tax-exempt interest would be borne almost exclusively by state and local governments in the form of higher interest rates on their borrowing.

It is estimated that if the 28-percent cap proposed tax on municipal bond interest is to pass in Congress, it would raise state and local borrowing costs by up to 70 basis points. In addition, because the tax would apply not only to new state and local borrowing, but also to all outstanding bonds, investors would be taxed on investment which they reasonably expected would be tax-exempt as long as they are outstanding – which would mean a retroactive tax. This would not only significantly hamstring state and local governments but also threaten their ability to move forward with infrastructure projects.

Regulation of Group Home Businesses within Residential Districts

PROPOSAL

Seek clarification of Fair Housing Act requirements relating to San Antonio location of boarding homes.

BACKGROUND

The Fair Housing Act forbids discrimination in housing based upon disabilities. However, the application and interpretation of the FHA has been limited to fact-specific caselaw across a wide range of courts and jurisdictions, and very general guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Justice. These resources provide very little guidance in establishing the parameters of how the FHA applies to regulating a group home business operated in a residential district or how life-safety requirements should be enforced and applied to these same businesses. Specific clarification of these key points by HUD and/or the DOJ would be invaluable in assisting the City of San Antonio, as well as municipalities across the country, to determine the role that the FHA plays with regard to the inspection, permitting and regulation of group homes that do business in residential districts.

EB-5 Regional Center Investment Program

PROPOSAL

The City supports the EB-5 Regional Center Investment Program with amended language to include a BRAC Base under the definition of a Targeted Employment Area as an automatic designation.

BACKGROUND

On Sep. 28, 2012, Congress approved a three-year extension of the EB-5 program. EB-5 Regional Centers invite foreign investment into the U.S. economy within a geographic region. The proposed item includes amended language to assist BRAC bases. The language will read: "The statute and regulations governing the EB-5 Program define a 'targeted employment area' as, at the time of investment, a rural area [or 'a BRAC base'] that has experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate."

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, administers the Immigrant Investor Program, also known as "EB-5." The program was authorized by Congress under legislation enacted in 1990 to stimulate the U.S. economy through job creation and capital investment by foreign investors. Under a pilot immigration program first enacted in 1992 and regularly reauthorized since, certain EB-5 visas also are set aside for investors in Regional Centers designated by USCIS based on proposals for promoting economic growth.

EB-5 Regional Center Program is administered by the USCIS. An Immigrant Investor can secure a permanent visa for self and family through an investment of $500K or $1M creating at least 10 jobs over two years.

Regional Centers are authorized by the USCIS to serve a specific geography and connect projects and investors and provide validation on the creation of jobs.

Start-Up America Initiative

PROPOSAL

The City supports the Start-Up America Initiative and any future federal funding and technical assistance to local governments.

BACKGROUND

"Start-Up America" is a White House initiative to inspire and accelerate high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the nation. This coordinated public/private effort brings together an alliance of entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, foundations, and other leaders, working in concert with a wide range of federal agencies to increase the prevalence and success of entrepreneurs. The core goals of Start-Up America are to increase the number and scale of new high-growth firms that are creating economic growth, innovation, and quality jobs.

The Administration has called on leaders from throughout the business, nonprofit, and university communities to join efforts to promote the success of more entrepreneurs across America. The initiatives are the initial response to this "call to action," uniting a range of public and private commitments to:

- Expand access to capital for high-growth startups throughout the country;
- Expand entrepreneurship education and mentorship program to create jobs;
- Strengthen commercialization of the $148 billion in annual federally-funded research and development, which can generate innovative startups and new industries;
- Identify and remove unnecessary barriers to high-growth startups; and
- Expand collaborations between large companies and startups.

The initiative will urge federal agencies to promote high-growth companies over the next several years. We recommend working with appropriate federal agencies to promote selected high-growth sectors for the City of San Antonio.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities

PROPOSAL

The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for Strong Cities, Strong Communities.

BACKGROUND

The Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) initiative, first announced in July 2011, seeks to strengthen neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions around the country by enhancing the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic vision and strategies, providing necessary technical assistance and access to federal agency expertise, and creating new public and private sector partnerships.

The SC2 Pilot Challenge is designed to assist cities experiencing chronic economic distress with leveraging innovative ideas and approaches from diverse perspectives to create and adopt actionable economic development proposals and plans. These proposals and plans will be based on a comprehensive understanding of local, regional, and global economic realities and aim to foster long-term economic development, job creation, and community prosperity.

Each city selected for an award under this FFO will hold challenge competitions that will incentivize teams of professionals from various fields related to economic development (Multidisciplinary Teams) to submit economic development proposals that outline how cutting-edge concepts and ideas could be applied to address the persistent economic development challenges faced by the city.

Each city will award financial prizes to the Multidisciplinary Teams submitting the top three economic development proposals as rated by city-selected evaluation panels, and will invite

two to six Multidisciplinary Teams to develop robust economic development plans, which will provide greater detail on the strategies that each city should employ to adopt the innovative ideas contained in the submitted economic development proposals. The Multidisciplinary Team submitting the highest ranked economic development plan is expected to receive a financial prize. The ultimate product under this FFO will be a set of strategies derived from submitted economic development plans that meet the specific needs of each recipient city.

Promise Zones Initiative

PROPOSAL

The City supports the Promise Zones Initiative that proposes to provide federal assistance in support of economic development and jobs creation.

BACKGROUND

The Administration called for designation of 20 "Promise Zones" in the U.S. to be targeted for federal assistance in order to spur economic development and create jobs.

While there is much to be determined before this new initiative moves forward, the idea is that there will be a process for consideration of requests to be designated as a Promise Zone, based on various metrics demonstrating demographics (e.g., poverty stats, crime rates, minority population, etc.) or other compelling need. The program is likely to be somewhat like the Empowerment Zones/Renewal Communities programs.

Geographic areas designated under the program will be targeted for various forms of assistance, to include federal grants as well as tax incentives (e.g., New Markets Tax Credits). The City will follow developments with this initiative in consultation with the White House and various federal agencies.

College Access Programs

PROPOSAL
The City supports federal funding for college and community college access programs.

BACKGROUND
Reports by the Brookings Institution and the Federal Reserve have cited educational achievement as the critical barrier to increasing prosperity in San Antonio. The City of San Antonio and Bexar County have fewer college graduates than the state or national average, and students in urban districts often lack access to even routine information about applying to and financing college.

The City of San Antonio, working in collaboration with 11 area universities and colleges, 15 area public school districts, the public libraries, the P16Plus Council of Greater Bexar County and numerous nonprofit agencies, has established a one-stop center for college advising and counseling. The college access and opportunity center, "Café College," opened in 2009 and is successfully serving the community.

Café College accommodates students and families during the weekday as well as after school and on weekends. Programming in the center is also provided through a website and services are offered in close coordination with the public libraries and the high school "Go Centers," so that programming and training is consistent across schools and school districts. In addition to counseling, the center provides financial planning services, assistance with financial aid paperwork, and other relevant services such as SAT testing and preparation. The website also serves as a clearinghouse for information relevant to college planning and participation, including information about pathways, gateway coursework, resources and summer enrichment opportunities. Café College serves as a model college access and career advancement center for the State of Texas and the nation.

Veteran's Employment – Joining Forces Initiative

PROPOSAL
The City supports the Joining Forces initiative dedicated to connecting servicemen and women, veterans and military spouses with the resources they need to find jobs at home. Support of this program and future coordination on this initiative will strengthen workforce opportunities of service men and women in San Antonio.

BACKGROUND
The Joining Forces program brings attention to the unique needs and strength of America's military families. In seeks to inspire, educate, and spark action from all sectors of our society – citizens, communities, businesses, non-profits, faith based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and government - to ensure veterans and military families have the opportunities, resources, and support they have earned. The initiative:

- Showcases the skills, experience, and dedication of America's veterans and military spouses to strengthen the nation's communities
- Creates greater connections between the American public and the military. Military children move frequently due to a parent's reassignment. These moves can make it difficult to transfer records, secure spaces in courses, stay included in extra-curricular activities, and complete required testing on time
- Supports the academic achievement of military children by helping schools become more responsive to the unique needs of military children and families; and
- Promotes and supports higher education institutions and programs that expand education opportunities, eases transferability for military-connected students, and expands job training opportunities for military spouses and veterans.

DRAFT

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

PROPOSAL

The City supports coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and partner federal agencies to participate in efforts in support of San Antonio waterways, to apply for technical assistance and any potential future funding assistance for economic, environmental and economic development benefits.

BACKGROUND

This partnership reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with communityled revitalization efforts to impro ve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. Specifically, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership will:

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources through better coordination and targeting of federal investments.
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, by engaging and serving community partners.
- Work with local officials and effective communitybased organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action.

The partnership includes:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Department of the Army (Civil Works/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- U.S. Department of Commerce (Economic Development Administration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Transportation

Led by these federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's placebased efforts, including the Partnership for Sustainable Communiti es, to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation.

Urban waters impact large populations in the adjacent, upstream, and downstream communities. Urban waters have the potential to be treasured centerpieces of urban revival. Healthy and accessible urban waters help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, and social opportunities in the communities through which they pass. Urban waters, which often serve as drinking water sources, may become polluted by runoff from roads and parking lots, as well as industrial sources. Protecting them can help to then protect the public and environmental health of these communities. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is committed to working with local communities to restore waterways and reconnect people in underserved communities with their rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, bays, and oceans.

San Antonio Water System (SAWS)

PROPOSAL

The City supports San Antonio Water System (SAWS) efforts to diversify San Antonio's water supplies through innovative programs and technology, such as brackish groundwater desalination, that will ensure healthy drinking water for future generations. Total project cost: $296,807,455 (completed in three phases)

BACKGROUND

SAWS' stated highest priority for the 113th Congress is to diversify water supplies through innovative programs and technology, primarily the brackish groundwater desalination project. S. 601 reauthorizes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and includes a section relating to innovative financing of pilot projects under Title X of the bill. Title X, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2013 (WIFIA), supports the establishment of pilot programs to test the capability of alternative financing tools to promote the development of water resources infrastructure, attract new investment sources, leverage private investment, and complement existing Federal funding. Brackish water desalination projects are eligible for assistance under Title X of the act. Project administration responsibility would rest with the EPA. Top legislative priority for SAWS is to authorize the brackish groundwater desalination project in WRDA. SAWS will pursue Congressional approval through the Water Resources Development Act, the authorizing legislation for the Army Corps. S. 601, WRDA reauthorization, was passed the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The City supports the inclusion of governmental water projects for purposes of increased water supply and public health.

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorizes water resources projects and policies for navigation, flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply, and emergency management involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency. Funds for these activities are typically appropriated in an annual Energy and Water Development Appropriations act. WRDA was last authorized in 2007 during the 110th Congress. The 111th and 112th Congresses did not formally consider an omnibus WRDA project authorization, although a draft Senate Environment and Public Works bill was circulated and

discussed in the fall of 2012. Previous WRDA bills authorized hundreds of site-specific projects and a few regional projects and established agency policy and guidelines for project planning and implementation. Authorization difficulties arose in the 111th and 112th Congress because the bulk of past WRDA bills have been composed of geographically specific authorizations which were complicated by the current temporary moratorium on Congressional directed spending, or earmarks.

CPS Energy: Tax Exempt Financing

PROPOSAL

The City supports CPS Energy's authority to issue tax exempt bonds for infrastructure improvements.

BACKGROUND

As units of local government, public power utilities are authorized to issue tax-exempt bonds to construct and improve the infrastructure necessary to provide electric or natural gas service. Recently, there have been several proposals to weaken or eliminate the tax-exemption for municipal bonds or replace them with other financing tools. Any changes to the traditional tax-exempt treatment of bonds would increase borrowing costs to local governments, which would limit infrastructure investment and would cost taxpayers and ratepayers potentially billions of dollars in higher interest costs each year. CPS Energy deems the use of tax exempt bonds to be an essential financing tool, and therefore, opposes repealing or altering the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

CPS Energy: NERC/FERC Framework

PROPOSAL

The City supports CPS Energy's cyber security efforts to maintain a strong electric grid.

BACKGROUND

The electric industry, including CPS Energy, takes very seriously its responsibility to maintain a strong electric grid. In fact, the electric and nuclear sectors are the only critical infrastructure sectors with mandatory and enforceable standards in place to address both cyber- and physical-security on the bulk electric grid. As the grid evolves, unfortunately so do threats to its integrity. Therefore, CPS Energy recognizes that new, but narrowly crafted security proposals are appropriate. CPS Energy supports legislation that builds upon the existing NERC/FERC framework, and that avoids duplication of current processes. CPS Energy supports proposals to enhance information-sharing from the federal government to industry.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

BACKGROUND
The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Begun in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to 1209 general units of local government and States.

CDBG works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

HUD determines the amount of each grant by using a formula comprised of several measures of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

Home Investments Partnerships Program (HOME)

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Home Investments Partnerships Program (HOME).

BACKGROUND
HOME provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use-often in partnership with local nonprofit groups-to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people.

HOME is the largest Federal block grant to State and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. Each year it allocates approximately $2 billion among the States and hundreds of localities nationwide. The program was designed to reinforce several important values and principles of community development:

- HOME's flexibility empowers people and communities to design and implement strategies tailored to their own needs and priorities.

- HOME's emphasis on consolidated planning expands and strengthens partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector in the development of affordable housing.
- HOME's technical assistance activities and set-aside for qualified community-based nonprofit housing groups builds the capacity of these partners.
- HOME's requirement that participating jurisdictions (PJs) match 25 cents of every dollar in program funds mobilizes community resources in support of affordable housing.

HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to participating jurisdictions. HUD establishes HOME Investment Trust Funds for each grantee, providing a line of credit that the jurisdiction may draw upon as needed. The program's flexibility allows States and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement, or rental assistance or security deposits.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

PROPOSAL

The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

BACKGROUND

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Through the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties, the goal of the program is being realized. NSP1, a term that references the NSP funds authorized under Division B, Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008, provides grants to all states and selected local governments on a formula basis.

NSP is a component of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The CDBG regulatory structure is the platform used to implement NSP and the HOME program provides a safe harbor for NSP affordability requirements.

NSP grantees develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, NSP grantees must use at least 25 percent of the funds appropriated for the purchase and redevelopment of abandoned or foreclosed homes or residential properties that will be used to house individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 50 percent of the area median income. In addition, all activities funded by NSP must benefit low- and moderate-income persons whose income does not exceed 120 percent of area median income. Activities may not qualify under NSP using the "prevent or eliminate slums and blight" or "address urgent community development needs" objectives.

NSP funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- Establish financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed homes and residential properties;
- Purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties abandoned or foreclosed;
- Establish land banks for foreclosed homes;
- Demolish blighted structures; and
- Redevelop demolished or vacant properties.

DRAFT

Marketplace Fairness Act

PROPOSAL
The City supports passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013.

BACKGROUND
The Marketplace Fairness Act would grant states the authority to compel online and catalog retailers ("remote sellers"), no matter where they are located, to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction - exactly like local retailers are already required to do. The Act would be in effort to level the playing field between main street and on-line retailers, who presently do not collect sales taxes, giving them an unfair advantage.

The Marketplace Fairness Act would allow Texas to collect approximately $2 billion in state and local sales taxes. Texas foregoes the highest amount of remote sales tax in the U.S. behind only California.

This is not a new tax – this is money that is already owned that is not being collected. States and localities are facing existing budget shortfalls that must be addressed. Collections from the Marketplace Fairness Act could be used for education, infrastructure, law enforcement and other essential services that localities must provide their constituents.

In addition to many state and local governments who have already weighed in support of the urgency of the Marketplace Fairness Act, the United States Conference of Mayors, The National Governors Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures support the measure, as well as a large number of national trade associations, state and local trade associations and companies. Big box retailers such as JCPenney, Lowes, Best Buy, Amazon, Sears, Zappos, Wal-Mart and Home Depot all support this bill.

Federal Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA)

PROPOSAL
The City supports the sunset of the ITFA or its reform.

BACKGROUND
ITFA has been in effect since 1998, currently scheduled to expire in November, 2014. The original legislation, signed into law by President Bill Clinton, was in effort to promote and preserve commercial, educational and informational potential of the Internet. The law bars federal, state and local governments from taxing Internet access and from imposing discriminatory Internet-only taxes such as bit taxes, bandwidth taxes, and email taxes. The law also bars multiple taxes on electronic commerce.

The law has been extended three times by Congress. The most recent extension was titled the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendment Act of 2007, signed into law on November 1, 2007, by George W. Bush and extended the moratorium until November 1, 2014.

Reform or repeal of the Federal Internet Tax Freedom Amendment Act may be an issue for consideration in the event comprehensive tax reform is addressed in the 113th Congress.

Wireless Tax Fairness Act

PROPOSAL
The City opposes the Wireless Tax Fairness Act.

BACKGROUND
In the 112th Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bipartisan 'Wireless Tax Fairness Act' (H.R. 1002). The Senate failed to act upon the companion bill S. 543. If reintroduced in the 113th Congress, and if passed, the bill would prohibit local and state governments from implementing taxes or fees on a specific communications service, such as wireless, for five years. State and local governments could still increase taxes and fees on communications across the board, but would be prohibited from singling out and taxing only and wireless users.

The Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act

PROPOSAL
The City opposes the Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness Act.

BACKGROUND
The Digital Goods and Services Tax Fairness act would sharply restrict, and in many cases, preempt, the ability of state and local governments to tax "digital goods and services." Examples include downloaded music and video, online photo storage, payroll processing and computer programs. In essence, the bill creates a nationwide "tax preference" for online goods and services over competing brick-and-mortar sales. Legislation creates a nationwide "tax preference" for online goods and services over competing brick-and-mortar sales by limiting s state and local taxes on "digital goods and services." It is possible that the previously discussed Marketplace Fairness Act, if passed, would allow taxation of some of these goods.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Right-of-Way Notice of Inquiry (NOI)

PROPOSAL
The City supports the protection of municipal interests as related to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Right-of-Way Notice of Inquiry (NOI).

BACKGROUND
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a "Notice of Inquiry (NOI)" regarding local right-of-way regulations and franchise fees and how the agency can work with cities, government entities and the private sector to improve policies for access to physical spaces where wired and wireless broadband can be deployed, including roadways and other rights of way, and locations for wireless facilities. The NOI could result in federal rules that preempt city right-of-way management authority and/or franchise fees, and could further limit municipal

regulations relating to cell towers. A potential Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPRM) would be the next step in this process, should the FCC decide to issue one.

DRAFT

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).

BACKGROUND
The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) integrates the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) and the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program Grants into a single application kit. Funding from this combined program will significantly enhance the ability of states, territories, urban areas, and local agencies to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from threats and incidents of terrorism. The Governor of the State of Texas has designated the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) as the State Administrative Agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds under HSGP.

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

BACKGROUND
Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

Community Policing is comprised of three key components:

- **Community Partnerships**
  Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
  - Other Government Agencies
  - Community Members/Groups
  - Nonprofits/Service Providers
  - Private Businesses
  - Media
- **Organizational Transformation**
  The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.

- **Problem Solving**
  The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses.
  - Scanning: Identifying and prioritizing problems
  - Analysis: Researching what is known about the problem
  - Response: Developing solutions to bring about lasting reductions in the number and extent of problems
  - Assessment: Evaluating the success of the responses
  - Using the crime triangle to focus on immediate conditions (victim/offender/location)

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG).

BACKGROUND
The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant ("JAG") Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. JAG funds support all components of the criminal justice system, from multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces to crime prevention and domestic violence programs, courts, corrections, treatment, and justice information sharing initiatives. JAG funded projects may address crime through the provision of services directly to individuals and/or communities and by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of criminal justice systems, processes, and procedures.

Established to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG blends the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant ("LLEBG") Programs to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are most needed.

FEMA Fire Grants

PROPOSAL
The City supports advocacy for legislation in support of federal funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

BACKGROUND
The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to

obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

DRAFT

Broadband

PROPOSAL
The City supports increased federal funding for the expansion of broadband capabilities for the San Antonio community.

BACKGROUND
For several years national organizations, such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors have recognized broadband internet connectivity as critically important for the economic, social and civic growth of individuals and families and as an essential tool for delivering high-quality public services to community residents (U.S. Conference of Mayors Resolution, 2008). Following cities' leads, federal policymakers have been placing a renewed focus on broadband.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the National Broadband Plan. Broadband is the great infrastructure challenge of the early 21st century. Like electricity a century ago, broadband is a foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life. It is enabling entire new industries and unlocking vast new possibilities for existing ones. It is changing how we educate children, deliver health care, manage energy, ensure public safety, engage government, and access, organize and disseminate knowledge (FCC).

According to the Brookings Institution High-speed internet access has developed rapidly in the last decade and is increasingly viewed as essential infrastructure for the global economy. In the last six years, the number of broadband lines in the U.S. has increased from just 4 million to more than 53 million, while other countries are pulling even farther ahead. Brookings experts are examining the effects on jobs here and abroad, as well as new efforts to regulate the telecommunications industry. Fast broadband has huge societal benefits, enabling many applications in education, energy and public safety, to name a few.

Cybersecurity

PROPOSAL
The City supports federal funding for increased cyber security awareness campaigns and for cyber innovation, research and infrastructure.

BACKGROUND
In 2009, as part of this policy review, the Department of Homeland Security was asked to create an ongoing cybersecurity awareness campaign–Stop.Think.Connect.– to help Americans understand the risks that come with being online.

The Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign's overarching goal is to help Americans understand not only the risks that come with using the Internet, but also the importance of practicing safe online behavior. More specifically, the Campaign aims to:

- Elevate the nation's awareness of cybersecurity and its association with national security and the safety of our personal lives.
- Engage the American public, the private sector, and state and local governments in our nation's effort to improve cybersecurity.
- Communicate approaches and strategies for the public to keep themselves, their families and their communities safer online.

Stop.Think.Connect. is a national public awareness effort to guide the nation to a higher level of Internet safety by challenging the American public to be more vigilant about practicing safe online habits. It will persuade Americans to view Internet safety as a shared responsibility–at home, in the workplace, and in our communities–and demonstrate that shared responsibility by bringing together a coalition of federal, state and local government entities, as well as private sector and nonprofit partners.

Through these partnerships, the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign is reaching thousands of Americans, providing tips on how they can protect themselves, their families, and the nation. Stop.Think.Connect. was the result of an intensive collaborative effort from the Online Consumer Security and Safety Messaging Convention, an effort organized by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG), key industry leaders, government agencies, and nonprofits.

Surface Transportation, 21ST Century Act-MAP-21

PROPOSAL

The City supports passage of a longer term (four to six years) authorization upon expiration of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) to allow for improved planning, increase federal transportation infrastructure investment and streamline the federal aid process with direct funding to large cities.

BACKGROUND

On July 6, 2012 the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21) was signed into law, a two-year reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation programs.

The Conference Agreement reauthorizes the nation's highway, transit and vehicle safety programs through September 30, 2014 at approximately current funding levels. The bill provides a clean three-month extension for the rest of FY2012, and then a two-year reauthorization through the end of FY2014. It provides a total of $105.7 billion over the next two fiscal years, consisting of approximately $40 billion for highways and $10.5 billion for transit annually. Given the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), the bill is paid for by transferring $21.2 billion from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Fund and general fund to the Highway Trust Fund. The general fund transfer accounts for the majority of the transfer ($18.8 billion) and is offset by revenue-raising pension reforms.

The overall highlights of the bill include extensive program consolidation, streamlining and expediting of the project review process, and increased innovative financing tools and opportunities.

Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Funding and San Antonio International Airport (SAT)

PROPOSAL

City supports legislation that increases Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding and allows for greater flexibility to airports in the use of AIP funds. In 2000 the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) was raised and capped at $4.50 with no adjustments in the last 13 years; over the years construction cost inflation has stripped the PFC of almost half its value. The ceiling needs to be increased to $8.50 to provide the same purchasing power as in 2000. This program is important in addressing infrastructure needs at San Antonio International Airport (SAT).

BACKGROUND

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) provides grants to public agencies — and, in some cases, to private owners and entities -- for the planning and development of public-use airports that are included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

AIP grants for planning, development, or noise compatibility projects are at or associated with individual public-use airports (including heliports and seaplane bases).

Eligible projects include those improvements related to enhancing airport safety, capacity, security, and environmental concerns. In general, sponsors can use AIP funds on most airfield capital improvements or repairs and in some specific situations, for terminals, hangars, and non-aviation development. Any professional services that are necessary for eligible projects — such as planning, surveying, and design — are eligible. Aviation demand at the airport must justify the projects, which must also meet Federal environmental and procurement requirements.

Projects related to airport operations and revenue-generating improvements are typically not eligible for funding. Operational costs — such as salaries, equipment, and supplies — are also not eligible for AIP grants.

Stinson Airport International General Aviation

PROPOSAL
The City supports international General Aviation service at Stinson Airport.

BACKGROUND
San Antonio Airport System has port of entry rights for international General Aviation flights at San Antonio International Airport. As the City continues to plan for and develop Stinson Municipal Airport the needs of international general aviation represents an integral component for that success. As we look at marketing the airport for international GA service the inability to fly directly to Stinson will impede our efforts.

Greater Access Through Efficient Services (GATES Initiative) for Non-Stop Service to Reagan National

PROPOSAL
The City supports efforts to secure two (2) non-stop slots or round trip to and from San Antonio International Airport (SAT) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

BACKGROUND
The perimeter rule for Reagan National Airport limits flights to within the 1,250 mile perimeter. Over the years additional slots have been approved by congress as part of the FAA Reauthorization process. This makes any new opportunities for beyond-the-perimeter subject to new FAA Reauthorizations.

Last year congress finally approved a Reauthorization Bill after five years and 23 extensions; this makes it extremely difficult to get new beyond-the-perimeter opportunities.

The proposal is to allow airlines the right to exchange inside the perimeter slots from a large hub airport to beyond-the-perimeter service to an airport that has the business case for this

service. This would address the objections to increasing the number of slots from DCA and allow for new beyond-the-perimeter service separate from any FAA Reauthorization delays.

VIA Metropolitan Transit Multi-Modal Transit

PROPOSAL

The City supports VIA's legislative priority to seek federal grants and new funding opportunities for:

- The further development and advancement of multimodal transit centers that benefit all sectors of the community.
- Advancing critical multimodal transit options for high-capacity corridors that provide increased transit opportunities for VIA patrons and enhances the agency's operational efficiencies.

BACKGROUND

The VIA Board of Trustees adopted a Long Range Comprehensive Transportation Plan in July 2011. This plan outlines specific corridor improvements, transit technologies, timelines and connectivity through 2035. Efficient transit service is vitally important to the community's quality of life and economic competitive advantage. This is especially true as the region continues to sustain its growth projections over the next 25 years.

Over the last two years, the federal Administration has made grant opportunities available to develop and execute projects that were in need of funding to accelerate enhanced mobility. These available funds have made it possible for VIA to introduce hybrid electric vehicles, extend Bus Rapid Transit into the City of Leon Valley, rehabilitate the bus fleet, replace the paratransit fleet and – with the TIGER III award – plan for phase two of the Westside Multimodal Transit Center development.

Benefits include:

- Economic Development – The Long Range Plan and Five Year Plan projects will serve as catalysts for economic development, allowing for enhanced mobility, connectivity, and ultimately livability. Modern Streetcar will provide for efficient land use patterns, transit-oriented development, and opportunities for recovery of neglected business districts and increasing land values. The development of the transit centers downtown – the Westside Multimodal Transit Center and revitalization of the Robert Thompson Transit Center – will yield connectivity by easy and convenient access to various modes of transit and by pedestrian junction between HemisFair Park and the Alamodome.
- Energy Efficiency – Additional modes of transit and the increased options for rider access will encourage more passengers to utilize environmentally friendly technology, therefore reducing greenhouse gases and air pollutants.
- Efficient Mobility – Public transportation reduces travel time due to frequency of service and utilization of transit corridors developed specifically for the San Antonio/Bexar County

region. VIA's plans call for the development of a transit network to provide affordable, safe and seamless transit connectivity and access for customers.

- Economic Benefits – Public transportation provides an affordable, safe and convenient alternative to the automobile. With fluctuating fuel prices and costs associated with owning and operating an automobile, riding public transit can lower household expenses.

DRAFT

National Travel and Tourism Strategy

PROPOSAL

The City supports strategies that enable and enhance travel in San Antonio; improve local, state and federal coordination; and support the availability of federal funding and technical assistance to local governments.

BACKGROUND

In May 2012 the Administration unveiled the National Travel and Tourism Strategy, a long-term roadmap for America's travel and tourism industry that aims to attract and welcome 100 million international visitors annually by the end of 2021. The National Strategy will bolster job creation through a range of steps to promote the United States as a premier tourism destination.

The Department of State plays a significant role in supporting both economic prosperity and border security. Over the past year, the Department of State has made significant improvements to the visa process – without compromising security – to contribute to the President's travel and tourism initiatives and to generate economic growth and job creation.

In key growth markets for international travel, such as China and Brazil, visa interview wait times have dramatically decreased. Visa processing capacity has increased due to innovative programs that meet the extraordinary demand for visas, while implementing permanent solutions to stay ahead of this growing demand for years to come. A new pilot program is making room for first-time visitors to the United States and streamlining the visa renewal process for certain low-risk, previously-interviewed visa applicants.

This program commits to increasing efforts to expand the Visa Waiver Program, and the Department of State is working to put more countries on the path to membership. In addition to efforts to streamline the visa process, the Department of State will continue to work closely with Brand USA, the public-private partnership charged with promoting travel to the United States. The Department of State will leverage its overseas presence and public diplomacy programs to welcome more visitors to America's great destinations. With partners in the travel industry, perceptions of the visa process will be improved and send a positive message to welcome tourists from all over the world to come and visit America.

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013

PROPOSAL

The City supports the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013.

BACKGROUND

The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2013 directs the Secretary of the Interior to study land within Bexar and Wilson Counties in Texas, to identify land that would be suitable for inclusion in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Requires the study to examine the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic values and characteristics of the land within such counties; Modifies the boundary of the Park to include approximately 137 acres of additional identified land; and prohibits the Secretary from using condemnation authority to acquire such lands or interests in such land.

The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park needs approximately 137 acres brought within the park's boundary. The Park currently owns or will receive through donation 118 acres of the 137 which include the following:

- 11 acres adjacent to land that contains a remnant of the historic San Juan Dam and the head gate to the San Juan Acequia. Congress added the adjacent acreage to the Park in 1991 which was under state ownership. The State transferred the entire 33 acres to the Park in 1996.)
- 19 acres near Mission San José which were acquired in 2002 to protect the view shed of the historic site and contain the San José Nature Trail to the San Antonio River.
- 13 acres of land will be transferred to the Park as a donation from the City of San Antonio to protect the view shed south of Mission San José.
- 75 acres south of Mission San Juan Capistrano will be transferred to the Park as a donation from the San Antonio River Authority (Inclusion of this land in the Park boundary will add an additional buffer to the historic San Juan Acequia and allow for future development of the Spanish Colonial Demonstration Farm.

The remaining 19 acres are properties that will continue to be owned by the City of San Antonio and Bexar County and will be managed under existing Cooperative Agreements with the National Park Service. Inclusion in the boundary would allow enhanced management of the property and strengthen the buffer zone around the historic resources. Inclusion of the County property would protect a clear view shed between a new San José River portal (part of the San Antonio River Improvements' project) and the historic mission.

World Heritage Area Designation for the San Antonio Missions

PROPOSAL

The City supports the World Heritage Area designation for the San Antonio Missions.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to enhance worldwide understanding and appreciation and international cooperation for heritage conservation. It is also to recognize and preserve a relatively small number of exceptional natural and cultural properties around the world that have been formally determined to possess outstanding universal value to humanity.

The United States was a primary architect of the World Heritage Convention and led the efforts to develop the treaty establishing the Convention and was its first signatory when the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty 95-0 on October 26, 1973. The World Heritage Convention has been viewed by many as the global expression of the American National Park ideal. The United States has continuously maintained a leadership role in the work of the Convention, including serving multiple terms on the World Heritage Committee, the governing body of 21 countries elected from among the nations that have signed the Convention. The U.S. is not currently a member of the committee. In the U.S., there are currently 21 World Heritage Sites, notably including Grand Canyon National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Independence Hall, and the Statue of Liberty.

U.S. Domestic Legal Effects of World Heritage listing

Nomination to and inclusion in the World Heritage List represents the formal pledge by the United States to itself and to the international community to take all steps necessary to protect a property, including regular reports on its condition, but U.S. and state laws and regulations affecting the property are not superseded or abrogated. Rather, World Heritage listing affirms existing U.S. law. Domestic legal and management structures that will assure the protection of the property are a prerequisite for inscription.

Some Benefits of World Heritage Listing

- The publicity that accompanies World Heritage listing and the placement of World Heritage plaques has led to increased tourism at almost all sites, often to the benefit of the economies of surrounding areas.
- International organizations and national governments and foundations often give priority to World Heritage Sites in providing financial and technical assistance. In recent years, such sources of assistance have been quite substantial when compared to the limited amounts provided by the World Heritage Committee through the World Heritage Fund.
- Cooperative efforts to assist World Heritage Sites have not attracted nearly as much publicity as the controversial debates over how to protect a few threatened sites, but it is clear that World Heritage listings have encouraged international cooperation and assistance and outcomes beneficial to World Heritage Sites, especially at lesser known sites and in countries needing financial resources or information exchange to care for their World Heritage sites.

San Antonio River Improvements Initiative

PROPOSAL

The City supports the San Antonio River Authority's (SARA) request of $10M in the FY14 Energy and Water appropriations bill from within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction General Account for reimbursing Bexar County for advancing a portion of the federal share of the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project (Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project).

BACKGROUND

The Mission Reach project will restore the ecosystem of an eight-mile stretch of the San Antonio River south of downtown previously channelized for flood control purposes. The project will plant 23,000 native trees, 334 acres of riparian woodland habitat, 113 acres of aquatic habitat, 31 riffle structures, 13 acres of embayment, and restore two river remnants while also maintaining and or increasing the flood control capabilities of the original U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project.

A goal is to secure $10 million in the FY 14 Energy and Water appropriations bill from within the USACE Construction General account for the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project (Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project) which will reimburse the non-federal interest per section 115 of P.L. 111-8; ensuring the federal government meets its financial obligation and contractual commitment to the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project. Based on the Phase 3 construction contract and cost estimates for design, real estate, and utility relocations it is estimated that the local sponsor is eligible to be reimbursed approximately $58.4 million for advancing the federal contracted funding share.

Reimbursement funding may be released to the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) when the project is substantially complete prior to implementation of monitoring and adaptive management activities per the March 31, 2010 Integral Determination Report and as authorized by Section 3154 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and Section 115 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009, P.L. 111-8.

We are requesting $10 million in FY 14 for reimbursement of the local community for advancing the federal share which kept the project on the optimum construction schedule and ensures the project will be complete in 2013. We will continue to request appropriations in $10 million increments to ensure the local funding partner is made whole for advancing the federal share.

	Total	Bexar County	City	SAWS	Private	USACE
Mission Reach Project	$245.7	$176.6	$6.5	$6.0	$4.7	$51.9

Bexar County's total contribution committed to the Mission Reach project of $176.6 million is made up of $75.6 million from Bexar County's Flood Tax, $39.7 million from Bexar County's Visitor Tax and an additional $61.3 million to advance federal funding to keep the project on the optimum schedule. Based on the USACE cost projections the estimated total federal funding obligation for the Mission Reach is $113.2 million, of which only $51.9 million has been funded. Bexar County will be eligible for reimbursement of the local funding advance should additional federal funding be appropriated by Congress.

SARA is committed to Operation and Maintenance of the Mission Reach as construction phases are completed.

PROPOSAL

The City supports federal regulations or legislation which would clearly benefit the City and oppose any regulations or legislation that would clearly be adverse to City's interests.

BACKGROUND

In 1995 Congress created a mechanism that would place obstacles in the path of imposing new, unfunded federal mandates on the taxpayers of the nation's cities and towns. The law created a mechanism to force Congress and the White House to acknowledge the impact of proposed unfunded mandates on state and local governments. However, it left untouched federal authority to preempt traditional municipal rights, responsibilities and revenue resources.

The City of San Antonio has historically endorsed legislation that would clearly benefit the City and opposed bills that met one or more of the following criteria:

- undermines the principles of self-government;
- mandates increased cost to cities, including environmental mandates;
- results in the loss of revenue to cities or change the authority of the City to generate revenues;
- diminishes 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; and/or
- preempts municipal authority, such as franchising, zoning, permits, licenses and municipal code development, and interfere with municipal control over the rate and nature of local taxation.