

JOHN COOK
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
MELINA CASTRO, DISTRICT 4
RACHEL QUINTANA, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Susie Byrd, City Representative, District #2

DATE: January 12, 2009

RE: City Council Mtg for 01/13/09 Agenda Item 11A – Back up (Revised)

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Dear Mayor and Council:

For your review and consideration, I am recommending the following changes to the State Legislative Agenda that will be approved at Tuesday's council meeting:

- On page 4, under item 2. Transit, add: Support legislation that would allow municipalities to use Category 2 funds for transit projects.
- On page 5, under item 8. Tax Code, delete the second item asking to amend Chapter 33, Subchapter A, Section 33.0 of the Tax Code to increase the penalty a delinquent tax incurs for the first calendar month it is delinquent.
- On page 5, under item 9. Environmental, add: Support renewable energy tax credits that complement federal renewable energy tax credits.
- On page 5, under item 9. Environmental, add: Support changes in the Public Utility Commission requirements to simplify the procedure for El Paso Electric to pay Renewable Energy Credits to individuals who are pushing power back onto the grid with renewable energy projects (see attached email for additional information).
- On page 6, under item 11. PSB, delete the item asking for additional board members and instead recommend that the PSB have the State Comptroller perform a best practices governance audit. Before we make any changes to the PSB, I think some thought has to be given to what the best ways to manage and govern such a board are, to include such considerations as board size and best way to increase public access to decision making.
- On page 8, under item 5. Revenue and Taxation, add to the last item on predatory lending: End the loophole that allows payday lenders to use Credit Service Organizations to avoid usury laws in Texas. Cap fees on any loans brokered by Credit Service Organizations so that the fees plus the interest paid are not higher than Texas usury limits.
- On page 8, under item 7. Healthcare and Public Health, amend to read: Support funding for "supportive" housing programs... It is important for us to urge that housing for the mentally ill provide good support and health care.
- Add another item. Support TDHCA's budget request for \$40 million additional allocation for the Housing Trust Fund and \$10.7 million additional allocation for housing weatherization program.
- Add another item. Support UTEP's Tier I request.
- Add another item. Support TXDOT's budget request for more money to maintain and clean their rights of way.
- Add another item. Support legislation that would allow civilian city employees to issue citations for neighborhood nuisance items such as junked cars, parking violations, etc that are now only the purview of police officers.