



To: Mayor and City Council

From: Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney
Director of Governmental Affairs

Date: August 6, 2009

RE: August 11, 2009 Agenda Item – 15.C - Legislative Wrap Up

As requested by Representative Byrd, I have posted an agenda item to allow us a great deal of latitude to work on matters regarding the State Legislative Program. This item is intended to allow for a report, action on the current lobbyist contract and direction to staff.

Attached you will find a copy of the “Session Wrap UP” document and the Power-Point presentation I will use to summarize the report. I will discuss the highlights of the activity and be available to respond to questions if you desire more detail.

You will note that I have a slide in the Power-Point presentation entitled, “Interim Goals.” I am presenting these items as suggestions and to start the discussion. I fully expect that you will have other items you want to work on. Members of the delegation and our community partners will also influence the list as we continue with our work.

I am also attaching a copy of the current contract with Patricia Shipton. The contract expires on January 28, 2010. In order to terminate the contract we are required to provide Ms. Shipton with 30 days written notice. Council will need to authorize the City Manager to provide the written notice.

Finally, I have provided a slide to start the discussion on next steps such as scheduling an LRC, time-line for RFQ, etc.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc: Joyce Wilson, City Manager
Charlie McNabb, City Attorney

Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Susannah M. Byrd

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Rachel Quintana

District 6
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY



State Legislative Agenda Wrap-Up



Reporting Categories

1. Priority Items

- a. City of El Paso requested or authored legislation or initiatives
- b. City of El Paso worked in coalition on legislation or initiatives

2. Support Items

3. Opposed Items



Priority Items

City of El Paso requested or authored legislation and initiatives:

1. Increase PSB membership from 5 to 7

HB 4004 (Pickett) – signed by Governor on 5/23/09

2. Recreational Use Statute

HB 783 (Pickett) – signed by Governor on 6/19/09

3. Tax exemption for nature preserves

Rep. Marquez had drafted a bill with the assistance of Linebarger government relations. After consulting with House Legislative Council, it was determined the exemption already exists. Linebarger met with CAD staff and exemption granted.

100% accomplished



Coalition Initiatives

City of El Paso worked in coalition with others on legislation and initiatives:

1. Amendment to Transportation Code to permit residential streets to be designated 20 or 25 mph in lieu of prima facie 30 mph.
HB 2682 (Alvarado) – City of Houston
2. Regulation of lodging facilities
HB 216 (Menendez) – City of San Antonio and Senator Shapleigh
3. Rail Relocation Funding – City Council Resolution
SB 1 (Ogden) – Coalition for Rail Relocation Funding, City of San Antonio
4. Homelessness Funding – City Council Resolution
SB 1 (Ogden) – Big City Mayors
5. Identification for individuals released from prison systems – City Council Resolution
HB 2161 (Turner) – Big City Mayors



Coalition Initiatives (cont.)

6. Incentives for film industry in Texas – City Council Resolution
HB 873 (Duell)
7. Preservation of Red Light Cameras – Testimony by El Paso Police
Department
Texas Red Light Camera Coalition
8. Texas Enterprise Funding for prospective employees – REDCO Initiative
Representative Chavez, REDCO and City of Dallas
9. Amendment to Chapter 42 of the Tax Code to give taxing entities legal
standing to enforce collection and payment of taxes
Linebarger Firm



Coalition Initiatives (cont.)

10. Increased funding for Texas State Park System and Texas Recreation and Parks Account Local Park Grant Program – City Council Resolution

11. Tigua Gaming – City Council Resolution

Representative Eddie Holguin live testimony, written testimony by Mayor Cook, cards by City of El Paso

12. Local option funding for transportation

Worked with TEX-21, North Texas Coalition, Senator Shapleigh and Representative Pickett

75% success rate



Support Measures

The remainder of the City's legislative agenda was comprised of issues that were being carried by others or that the City Council has indicated they would support if the opportunity arose.

There were 65 support items and of those, 28 were successful.



Items Opposed

1. Immigration – No bills passed not in keeping with City Council Resolution dated January 13, 2009.
2. Appraisal Caps – No appraisal caps were imposed.
3. Revenue Caps – No revenue caps, lowered rollback rates, mandatory tax ratification elections or lowered rollback petition requirements were imposed.
4. Predatory Lending – No bills passed that would erode consumer protections currently in place. However, loophole issue not resolved. The bills never made it out of committee.

100% accomplished



Proposed Constitutional Amendments

(All amendments will be on the November 3, 2009 ballot)

HJR 7

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans hospitals in this state."

HJR 14-1

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity."

HJR 14-2

"The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund."

HJR 36-1

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead."

HJR 36-2

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations."



Additional Proposed Constitutional Amendments

HJR 36-3

"The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes."

HJR 85

"The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years."

HJR 102

"The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico."

HJR 116

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized."

HJR 127

"The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices."

HJR 132

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation."



Interim Goals

1. Transit. Work in coalition with TEX-21, other cities, and El Paso delegation to explore options for transit funding.
2. Mobility. Work with El Paso delegation and TXDOT to determine whether the City of El Paso can access funds from the Rail Relocation Fund to study the feasibility of relocating or depressing railroad tracks in the area of the Medical Center of the Americas.
3. Tribal Rights. Continue to work with the members of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the El Paso delegation to restore gaming rights on tribal land.
4. Environmental. Work with delegation to seek legislation to support:
 - a. renewable energy tax credits
 - b. net metering
 - c. renewable energy incentives and rebates
 - d. increase of use of crumb rubber
5. Military Support. Upon completion of growth management study, identify legislative needs and request legislation from delegation.
6. Parks. Upon completion of feasibility study, work with delegation to seek funding for construction of visitor center in the Franklin Mountain State Park
7. General Government. Work with city administrative staff to identify specific legislative amendments needed to increase the City's ability to enforce and collect environmental liens. Present items to TML Resolutions Committee to gain support from other cities and seek legislation.



Next Steps

1. Termination of current contract
 - 30 day notice required
2. Schedule LRC to discuss process for soliciting state and federal lobbyist
3. Work to formulate matters for consideration by TML Resolution Committee
4. Schedule meetings with members of the delegation

SESSION WRAP UP – 8/11/2009
CITY OF EL PASO
2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

JOHN F. COOK

MAYOR

ANN MORGAN LILLY

EMMA ACOSTA

RACHEL QUINTANA

STEVE ORTEGA

SUSIE BYRD

CARL L. ROBINSON

EDDIE HOLGUIN, JR.

BETO O'ROURKE

JOYCE A. WILSON

CITY MANAGER

CITY OF EL PASO
2009 State Legislative Priorities
81st Legislative Session

Strategic Policy Statements: The City Council of the City of El Paso has met to formulate strategic policies to serve as guiding principles for the governance of the City of El Paso. Decision regarding City of El Paso positions regarding legislative matters will be weighed against these guiding principles when formulating positions.

1. **FISCAL:** The City of El Paso will seek to ensure long-term fiscal stability and sustainability of the City government.
2. **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** The City of El Paso will be a high performance, customer focused organization.
3. **CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT:** The City of El Paso will facilitate opportunities for citizens to be involved in local government.
4. **TRANSPORTATION:** The City of El Paso has a goal of becoming the least car dependent City in the Southwest.
5. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** The City of El Paso shall become the most livable city in the United States and be recognized as an international city.
6. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** The City of El Paso will help business create quality jobs in El Paso and revitalize targeted areas of town, thereby adding to the tax base and fostering a healthy economy.

General Principles: The City of El Paso supports legislation that enhances the City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The City of El Paso opposes legislation that reduces the City's authority or increases the City's costs. We will work with other Cities to enhance and protect the authority of municipalities and to ensure that City taxpayers are not burdened with additional unfunded mandates.

The City of El Paso will also support legislative initiatives of community partners that enhance the educational, cultural, and infrastructure resources in our region.

This document reflects the City's adopted legislative policy as approved by City Council. The City's legislative program is organized into three categories:

- I. **Priority Legislative Initiatives** - The City will actively seek to secure legislators to author bills for these initiatives, unless otherwise noted. The City will support and provide positive testimony for these initiatives and actively pursue passage of the bill.
- II. **Statement of Support or Opposition** - City staff and authorized representatives will make known the City's position on these issues. Depending on the issue, staff will work to either assist in the passage of the bill or work against passage to preserve the City's interests. The important distinction between this category and the earlier category is that the City will not seek introduction of any legislation, but will vocalize the City's position in support or opposition.
- III. **Issues to Monitor** - City staff and authorized representatives will monitor and track the development of any related legislation. Staff will seek advice and direction from the Mayor before taking an official position or taking any action to influence an outcome.

For more information, please feel free to contact:

Sylvia Borunda Firth
Senior Assistant City Attorney
Director of Governmental Affairs
Chief of Staff Office of the Mayor
2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1029
Phone: 915-541-4656
Fax: 915-541-5401

Taylor Bengtson
Intergovernmental Affairs
Coordinator
2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1029
Phone: 915-541-4304
Fax: 915-541-5401

I. PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

1. TRANSPORTATION

- Support the authorization of \$5 billion in Proposition 12 general obligation bonds to provide funding for highway improvement projects. ✓

HB 1 (Pitts). SB 1 (Ogden) authorizes the issuance of \$2 billion in transportation bonds and \$100 million in general revenue for debt service.

- Support legislation to eliminate diversions of state transportation revenues to non transportation uses.

- Support efforts to capitalize the Texas Rail Relocation fund, authorized by voters in November 2005, to provide for relocation of existing rail traffic in metropolitan and urbanized areas. ✓

SB 1 (Ogden) included \$182 million for the Rail Relocation Fund.

- Support the Texas Department of Transportation's budget request for additional funding to maintain and clean rights of way. ✓

TXDOT Budget does include an increase in funding for highway maintenance. Determination regarding formula for funding pending.

- Support preservation of the Texas Transportation Commission in its current configuration. ✓

2. TRANSIT

- Increase funding options for transit projects and support legislation that would require that all expenditures for highway construction in the State of Texas allow for funding dedicated transit lanes, bike paths and pedestrian friendly complements.

- Support transit exemptions for transit equipment from motor fuel tax.

- Support legislation to empower metropolitan regions to enact a local option transportation tax with voter approval.

- Endorse the resolution passed by the El Paso MPO on October 24, 2008 to encourage funding of transit and alternative modes of transportation from Category 2 funds.

3. MOBILITY

- Secure funding to study the feasibility of relocating or depressing the railroad tracks in the area of the Texas Tech/Thomason Medical Center of the Americas area. ✓

Rail Relocation Fund possible source of funding.

- Support efforts to expedite commercial truck safety inspections at international ports of entry by coordinating efforts between the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to create one-stop safety inspection facility for commercial trucks at the land ports of entry in the El Paso region. ✓

Not a legislative action, but meetings have recently taken place in El Paso to discuss expediting procedures.

4. TRIBAL RIGHTS

- Support the efforts of the members of the El Paso Delegation to restore gaming rights on tribal land to the members of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

HJR 86, HJR 87, HJR 99, HJR 107, HJR 108, HJR 129, HJR 137, HB 1308 and HB 3239 failed to pass.

5. TEXAS TECH FOUR YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL

- Support Texas Tech University's Legislative Appropriations Request for \$17.6 million \$17,600,000.00 for operational support of the four-year medical school campus in El Paso. ✓

SB 1 (Ogden) included \$17.6 million.

6. STATE PARK

- Seek additional appropriation for a visitor's center in the Franklin Mountains State Park to be located in the Northeast part of El Paso. ✓

SB 1 (Ogden) includes language that requires TX Parks and Wildlife to construct a feasibility study regarding construction of the visitor's center.

- Seek enactment of legislation that provides utility companies with recreational immunity on property that is open for recreational use by the general public, such as trails along electrical corridors or irrigation canals. ✓

HB 783 (Pickett) City of El Paso Recreational Use Bill

- Seek funding for creation of new trails to enhance accessibility to the Franklin Mountains State Park.

7. DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

- Seek enactment of legislation to allow for incentives to assist with the implementation of the El Paso Downtown Revitalization Plan such as mixed income housing tax credits, State historic tax credits and renewable energy tax credits and incentives.

8. TAX CODE

- Seek enactment of legislation requiring Central Appraisal Districts to grant a full tax exemption to nature preserves that are owned by non-profit land trusts and are open for public use and enjoyment ✓

Legislation not needed as the Frontera Land Alliance was granted full tax exempt status.

- Support enactment to increase penalties for chronic delinquent taxpayers.
- Amend Chapter 42, Subchapter A of the Tax Code to give taxing entities legal standing to enforce the collection of payment of taxes as set out in Section 42.08 (b) and to seek a court order dismissing a pending action if the taxpayer fails to comply with the Section 42.08 (b) payment requirement. ✓

SB 1359 (Seliger) relates to the forfeiture of remedy for nonpayment of ad valorem taxes.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL

- Support renewable energy tax credits that complement federal renewable energy tax credits. ✓
- 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.

- Support measures to enhance the use of solar energy “buy back” programs in the State of Texas.
- Support measures to continue to increase the use of crumb rubber and shredded tire pieces in highway construction.
- Support legislation that would require tire dealers and any facility that sells new & used tires to “render a tire unusable” by poking a 1/2 inch hole in the tire, if the tread on that tire does not meet safety standards (i.e., pass annual State inspection).
- Support legislation that allows a deposit/refund to be collected for the purposes of recycling glass bottles.
- Support measures in the legislature that will advance clean energy solutions by creating incentives and rebates to encourage installation of solar panels and energy efficiency measures in Texas homes and businesses. ✓

HB 1937 (Villareal/Seliger) energy efficient public improvements and assessments.

10. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support increased State funding for Medicaid and CHIP.
- Support expedited licensure requirements to decrease the shortages of healthcare professionals in the State of Texas and border communities in particular. ✓

SB 202 (Shapleigh) relates to provisional licensing of physicians to practice in underserved areas.

HB 3674 (Thompson) relates to the licensing requirements for a foreign-trained physician applicant.

- Support the creation of statewide policies to facilitate coordination between health, judicial and law enforcement professionals to develop a jail decision program to keep mentally ill persons out of the jail system.
- Support El Paso MHMR’s funding request for additional funding in the amount of \$8,401,560.00 to meet the needs of the El Paso population, including the growth at Ft. Bliss.
- Support measures identified by the Children’s Mental Health Forum as priorities for the 81st Legislative Session.

- Seek enactment of legislation to require businesses with more than 50 employees that receive state contracts provide health insurance to their employees.

- Seek an amendment to state law to allow a lien to be placed on a homestead property with mosquito control chemicals to protect the public health and safety.

11. EDUCATION

- Support the effort by the El Paso delegation to assist UTEP achieve Tier 1 status. ✓

HB 51 (Branch)

12. PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

- Seek to amend Texas Government Code § 1502.070 to increase the number of board members from five (5) to seven (7). ✓

HB 4004 (Pickett) – City of El Paso bill

II. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION

1. MILITARY AFFAIRS

- Support funding to workforce development to create programs to assist in job placement of accompanying military spouses. ✓

HB 1935 (Villarreal/Guillen/Rodriguez/Chavez/Flores) establishes certain programs to support adult and postsecondary education and workforce development in high-demand occupations and green jobs.

SB 93 (Van de Putte) grants tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents or spouse and permitting those personnel to assign the exemption to a child.

HB 1452(Eissler) relates to the participation in job training and employment assistance programs by veterans.

- Seek additional resources dedicated to military installations, soldiers and their dependents residing in the State of Texas. These resources should also include incentives for those who wish to purchase homes, through tax breaks or other means. ✓

HB 409 (Isset/Heflin) allows military service members who do not have custody of a child to petition the court to be allowed additional time to compensate for time lost due to involuntary deployment.

SB 297 (Van de Putte/Ogden) would allow for state tuition for veterans and servicemembers and their spouses and children.

- Support passage of H.B. 43 filed by State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon of San Antonio to help protect areas around military installations across the state from encroachment by residential and commercial developers. ✓

HJR 132 would create buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to military installations.

SB 1325(Nelson) establishes a mental health intervention program for military veterans.

HB 269 (Lucio) requires higher education institutions to recognize military service as a student course credit for physical education requirements towards a degree.

HB 3452 (Gattis) creates a Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program. The Armed Services Scholarships would be \$15,000 grants provided annually to students attending a Texas public college or university that offers a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

HB 3646 (Hochberg w/ amendment from Chavez) would allow for school districts to receive an additional \$650 per student for those who have active duty parent/guardian or have been transferred due to BRAC. The bill also provides for a wage increase as well as funding for retention and recruitment.

HB 3951 (Turner) requires each higher education institution to ensure that one or more of its employees be trained in understanding state and federal student financial aid programs for military veterans and their families.

SB 90 (Van de Putte/Shapleigh/Uresti/Wentworth) would enter Texas into the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The group focused on four key areas: the transfer of student records; course sequencing and prerequisites; graduation requirements; and ineligibility for extracurricular activities.

2. WATER

- Support Public Service Board's request for funding: ✓
 - \$500,000 for the creation of state-wide water conservation program,
 - \$6.3 million for infrastructure in the colonias, and
 - \$20 million to address needed infrastructure within the El Paso Water Utilities system.

SB 1 (Ogden) contained \$2 million for water infrastructure.

- Support the establishment of separate construction grant programs for reuse projects
- Support the Public Service Board's request to consider State regulatory requirements that continue to change and El Paso Water Utilities' ability to meet new regulations, variances, changes in regulatory requirements, and/or alternative treatment processes may be considered.

3. DEVELOPMENT

- Support the efforts of the TXAPA to amend §545.352 of the Transportation Code to permit residential access streets to be designed for a 20 or 25 mph speed limit in lieu of the prima facie speed limit of 30 mph. ✓

HB 2682 (Alvarado) allows for lower limits in residential areas

- Support legislation to allow counties additional development authority, provided that such legislation does not erode city authority in the ETJ or conflict with development regulations enacted by cities with authority over the ETJ. ✓

HB 2833 (Marquez) building code standards applicable to the unincorporated areas of certain counties

4. IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

- Oppose legislation not in keeping with the resolution calling for comprehensive immigration reform as part of the City's state and federal agendas approved by City Council on January 13, 2009. ✓

- Support efforts by the University of Texas at El Paso’s Center of Excellence for Border Security and Immigration and Center for Defense Systems Research.

5. REVENUE AND TAXATION

- Support the efforts of appraisal districts across the State of Texas to seek legislation requiring the mandatory disclosure of real property sales prices to appraisal districts.
- Oppose legislation that would mandate a reduction in the current appraisal growth cap. ✓
- Oppose legislation that would impose revenue caps of any type, including a lowered rollback rate, mandatory tax rate ratification elections or lowered rollback petition requirements. ✓
- Support legislation that would create further protection from predatory lending practices and close the “loophole” that allows payday lenders to use Credit Service Organizations to avoid usury laws in Texas while at the same time capping fees on any loans brokered by Credit Service Organizations so that the fees plus the interest paid are not higher than Texas usury limits.
- Oppose legislation that would erode the protections currently in place in existing laws. ✓

6. EDUCATION

- Support funding for recruiting additional teachers. ✓

HB 3646 (Hochberg) provides for a wage increase as well as funding for retention and recruitment.

- Support the enhancement of the educational pipeline from Head Start through the college level.
- Support public school finance solutions that give equitable funding to all public schools in the State of Texas and improve quality and results for each of those schools. ✓

HB 635 (Guillen) gives authority to the Texas Education Agency to seek, accept, determine eligibility for, and distribute grants for the benefit of public education and the establishment of professional development institutions.

- Support additional resources and flexibility to be given to school districts to allow for necessary expansion of services due to rapid military base expansion. ✓

HB 3646 (Hochberg w/ amendment by Chavez) additional \$650 per student for those who have active duty parent/guardian or have been transferred due to BRAC.

7. HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support funding for supportive housing programs for the mentally ill and the regulation of lodging facilities that serve that population. ✓

HB 216 (Menendez) relates to the regulation of certain boarding home facilities and assisted living facilities.

- Support TDHCA's budget request for \$40 million additional allocation for the Housing Trust Fund and \$10.7 million additional allocation for the housing weatherization program. ✓

SB 1 included \$10 million increase for Housing Trust Fund and \$317 million overall for the weatherization program.

- Support funding for educational institutions to increase the number of admissions of healthcare professionals. ✓

HB 2154 (Edwards) relates to the physician education loan repayment program. Created using revenue from a tax imposed on bulk tobacco products.

HB 4471 (Kolkhorst/Howard/Shelton/Ortiz, Jr./King) relates to the professional nursing shortage reduction program.

- Support legislation to continue streamlining and simplifying eligibility processes for Medicaid that will encourage more eligible but non-covered individuals to take advantage of this program. ✓

SB 2080 (Uresti) allows for a CHIP "buy-in" option.

- Support legislation that increases funding to Title 5 services (coverage for children's dental and immunization services; and public education for prevention of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer).

- Support legislation that eliminates the disparity in border Medicaid capitation rates and per capita expenditures.
- Support continued funding for the Texas Area Information and Referral Networks.
- Support legislation that reverses the reduction in funding for public health activities to include, but not limited to, children's health, women's health services, child and adult immunizations, family planning, tuberculosis, and services related to sexually transmitted diseases, and vector/mosquito control and general environmental enforcement activities.
- Support legislation that allows for appropriate and responsive mental health and mental retardation services in our community as well as provides adequate resources to avert a waiting list. Instituting a waiting list would result in fewer people being treated and more people seeking care in emergency rooms and through the jail system.
- Support legislation that ensures accountability and performance from the Adult and Child Protective Services Agency.
- Support efforts to advocate for health care financing that will improve coverage, eliminate disparities in rates, and provide incentives for employers to insure employees.
- Support legislation that will aid in licensing physicians and medical personnel in this region to address health care professional shortages. ✓

SB 202 (Shapleigh) relates to provisional licensing of physicians to practice in underserved areas.

HB 4471 (Kolkhorst, Howard, Shelton, Ortiz, Jr., King) relates to the professional nursing shortage reduction program.

HB 3674 (Thompson, Nelson) allows foreign-trained physicians to be licensed if they are board certified in a specialty.

8. PARKS AND RECREATION

- Support passage of legislation maximizing the use of revenue from the sporting goods sales tax to increase funding for parks and recreation programs for both Local and State parks and that all TRPA funded park projects be subject to the established TPWD competitive scoring system.
- Support legislation that increases funding for the Texas State Park System and for the Texas Recreation and Parks Account Local Park Grant Program.

9. **QUALITY OF LIFE - LIBRARIES**

- Support increased state aid for public libraries through the Lone Star Libraries program. ✓

SB 1 included an additional \$4.9 million for Lone Star Libraries and Texas Library System programs.

10. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Support the continuation and enhancement of the Skills Development Fund job-training program. ✓

SB 1 (Ogden) included \$80 million.

HB 2169 (Chavez, Moody, Harless, Pickett, Button) allows for additional job incentive programs by the Texas Workforce Commission using the skills development fund.

- Support Project ARRIBA in securing and obtaining state funds that provide workforce training in demand occupations.

11. **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- Support funding and programs to support local efforts to address the homelessness issue which exists within our Texas cities. Specifically creating strategic partnerships with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to better link the re-entry population from our prisons, and the operational and service subsidies that come with them, to supportive housing projects; and seek from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or Department of Public Safety the pre-release issuance of a Texas ID Certificate for everyone discharged from a Texas jail or prison. ✓

SB 1 (Ogden) provides funding for 8 large cities in Texas.

HB 2161 (Turner) authorizes a personal identification certificate or driver's license issued to present or former inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

- Support legislation that would require electronic reporting of pawnshop data to local law enforcement agencies.

- Support El Paso County's Anti-Graffiti Community Task Force's efforts to amend Texas Penal Code in order to enforce harsher penalties for repeat graffiti offenders. ✓

HB 1633 (Walle/Martinez Fischer/Moody/Ortiz, Jr./Leibowitz) relates to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of graffiti.

- Support the El Paso delegation's efforts to reform Central Appraisal District governance structure, appraisal process, appeal process, accountability and transparency to the public. ✓

HB 8 (Otto/Oliveira/Darby/Quintanilla/Elkins) changes the frequency of the comptroller's property value study from annual to biennial and establishing a Property Value Study Advisory Committee to help the comptroller draft rules governing the conduct of the standards and procedures study.

HB 1030 (Callegari) relates to the protest or appeal of ad valorem tax matters.

HB 3611 (Otto/Oliveira/Hilderbran/Heflin/Kolkhorst) allows two or more adjoining appraisal review boards to consolidate.

HB 3612 (Otto/Oliveira/Villarreal/Gattis/Truitt) establishes a pilot program in Bexar, Cameron, El Paso, Harris, Tarrant, and Travis counties to allow taxpayer appeals of appraisal review board decisions involving property values of more than \$1 million to be heard by the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

HB 3613 (Otto/Oliveira/Paxton/Taylor/Pena) requiring the market value of a residence homestead to be determined solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether the residential use of the property by the owner is considered to be the highest and best use of the property

HJR 36 (Otto/Guillen/Rose) a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the taxation of residential homesteads based solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead regardless of whether the residential use of the property by the owner is considered to be the highest and best use of the property, and authorizing the legislature to allow a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities to consolidate.

- Support the passage of legislation that would enhance the ability of cities to expeditiously enforce and collect on liens for work done in connection with the demolition of unsafe structures, environmental clean-up and other expenses incurred to remedy nuisances or to safeguard the health and safety of the public.
- Support the passage of legislation that would allow for non-peace officer employees to issue citations for municipal code violations.

12. GENERAL MUNICIPAL INTERESTS

The City will support legislation and administrative actions that:

- a. Will protect and enhance City revenues.
- b. Reduce costs to the City.
- c. Provide for more local control.
- d. Protect those policies previously established through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.

The City will oppose legislation or administrative actions that:

- a. Undermines the principle of home rule and local self-government.
- b. Results in loss of revenue or revenue growth to cities.
- c. Diminishes the current authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.
- d. Nullifies or undermines the City's policies contained in existing provision of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions and master plans, unless such changes expand the City's ability to manage its own affairs.
- e. Diminishes any existing authority of cities.
- f. Imposes mandates that require any expenditure by the City unless all costs of same, including administrative as well as direct out-of-pocket costs, are fully reimbursed by the mandating government.

III. ISSUES TO MONITOR

1. Legislation that affects international trade.
2. Legislation that affects public pension funds.
3. Legislation affecting red light cameras.
4. Legislation affecting eminent domain.



HJR 14 would limit the public taking of private property.

Additional legislative developments will be brought to the attention of Mayor, Council, and the City Manager throughout the session.

IV. AMENDMENTS

- Support Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center request for \$65 million in Tuition Revenue Bonds for the construction of a 150,000-square-foot research facility, Medical Science Building II.
- Support the Top 10% Admissions Plan and encourage the Texas Legislature to continue the plan as it currently is implemented.
- Support the passage of Teas HB 873 and its companion SB 605, which relate to offering incentives for the film, television, video and digital interactive media production industries to film in Texas.



HB 873 (Dukes/Pitts/McCall/Cook/Homer)