

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, the 117th United States Congress will convene in January 2021; and

WHEREAS, during the fall of 2020, the City's Governmental Relations staff, in conjunction with its federal legislative consultants, solicited input from various members of the Fort Worth City Council, the City Manager's office, and department directors to identify programmatic and funding needs that could, potentially, be resolved by Congressional or federal administrative actions; and

WHEREAS, recommendations for a federal legislative and administrative agenda were presented to the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, which approved a final version of the proposed federal program on October 20, 2020, for presentation to and consideration by the full City Council; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program was presented to the City Council on October 27, 2020 and the approval of this resolution will serve as City Council's adoption of its federal legislative and administrative program.

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

1. The 2021 Federal Legislative and Administrative Program outlined in the attached document is hereby adopted; and
2. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to distribute copies of the City's 2021 Federal Legislative and Administrative Program to members of Congress, to other cities, and to other interested parties; and
3. The appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to send letters of support or to meet with federal officials to discuss the City's position on the attached initiatives; and
4. The City's Government Relations staff and the City's federal legislative consultants are authorized and directed to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2021 Federal Legislative and Administrative Program before Congress, the Administration, and corresponding federal agencies.

Adopted the _____ day of November 2020.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Mary J. Kayser, City Secretary



FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Pursuing Community Development and Renewal

- Long-term Transportation Reauthorization/“Highway Trust Fund”
- Education Opportunity Programs
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC)
- Second Chance Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP/WAP)
- Expanded LIHEAP Eligibility Documentation Requirements: Voter ID
- HOME Grants
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- Housing Choice Vouchers: Budgetary Increases for FWHS
- East Lancaster Multimodal Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project
- Supporting Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Supporting legislation creating a national Juneteenth Holiday
- Continued pursuit of COVID relief to help City services
- Supporting creating a fund for non-FEMA flood plane flooding recovery
- Employment Non-discrimination Initiatives
- Healthy Communities Initiative
- HHS and Community Health
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorization/Full Funding
- Museum and Library Funding (IMLS Reauthorization)
- Energy/Sustainability Grants
- Flood Insurance Premiums
 - Increased Funding Sources for Homeowner Lead Removal

Exploring Economic Development Opportunities

- Mixed Income Community Development Funding
- Municipal Debt Income Tax Exemption
- State and Local Tax Deductibility
- Collection of Remote Sales Taxes
- Internet and Wireless Tax Authority
- Municipal Bond Access and Liquidity (HQLA, Dodd Frank)
- Federal Aviation and Contract Tower Funding Increases
- Clean Energy and Natural Gas Initiatives
- Management and Collection for use on Local Rights of Way
- Wet Weather Facility
- Juvenile entrepreneurship funding

Fighting for Public Safety Funding and Support

- Emergency Services Funding and Training for Procedural Justice, Implicit Bias, Reconciliation, and Community Policing
- Emergency Responder Funding for Prevention and Care of Dangerous Exposure Related Illnesses
- Emergency Management Preparedness Grants (EMPG)
- Homeland Security Top 10 Re-Designation for Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding
- CASA Funding (innovative weather satellite pilot)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
- Broadband Spectrum for First Responders
- Opposition to Federal Collective Bargaining Legislation

FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2021

Fighting for Mobility Improvements

Summary: Traditional and alternative forms of transit are essential to Fort Worth's current and planned investments in economic growth and community development. Fort Worth is completing transformative infrastructure improvements that will increase access to jobs and encourage new residential and business developments. Support for ongoing highway improvements—including money to elevate I-35 in key places, if such a plan is part of the Regional Transportation Plan—, robust passenger rail that spans the city, enhanced public transportation systems, and alternative transit opportunities, including bike trails, will be continuing priorities in the 1st Session of the 117th Congress.

Support for Educational Development

Summary: Fort Worth's continued growth and economic success depends in large part on our city's ability to deliver quality educational opportunities for our future workforce. Families in our community deserve access to programs that provide a diverse continuum of educational resources with particular emphasis on workforce development, especially in STEM. Supporting high school programs that encourage workforce preparedness, better equipping students for the needs of today's job market, will remain a priority in our federal engagement in 2021. Additionally, early childhood education programs are critical to the long-term success of Fort Worth's school aged children. Identifying opportunities to enhance and create programs that increase access to quality early childhood education and care through "flexible," locally distributed federal funding dollars will be a key priority in the 117th Congress.

Supporting “Central City” Flood Control

Summary: Fort Worth is one of the fastest growing large cities in America. The “Central City” flood control project is a key element in managing and modernizing the “Fort Worth Federal Floodway” levee system, essential to protecting our rapidly expanding population and economy. The “Central City” flood control plan will protect people and businesses north and east of our current downtown while providing much needed economic security and certainty to these flood prone communities. Continued modernization of the Trinity River levee system will depend greatly on substantial and sustained federal funding and administration support for the “Central City” flood control project and is a key priority for 2021.

Supporting Our Local Defense Economy

Summary: Fort Worth’s economic growth and development is inextricably tied to the health of America’s military and defense industries. The Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) and Fort Worth’s synergistic relationship with top military contractors in the United States are models for many cities across our nation. Continuing support for NASJRB as well as sustaining the growth of our defense contracting industries through federal 2022 budget and appropriations support for programs like “Future Vertical Lift”, the Bell “360 Invictus Helicopter” and military modernization will be a key priority. Additionally, Fort Worth is home to a large and growing population of active duty and reservist military personnel as well as veterans of all ages. Supporting those who have served and continue to serve our country will be an ongoing priority in the 117th Congress.

Calling on Congress to Reform America's Broken Immigration System

Summary: The City of Fort Worth is a large and growing community, deeply rooted in diverse and multicultural Texas traditions. For more than 140 years, laws governing and regulating immigration to our country have been the exclusive responsibility of the United States Congress.¹ As a community that chooses to stand united, the City of Fort Worth calls on the United States Congress to fulfill its duty to the American public and pass immigration reforms in 2021 that strengthen our nation's rule of law and sovereignty, beginning at our national borders, while also treating all people, regardless of their origin, with the dignity and respect our nation's shared values and principles of democracy demand.

¹ *Chy Lung v. Freeman*, 92 U.S. 275 (1875)