

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, the 118th United States Congress is ongoing, will reconvene on January 8, 2024, and will end on January 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, during the fall of 2023, the City's Governmental Relations Office staff, in conjunction with the City's federal legislative consultants, solicited input from the Mayor, City Council, and City departments to identify programmatic and funding needs that could potentially be resolved by Congressional or federal administrative action; and

WHEREAS, recommendations for the Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda were presented to the City Council Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) for discussion and review and, on October 31, 2023, the LAC authorized forwarding the attached 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda to the full City Council for consideration and final approval; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda was presented to the City Council through an Informal Report on December 5th, 2023 and the approval of this resolution will serve as City Council's adoption of the 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda.

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

1. The 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda as 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 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda to members of Congress, other cities, and other interested parties; and
3. The appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to send letters of support or to meet with legislators or 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 2024 Federal Legislative and Administrative Agenda before Congress, the Administration, and corresponding federal agencies.

Adopted this 12th day of December 2023.

ATTEST:

By: _____

Jannette S. Goodall, City Secretary



FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Pursuing Community Development and Renewal

- 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
- Affordable House and Rental Assistance Programs
- Support and Expansion of Fair Housing
- Support for Whole Health Community Clinic Expansion
- Healthy Communities Initiative—Mortality and Life Expectancy
- Employment Non-discrimination Initiatives
- Energy and Sustainability Grants
- FEMA Designations and Flood Insurance Premiums
- Fund “non-FEMA Food Plane” Flooding Recovery
- Fund Universal Broadband Coverage—Building Access
- Fund Broadband Infrastructure & Affordable Connectivity Program
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)
- Fund and Support Greenspace Preservation and Development
- Museum and Library Funding (IMLS Reauthorization)
- East Lancaster Transit Corridor Project
- Increased Funding Sources for Homeowner Lead Removal
- Stormwater and Sewer Remediation Funding

- Fund and Support Federal Homelessness Solutions
- Support Small Business, Initiative Funding
- Flood Mitigation Efforts across Fort Worth Neighborhoods

Exploring Economic Development Opportunities

- Home Ownership Focused 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
- Federal Aviation and Contract Tower Funding Increases
- Management and Collection for use on Local Rights of Way
- Wet Weather Facility
- Juvenile Entrepreneurship Funding
- Federal Assistance with Invasive Species (Egret Population)
- Support for Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act
- Youth Internship Initiative
- Support for the Alliance Smart Port initiative

Fighting for Public Safety Funding and Support

- Emergency Services Funding including VA Formula Improvements
- Oversight Funding 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

- Oppose Federal Collective Bargaining Legislation
- Support Federal Funding and Guidelines for Drone Usage

FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Fighting for Mobility & Connectivity 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 and this will require continued cooperation with the Regional Transportation Council. (Bivens) Support for ongoing mobility and connectivity improvements—including support for more favorable federal, state, and local grant formula requirements, increase capacity in key corridors, support high-speed passenger rail that spans the city, expand TEXRAIL to additional stops in SW Fort Worth, including the medical district, enhanced public transportation systems, and alternative transit opportunities will be continuing priorities in the 118th Session of Congress.

Support for Educational and Career 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 youth development initiatives and programs that provide a diverse continuum of educational resources with particular emphasis on workforce development, especially in STEM/R&D. 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 2024. Additionally, early childhood education programs, nutritional development, and access to health services 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 continue to be a key priority in the 118th Congress. Also, the City is committed to partnering with the Texas A&M University System on the expansion of the A&M campus in Fort Worth.

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 additional and sustained federal funding and administration support for the “Central City” flood control project and is a key priority for 2024.

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 2024 budget and appropriations support 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. Honoring and supporting those who have served and continue to serve our country through federal support for veteran-owned small businesses (Williams), increased veterans services, and the establishment of a US Veterans Memorial in Fort Worth will be a key priority in the 118th 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 2024 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)