

A Resolution

NO. _____

ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT WORTH'S 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 87th Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 12, 2021, and pre-filing of legislative bills began November 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, each biennium, prior to the beginning of the regular session of the Texas Legislature, staff seeks input from the Mayor and Council, the City Manager's Office, City staff, and members of the Legislative delegation representing the City regarding legislative issues that affect the City and the way in which it conducts its business; and

WHEREAS, based on the input received, proposed legislative initiatives are then taken to the City Council's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee for discussion and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the attached City of Fort Worth 2021 State Legislative Program represents the recommended initiatives forwarded to City Council by the Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee following its review of recommended initiatives and its vote on September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that other issues may arise prior to and during the 2021 legislative session and these will be brought before City Council at a later time; and

WHEREAS, once City Council adopts the 2021 State Legislative Program, staff will distribute the program to members of the local state delegation, departments, and agencies and to major cities in the state and to others on request in furtherance of the 2021 State Legislative Program.

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

1. The 2021 State Legislative Program 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 2021 State Legislative program to members of the Texas Legislature, 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 state officials to discuss the City's position on the attached initiatives; and
4. The City's Government Relations staff and the City's state legislative consultants are authorized and directed to take the appropriate actions to advance the 2021 State Legislative Program before the Texas Legislature, the Administration, and corresponding state agencies.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2020.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Mary Kayser, City Secretary



2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICY

As a general policy, the City of Fort Worth seeks to **Preserve** its authority to responsibly govern the city, its citizens, and its property.

The City **Supports** any legislation viewed as advancing the City's Comprehensive Plan or the City's Strategic Goals; or that improves the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that reduces the cost of governing the City.

In addition, the City will **Oppose** any legislation viewed as detrimental to its Comprehensive Plan or its Strategic Goals; or that is contrary to the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; or that mandates increased costs or decreased revenues; or that would diminish the fundamental authority of the City.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

Support State Appropriations

1. Support initiatives to fund Youth training and Youth entrepreneur programs at the local level in an effort to prepare the next generations for financial leadership.
2. Funding for Training for the Law Enforcement and Fire
3. Funding to Support Institutions of Higher Education including Tarleton State University in Fort Worth, University of North Texas Health Science Center and Texas A&M Law School
4. Funding for Transportation
5. Funding for the Local Parks Grant Program
6. Funding for Library Resource Sharing
7. Continued Funding for Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program
8. Funding for Housing Retention and Supportive Services for the Homeless
9. Mental Health Services for Homelessness
10. Funding to the City of Fort Worth and the UNT Health Science Center for the Economic Development and Technology Commercialization Partnership

SUPPORT LEGISLATION

Support for the Texas Education System

1. Support expanding the Texas Rising Star (TRS) Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to enable open participation by all licensed child-care programs
2. Support significant investments Texas families make in child-care by introducing a single Texas consumer website and app for parent
3. Support for Governor Abbott's funding support and expansion of available pre-kindergarten programs throughout the state of Texas
4. Support legislation that improves the Texas Education System

Support for Public Safety

1. Support legislative efforts to address and eliminate Human Trafficking
2. Support legislation to address and eliminate domestic violence in Texas

Support for the Military and Military Installations

1. Airspace Compatibility: Support legislation to address vertical obstructions, radar interference, drone technology and emerging technologies that inhibit the operations around military installations
2. Land Use / Ground Compatibility: Support legislation to address Incompatible land use near installation boundaries, training ranges, operating areas, flight paths can have long-term impacts
3. Encroachment Mitigation: Support positive control of unincorporated lands along with tools and resources to buffer development near defense installations. Measures to allow purchasing rights and restrictive easements for non-conservation lands
4. Increase Veterans Benefits: Support Legislation to increase meaningful employment, on-going education for veterans and cooperative integration of state, county, and local workforce training, education, and job placement resources
5. Compatible Growth: Support legislation that enables tools to promote Compatible Growth around Military Installations: Protecting the voluntary participation coordinated efforts by municipalities

Support for Texas Communities

1. Support the repeal of portions of HB 3167, to provide that the governing body may delegate to one or more officers or employees of the municipality to approve, deny or conditional approve plans and to allow for an applicant at their discretion to waive the deadline for a response
2. Support legislation and appropriations that implement and adequately fund the Texas State Water Plan to meet the water supply needs associated with future population growth and the economic development of our region and this State
3. Support legislation that modifies state law to require the full disclosure of any known flood risk information for properties located outside of a floodplain to prevent property purchasers from unknowingly purchasing flood prone properties
4. Support legislation that modifies state law to developing plans and resources needed for greater broad band connectivity to enhance access to public education, healthcare, employment, news, and information
5. Support legislation that continues to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, disability, age, national origin, or familial status, and that seeks to also prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, transgender, gender identity or gender expression, consistent with City ordinances
6. Support increased municipal land use authority in Extra-territorial Jurisdictions
7. Support legislation that promotes increased Community Health and Wellness Programs
8. Support legislation that promotes Healthy Work Environments and Places
9. Support legislation that will give Cities and the State greater authority to address Illegal Recycling Facilities
10. Support legislation to enhance the ability of Cities to address the Prevention and Control of Graffiti

11. Support legislation seeking to protect the personal information of animal adopters
12. Support legislation for Constitutional dedication of Sporting Goods' Sales Tax Revenue for State and Local Parks

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

General election for federal, state, and county officers

Monday, November 9, 2020

First day legislators may file bills for the 87th Legislature

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

87th Legislature convenes at 12 Noon (1st day)

Tuesday-Wednesday, February 23-24, 2021

Tarrant County Days (**Virtual Event**)

Monday, May 31, 2021

Sine Die