



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: September 14, 2022

In Control: Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Government Affairs

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Sally Basurto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

The City of San Antonio's Legislative Program for the 88th State Legislative Session

SUMMARY:

Briefing and possible action on the City's proposed State Legislative Program for the 88th State Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Government Affairs Department will provide a briefing on proposed State Legislative Program for the 88th Texas Legislative Session.

The Texas Legislature meets every two years in odd numbered years; the 88th Legislative Session is scheduled to begin on January 10, 2023. Prior to the start of each regular Session, the City of San Antonio identifies policy priorities and the legislative initiatives that it will seek to have addressed by the Legislature. These priorities and initiatives are developed through work with the

City Council, City departments, state consultants, and community partners to consider recommendations for inclusion in the proposed State Legislative Program. The goal is to develop a legislative program that is strategic and impactful, one that aligns with City Council priorities, protects or increases revenue to the City and promotes enhanced delivery of services. The proposed program for the 88th legislative session includes four pillars that encompass the program's priorities. The four pillars are:

Protection & Advocacy

The City of San Antonio – Military City USA – is home to 1.4 million people, who are served by a Mayor and 10 Council members elected to represent distinct single-member districts. The City Council is the level of government closest to the people, and decisions made at the local level have produced the kind of community where people want to live, work, and do business. The City's overarching legislative priority is to preserve the voice of the community and maintain a fiscally sound and well-managed organization to allow for continued high quality services to our residents and local businesses.

Economic & Community Development

By 2040, San Antonio's population is expected to increase by approximately 1 million people. We are planning now to ensure that the City of San Antonio is prepared for growth in a way that is compatible with the community's vision. This vision includes a strong local economy, an educated and trained workforce, and the availability of quality affordable housing. San Antonio's Strategic Housing Implementation Plan's principles are affordability, quality, accessibility, and choice. This can be supported at the legislature through property tax relief, innovative solutions, and removing barriers to the development of affordable housing.

Public Health & Safety

San Antonio's healthcare mission through the SA Forward Plan is to protect and improve the health of our community so that all people thrive in healthy, safe, communities. The strategic priority areas are access to care, nutrition and food insecurity, violence prevention, health equity and social justice, and mental health.

Infrastructure & Resiliency

Expanding infrastructure is needed to create a sustainable and resilient future for San Antonio. The Digital Equity Plan, SA Tomorrow Plan, and SA Climate Ready Plan, provide a framework to make smart, strategic investments that acknowledge the need for broadband as a necessity in a rapidly changing society; create transportation infrastructure that incorporates safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

ISSUE:

The State Legislative Program provides City Council direction to staff and its consultants during the upcoming legislative session. Program priorities will be used as the basis for support or opposition of legislation through the drafting or legislation and amendments, providing testimony, advocacy with members of the legislature, and other appropriate legislative actions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The State Legislative Program has no immediate fiscal impact to the City.

ALTERNATIVES:

The IGR Committee could decide to postpone City Council consideration of the State Legislative Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends advancing the proposed State Legislative Program for full Council consideration.