

Memorandum



DATE October 14, 2016

CITY OF DALLAS

TO The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Proposed Legislative Program for the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature & FY 2016-17 Lobbyist Contracts**

On October 19, 2016 the Dallas City Council will receive a briefing on the Proposed Legislative Program for the 85th Session of the Texas Legislature and the recommended FY2016-17 Lobbyist Contracts. The briefing will be provided by Larry Casto, City Attorney, Brett Wilkinson, Managing Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Services and Anna Lamberti Holmes, Legislative Manager, Office of Intergovernmental Services.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thy - A.C.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

 A.C. Gonzalez
City Manager

cc: Larry Casto, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council



City of Dallas



PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE 85TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

October 19, 2016

E-GOV



OUTLINE

General Principles

Dallas Priority Issue: Pension and Pay Referendum

Other Legislative Items

FY 2016-17 Lobbyist Contracts



GENERAL PRINCIPLES: PLAYING DEFENSE

Preemption:

- The City of Dallas opposes any legislation that hinders the City's ability to meet the diverse and nuanced needs of its residents

Defend Fiscal Control:

- The City of Dallas opposes any legislation that would limit the city's ability to be a strong fiscal steward



DALLAS PRIORITY ITEM

The City of Dallas recognizes the challenges relating to the police and fire pension and the pay referendum. Legislative resources will be utilized to find solutions to these fiscal issues that could have detrimental outcomes.



PUBLIC SAFETY

- Include Texas Task Force 2 in statewide plan
- Increase public safety resources to train, protect and support de-escalation and community policing
- Facilitate efforts to address prostitution and human trafficking
- Address animal control issues



HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, PRISONER REENTRY

- Facilitate a coordinated regional effort to address homelessness
- Pursue funding opportunities, facilities and programs, to remediate the impacts of homelessness
- Pursue funds and program support to address mental health and prisoner reentry

WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION

- Preserve water supply and storage options
- Improve air quality compliance
- Protect multi-modal options for transportation including High Speed Rail, light rail, streetcars, surface roads, pedestrian/bicycle/trails. Encourage robust funding options that maintain flexibility for transportation

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

- Purchase or lease Dawson Jail at below market value for public purpose
- Mandate commercial sales price disclosure within 3-5 years to fairly distribute the property tax burden
- Remove limitation on alcohol sales in public facilities
- Address mobile noise sources at point of inspection



FY2016-17 LOBBYIST CONTRACTS



October 19, 2016

LOBBYIST CONTRACTS FY2015-16 & FY2016-17

Lobbyist Name	First Year with the City of Dallas	FY 2015-16 Contract Amount	Proposed FY 2016-17 Contract Amount
Julianne Acevedo	2016	N/A	\$25,000
Randy Cain	1995	\$83,100.00 (includes \$8,100 for office space)	\$107,100.00 (includes \$8,100 for office space)
Jesse Romero	2003	\$30,000.00	\$39,000.00
Kwame Walker	1999	\$45,000.00	\$51,000.00
HillCo Partners	2007	\$87,000.00	\$87,000.00
CapitalEdge Strategies	1988	\$160,000.00	\$160,000.00
Hector Alcalde	1999	\$73,800.00	\$53,400.00
Paul Schlesinger	1999	\$43,650.00	\$31,600.00
	Total:	\$522,550.00	\$545,250.00

CAPITALEEDGE - FEDERAL



Dallas is represented in Washington DC by CapitalEdge (Ralph Garboushian)

- Monitors federal legislation impacting Dallas and works with the Texas Congressional Delegation and the Executive Branch to advance the City's interests and priorities as directed by City Council
- Works closely with national municipal organizations, including National League of Cities and US Conference of Mayors, to ensure awareness of the City's position and agenda
- Briefs Council Members and staff at annual meetings of NLC
- Visits the City annually and at other times requested by the City
- Works closely with City officials and staff to develop legislative and grant strategies

Dallas joined the Texas Cities Legislative Coalition (TCLC) in 1988

- TCLC includes Dallas, Austin, Arlington, and Denton



HECTOR ALCADE AND PAUL SCHLESINGER - FEDERAL

Provides legislative advocacy on federal transportation and water infrastructure that supports the City Council's strategic priorities including:

- Efforts to secure funding
- Promoting adoption of legislative provisions that are beneficial to the City
- Opposing legislation or regulations that might compromise the City's ability to complete projects
- Assisting with the development of strategies to facilitate Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Transportation implementation of City priorities



GENERAL LOBBYISTS – STATE

- Julie Acevedo
 - Randy Cain
 - Jesse Romero
 - Kwame Walker
 - Hillco Partners
- All lobbyists conduct necessary research, information gathering, and other supporting activities by maximizing the use of legislative contacts
 - Review, analyze and monitor interim committee activities as requested by the City Attorney
 - Study and recommend legislative initiatives for the upcoming State Legislative session
 - Draft legislation as directed by the Assistant City Attorney
 - Hillco Partners represents the City on water issues in the Texas legislature and with State Agencies



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS





PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR THE 85TH SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

As approved by the Dallas City Council on October 26, 2016

DRAFT

Resolution #

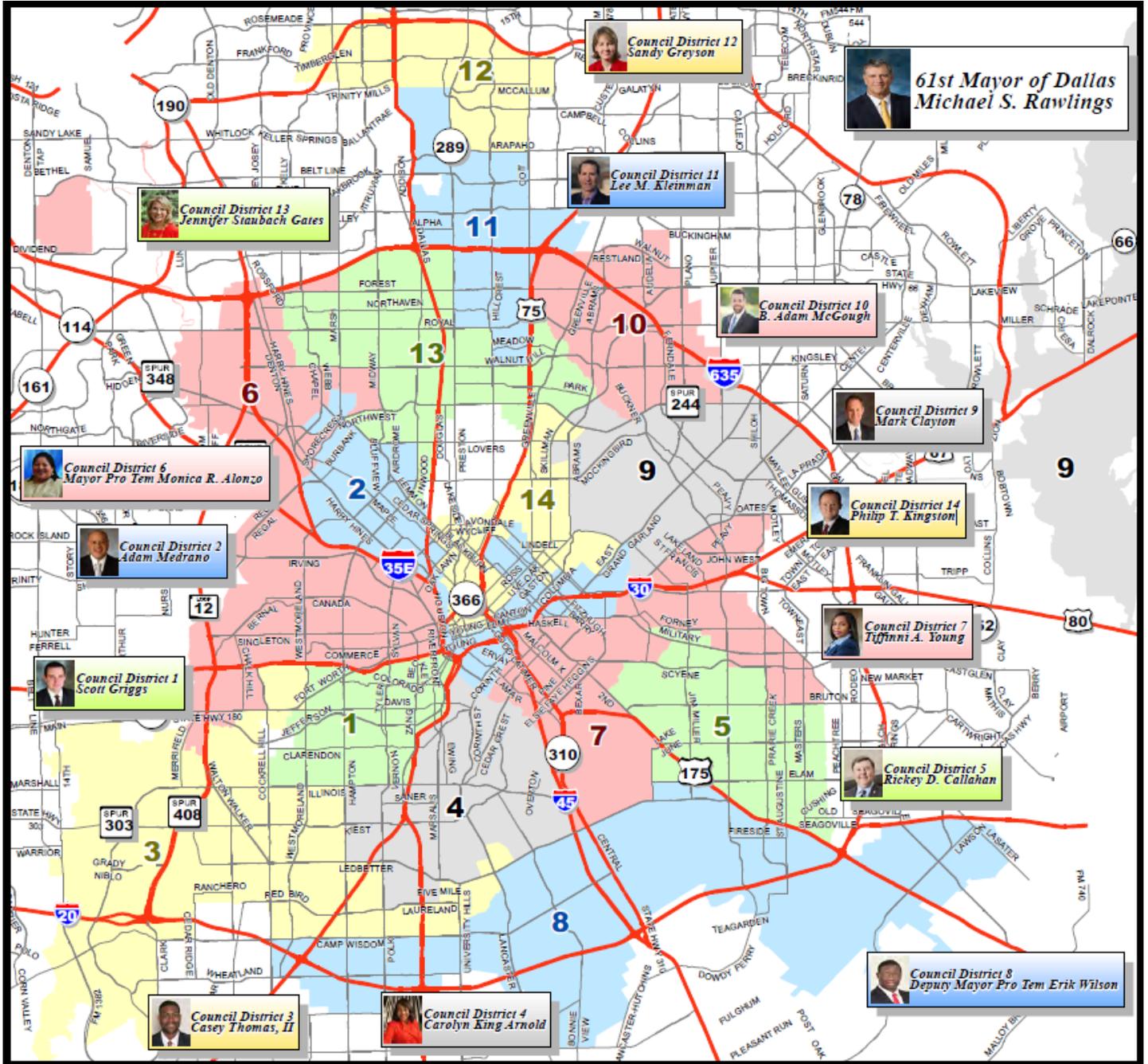


City of Dallas



City of Dallas

Mayor and City Council 2015-2017





Mayor and City Council 2015-2017

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FOR COUNCIL RESOLUTION
CONSIDERED ON OCTOBER 26, 2016**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES: PLAYING DEFENSE

As the largest city in North Texas, Dallas is responsible for providing high quality services to its residents while creating policies that work to grow the local economy. Over the years, the City's judicious planning and fiscal responsibility have fostered a top-tier standard of living for its residents in addition to consistent regional economic growth.

The City of Dallas provides its residents with high quality services which supports our growing economy. Recently, Dallas has been able to accomplish the following:

- Hold an unemployment rate lower than the state of Texas for the past two years.
- Maintain a lower cost of living than major U.S. cities including Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and New York.

- Lead contributions to the nation's 4th largest MSA in terms of real GDP.
- Reduce the violent crime rate significantly over the past 10 years.
- Lower the City's debt obligations while providing necessary capital for community and economic development.
- Reduce the 2016-17 total budget by 1.53% while bolstering needed residential services such as police, fire, and street maintenance.

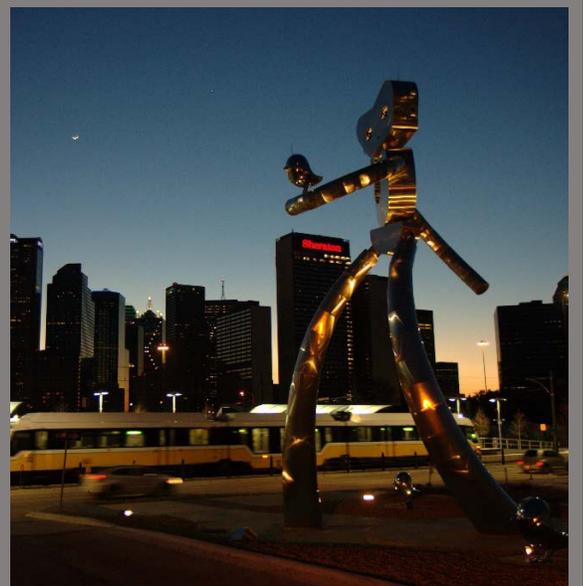
Based on its past successes and desire for continued prosperity, **Dallas does not support any legislation that will preempt its ability to serve its constituents or limit the City's ability to be a strong fiscal steward.**

PREEMPTION

The City of Dallas opposes any legislation that hinders the City's ability to meet the diverse and nuanced needs of its residents. As north Texas' most populous and economically robust city, Dallas strives to provide the best service for its residents. The City of Dallas has proven that its local officials are well-equipped to serve its constituents.

DEFEND FISCAL CONTROL

The City of Dallas opposes any legislation that would limit the City's ability to be a strong fiscal steward. Dallas' tax base is continuously subject to external threats such as economic recessions, unfunded state and federal mandates, and natural disasters. The City's funding structure must maintain fiscal control to meet the needs of its residents.





DALLAS PRIORITY ISSUE: PENSION AND PAY REFERENDUM

The City of Dallas recognizes the challenges related to the Police and Fire Pension and the pay referendum lawsuit. Legislative resources will be utilized to find solutions to these fiscal issues as they can have significant financial consequences.

The Police and Fire Pension has an estimated \$3.5 billion of unfunded liability. This represents an actuarial funding percentage of about 45% at the end of 2015, a drop from 64% at the end of 2014. The fund is projected to be insolvent by 2030 or sooner if changes are not made. Solving the Police and Fire Pension's challenges will require commitment and collaboration from all involved parties including the City, the contributing members, the retired members and the Legislature. The City will continue its work with the Police and Fire Pension Fund to develop a local solution to present to the State of Texas.



Additionally, the 1979 pay referendum lawsuit poses a potential \$2 billion jury verdict that could have damaging fiscal impacts on the City if it is not resolved. By reconfirming sovereign immunity, the City can avoid the harmful impacts that the pay referendum poses to its financial health. This legislative session, the City of Dallas will work diligently to resolve the pension and pay referendum challenges.

DALLAS SPECIFIC ITEMS

In addition to the uniform pension and pay referendum items, the City of Dallas has specific legislative requests for which staff and council members will find sponsors and usher initiatives through the legislative process.



PUBLIC SAFETY

INCLUDE TEXAS TASK FORCE 2 IN STATEWIDE PLAN

Texas Task Force 2 is a regional urban search and rescue team that deploys to communities that are impacted by catastrophic events. Texas Task Force 2 is comprised of highly trained rescue personnel capable of operating in hazardous environments. In the 85th session, the City of Dallas will work in conjunction with the Texas Engineering Extension Service and the Texas Department of Emergency Management to secure \$2 million to sustain the operational capabilities of Texas Task Force 2 as a part of a statewide network of regional teams.

PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES

Following the tragic events of July 7, it is critically important that the City equips its men and women in uniform with all of the tools they need to safely protect the residents of Dallas. The Dallas Police Department will work with the State of Texas and other organizations in order to increase resources to train, protect and support community policing and de-escalation efforts.

FACILITATE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PROSTITUTION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The City of Dallas strives to eliminate prostitution and human trafficking through innovative administrative actions and ordinances. The City supports legislation that will assist with these local efforts.

ADDRESS ANIMAL CONTROL ISSUES

The increased occurrence of harmful animal-related incidents necessitates the City to look towards potential state legislative solutions.

HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, PRISONER REENTRY

The City of Dallas will seek legislation to facilitate a coordinated regional effort to address homelessness.

Through pursuing funding opportunities, utilizing available facilities and supporting programs, the City will work with its partners to help remediate the impacts of homelessness.

In addition, the City will pursue funds and program support to address mental health and prisoner reentry.



WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION

PRESERVE WATER SUPPLY AND STORAGE OPTIONS

Dallas will work to ensure that projects in the statewide water plan continue to be viable and that no further hurdles are created which would make it more difficult to implement the statewide water plan and provide customers with reliable and reasonably priced water. The City of Dallas will support legislation to preserve its water supply and storage options.

IMPROVE AIR QUALITY COMPLIANCE

The City of Dallas has historically been an ardent supporter of the environment. Exemplifying its support, the Dallas City Council unanimously approved a resolution calling on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to support stronger ozone pollution standards. The City of Dallas will support legislation that protects its air to advance the wellbeing of its citizenry and create robust economic growth.

PROTECT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

In conjunction with other cities and organizations, Dallas will continue to protect multi-modal options for transportation including high speed rail, light rail, streetcars, surface roads, and pedestrian/bicycle trails. Dallas will encourage robust funding options that maintain flexibility for projects.



EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

DAWSON JAIL

The City of Dallas supports legislation that will allow for the purchase or lease of Dawson Jail at below market value for public purpose use as designated by the Dallas City Council.

MANDATE COMMERCIAL SALES PRICE

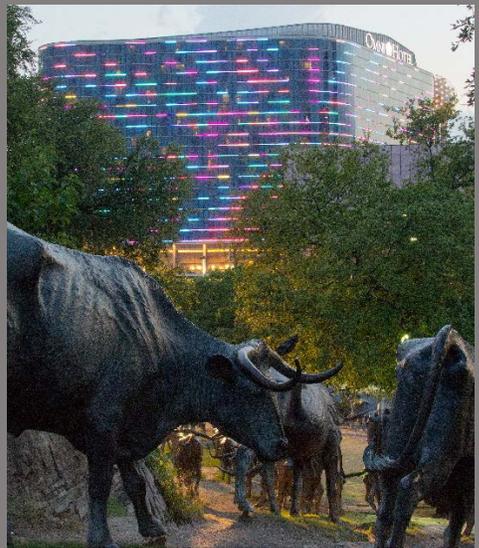
The inability for appraisers to view the commercial property sales price prevents them from assessing properties at their fair market value. By not having enough tools to assess fair market value, commercial properties in Dallas are consistently undervalued forcing an unfair tax burden on residential properties. However, Dallas understands that forced disclosure can have an effect on business operations. Through commercial sales price disclosure mandated 3-5 years after sale, business operations can be protected while providing appraisers with necessary information.

REMOVE LIMITATION ON ALCOHOL SALES IN PUBLIC FACILITIES

Limitations in State statutes inhibit Dallas' utilization of public facilities for the sale of alcohol. The City will seek opportunities to remove limitations on alcohol sales in public facilities – similar to legislation that benefits AT&T stadium and Globe Life Park.

ADDRESS MOBILE NOISE SOURCES

In many areas throughout the city, cars and motorcycles are disrupting communities due to additional upgrades done to their vehicles, such as custom made mufflers and speakers which significantly increase noise. The City of Dallas seeks to lower the decibel threshold in and on mobile vehicles. This threshold would be tested during state vehicle inspection.





COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

In the past, the City of Dallas has worked with organizations such as the Texas Municipal League, North Texas Commission, Dallas Regional Mobility Commission, Regional Transportation Council, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dallas Regional Chamber, and City commissions and task forces, to further its legislative agenda. By collaborating with these entities, the City can leverage its resources in a more inclusive and impactful manner. For the 85th legislative session, the City of Dallas intends to utilize these relationships to successfully promote its legislative agenda.





FY2016-17 LOBBYIST CONTRACTS

As approved by the Dallas City Council on October 26, 2016

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City of Dallas



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In 1988, through CapitalEdge, the City of Dallas joined the Texas Cities Legislative Coalition (TCLC). In addition to Dallas, TCLC includes Austin, Arlington, and Denton.

HECTOR ALCADE AND PAUL SCHLESINGER - FEDERAL

Hector Alcade and Paul Schlesinger provide legislative advocacy on water infrastructure and transportation to support the City Council's strategic priorities including:

- Efforts to secure funding
- Promoting adoption of legislative provisions that are beneficial to the City
- Opposing legislation or regulations that might compromise the City's ability to complete projects
- Assisting with the development of strategies to facilitate Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Transportation implementation of City priorities

GENERAL LOBBYISTS – STATE

At the state level, the City of Dallas currently employs Randy Cain, Jesse Romero, Kwame Walker, and Hillco Partners. In order to prepare for the 85th Texas Legislature, increases in state lobbyist funding, including the addition of Julianne Acevedo, are recommended to bolster the City's presence. All lobbyists conduct necessary research, information gathering, and other supporting activities by maximizing the use of legislative contacts. Other activities performed by the lobbyists include:

- Review, analyze and monitor interim committee activities as requested by City Attorney staff
- Study and recommend legislative initiatives for the upcoming state legislative session
- Draft legislation as directed by city staff
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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?

