



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair, Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee and Members of the Committee

Date: November 8, 2013

Referral to: Committee of the Whole

Subject: 2014 City of Minneapolis State Legislative Agenda

Recommendation: Approval. Direct staff to make recommended amendments and additions to develop the City of Minneapolis' 2014 State Legislative Agenda.

Department Information

Prepared by: Melissa Lesch, Senior Government Relations Representative, IGR Department
Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri, Director, IGR Department
Melissa Lesch, Senior Government Relations Representative, IGR Department

Financial Impact:

No financial impact

Background:

The upcoming 2014 legislative session is anticipated to be a highly condensed session, beginning on February 25th, much later than is typical. This being an even-numbered year, the focus of the shortened legislative session will be on funding the state's capital investment and infrastructure needs through what is commonly referred to as the "Bonding Bill." This year, we expect the Bonding Bill to be funded at anywhere from \$850 million - \$1.0 billion.

Because legislators need to focus on bonding priorities, there will be less time and attention paid to policy issues. These issues often take a backseat in a bonding year, and receive more focus in odd-numbered, or budget, years of the legislature.

Because of this, the City of Minneapolis' legislative priorities will also be focused on our bonding projects. The Minneapolis City Council approved the City's bonding priorities earlier this year. City projects are:

1. Nicollet Mall Redevelopment - \$25.0 million
2. 35W North and South Storm Tunnel Preservation - \$4.5 million
3. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Rehabilitation - \$2.3 million
4. Regional Drinking Water Back-Up Supply Project - \$1.5 million

Moving in to the 2014 legislative session, the IGR department adopted a new, more interactive, enterprise-wide approach to the process of developing the City's State Legislative Agenda. The changes are a result of discussions with city staff, elected officials, IGR's own review of the current process, and an analysis of the City Coordinator's recently completed customer survey of enterprise services. The changes are intended to:

- Provide more enterprise involvement in the formation of the City's legislative and policy priorities;
- Deepen IGR staff's knowledge and understanding of the many policy issues that impact the work of City departments;
- Strengthen the legislation and policies supported by the City by vetting ideas through a multi-departmental team;
- Improve communication between IGR and the City enterprise; and
- Increase City department knowledge of the legislative and policy arenas.

The result is the new **Policy Liaison Team**, comprised of leaders from each City department who will be involved in developing the City's legislative and policy goals, will advise on legislation throughout the session, and will serve as their department's liaison to IGR by providing policy and legislative updates throughout the year. The team will serve as a forum for staff to share views, generate ideas, review legislative proposals and learn about the legislature. IGR's goal is to increase participation in redrafting the legislative agenda, improve communications regarding legislative actions between IGR and City departments, and increase City-wide engagement in the legislative and policy development process.

The Team's first task was to solicit legislative proposals from their respective departments, and present these ideas to their colleagues on the Team. The multi-departmental vetting of new ideas generated lively discussion, and prompted a more comprehensive analysis of potential policy initiatives. The Team made final policy recommendations, which were then passed on to the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee Chair for final review.

This list represents this collaborative work and recommendations for the City's 2014 State Legislative Agenda.

1. Direct staff to make traditional, routine amendments to the State Legislative Agenda, such as striking accomplished items, updating dates, correcting errors, and updating language.
2. Add, in the Municipal Governance, General Governance section (p.10). Support: "Amendments to state law so that reasonable conditions may be imposed uniquely to a given liquor licensee whether the license has already been issued or not and without passing an ordinance laying out the terms and conditions for that particular licensee."
3. Add, in the Municipal Governance, General Governance section (p.10). Support: "The Park and Recreation Board's request for state statutory authority to issue liquor licenses to businesses and events on their properties."
4. Add, in the Municipal Governance, General Governance section (p.10). Support "Legislation that provides for complete reimbursement of the costs incurred by local governments in enforcing state and local laws. Such legislation should include requiring that if a court reduces the amount paid by a violator, any reduction should be made from the surcharge and not the fine."
5. Add, in the City Livability section (p.12). Support: "Updates to the statute governing the Community Health Services (CHS) system that will improve the capacity of local public health departments to improve the health of the population."
6. Add, in the City Livability section (p.12). Support: "The reinstatement of the legislative authority to conduct infant mortality reviews for infant deaths in communities of color, which sunsetted in 2001."

7. Amend, in the City Livability, Public Health section (p.12). Support proposals that will prevent childhood lead poisoning, including requesting that the State Health Commissioner change the definition of an Elevated Blood Level to 5 micrograms per deciliter or that the statute is changed to allow the City to write lead orders when a child tests below 10 micrograms per deciliter, and promote Health Homes legislation which seeks the reduction of asthma triggers, and other indoor environmental health concerns.
8. Add, in the Jobs and Economic Development section (p.16). Support: "The raising and indexing of the state minimum wage for hourly workers and the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers."
9. Add, in the Eliminating Racial Disparities section (p.16). Support: "The establishment of workforce goals for state franchise agreement holders to create increased employment opportunities for women and communities of color."

Additional policy ideas not included on this list were presented and vetted by the Policy Liaison Team. IGR and the Policy Liaison Team will continue research and review these proposals and will bring them forward to the Council, if appropriate, in the future.