

## Summary of City of Minneapolis' Federal Agenda Policies, Status and Recommended Action

Policy	Status	Recommended Action
<p><b>Housing.</b> Policy was amended in March 20, 2014, committee meeting to include support for CDBG and the related housing programs, public housing, and rental assistance programs. The policy also includes support for the National Housing Trust Fund and Capital Magnet Fund, and for affordable home ownership.</p>	<p>The FY2014 CDBG appropriation was \$3.1 billion. Both the House and Senate bills recommend amounts below FY2014. The Senate is at \$3.02 billion while the house is at \$3.0 billion.</p> <p>The related housing programs – HOPWA, HOME, and Homelessness Prevention – are funded at or below the FY 2014 level.</p>	Return and update the statement.
<p><b>Health Care.</b> Support Affordable Health Care Act and adequate funding for the Prevention and Public Health Trust Fund; oppose repeal.</p>	Law is in effect. City concerned that the Trust Fund is not adequately funded.	Retain and update the statement.
<p><b>Telecommunications Policy.</b> City supports net neutrality and local governments' role in entering into franchise agreement, managing the public right of way, providing public safety services over the communications systems and recognizing local government's role in promoting access to communications services.</p> <p>City position is similar to that of the National League of Cities (NLC).</p>	<p>The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is in the process of promulgating a rule supporting net neutrality. Two prior attempts to adopt such a rule were overturned by the federal appeals court (Washington, D.C.).</p> <p>Legislation has been introduced in the House (HR 4752) that would limit the FCC from using its statutory authority to promulgate net neutrality rules.</p>	Retain and update the statement.
<p><b>Healthy Food Initiatives.</b> City supports amendments to the Farm Bill that would authorize the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work with local governments to increase the availability of locally grown and healthy food to urban areas and to promote food processing and grocery stores in urban areas.</p>	The Farm Bill enacted in 2014 included the healthy food amendment. The USDA has initiated the process to develop the program. A listening session was held in Washington, DC, in May 2014. An appropriation request was not included in the FY2015 federal budget.	List in a separate section as adopted.
<p><b>Youth Violence Prevention.</b> City supports a comprehensive federal policy that recognizes youth</p>	The city is a member of a Department of Justice forum regarding youth violence prevention. As a member of	Retain but update the statement.

<p>violence as a public health issue and provides resources to public health agencies to support prevention efforts.</p>	<p>the forum which includes approximately 14 local governments from all sections of the country, city officials have access to research and grants as well as interacting with other forum members to learn about youth violence preventions efforts in their jurisdictions. As a result of participation in the forum the city has received grants to implement its Youth Violence Prevention “Blueprint for Action.”</p>	
<p><b>Energy and Environment Policy and Funding.</b> City policy supports policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and policies to encourage clean energy sources.</p>	<p>In 2011 the House of Representatives passed two bills (HR 1 and HR 910) that would have prohibited the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from promulgating Green House Gas (GHG) emission standards for any source. Similar legislation was passed in 2012. The Senate did not follow the House action in either year.</p> <p>The EPA, at the direction of President Obama, was directed in June of 2013 to re-propose GHG emission standards for new electric generating units (EGUs) by September 20, 2013, and rules for existing EGUs (power plants) by June 2014 and finalize them a year later. The proposed rules were released on June 5, 2014. It is probable that the House could pass a bill limiting EPA’s ability to propose standards but it is doubtful if the Senate will concur.</p>	<p>Retain and update.</p>
<p><b>Fully Inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).</b> City supports passage of federal legislation that would prohibit employers from engaging in employment discrimination on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>	<p>The Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has passed the Senate (S 815) in November 2013. Its House counterpart has not been heard but has bipartisan co-sponsors.</p> <p>Currently 21 states have passed legislation.</p>	<p>Retain and update.</p>
<p><b>Lawful Permanent Residents: Equal Treatment.</b> City supports legislation that permits sponsorship by gay and</p>	<p>In June of 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act was</p>	<p>Retain.</p>

lesbian couples of foreign-born life partner or spouse for U.S. residency.	unconstitutional. As a result of the ruling, then Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, directed the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to review immigration visa petitions filed on behalf of a same-sex spouse in the same manner as those filed on behalf of an opposite sex partner.	
<b>Air Traffic Safety and Noise Concerns.</b> City supports the accelerated implementation of Next Gen programs together with appropriate funding. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should work with local governments adjacent to airports in planning to provide accurate information regarding aircraft noise and propose programs and procedures to mitigate noise over residential neighborhoods.		Redraft.
<b>Railroad Safety Zone.</b> City supports a change to federal law that permits cities to retain their Quiet Zone ordinances that keep trains from blowing their whistle or appropriate funds to support the purchase of the necessary safety equipment to eliminate the use of train whistle.	The Federal Railroad Administration adopted a final rule in 2006 that established a process for cities to retain pre-1996 Quiet Zones and to propose new zones. A grant program for highway /railroad crossing safety improvements has been authorized by Congress but an appropriation was last approved for FY2012.	List in a separate section as accomplished.
<b>Financing and Credit.</b> City supports the adoption of federal policies in regard to the use of personal credit information in opening a checking or savings account or offering employment information.	The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act) included several sections aimed at helping consumers with financial and credit issues. The Consumers Financial Protection Bureau was established to educate and advocate for consumers in financial and credit issues. The Bureau provides information, receives and attempts to resolve consumer complaints and bring civil action against alleged violators of the Act.	List in a separate section as accomplished.
<b>Federal-Local Government Relationships.</b> The policy statement recommends that the federal government recognize the role of local control over such matters as		Policy is proposed to be included in the introduction.

employee relations and land use. The statement is similar to NLC positions.		
<b>Community Radio Act:</b> The city supports legislation that would allow the establishment of low-power FM (LPFM) radio stations throughout the country.	The Community Radio Act was passed by Congress in December 2010. In November 2012, the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) adopted a rule to implement the Act. As a result of the Act community groups and nonprofits may apply for a license to operate a non-commercial low-power FM radio station.	List in a separate section as accomplished.
<b>Employment Status as a Condition for Employment.</b> City supports federal legislation that prohibits unemployment status from being a condition for employment. The city also supports in the legislation a ban on employment notices that state the being unemployed is a disqualified for applying.	Federal legislation – HR 3927, the Fair Employment Opportunity Act of 2014, has been introduced and referred to committee. The bill is similar to the 2011 version that stalled in the House.  States - New Jersey and Oregon - have passed legislation barring unemployment as a condition for employment. In the past two sessions legislation has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature but it has not passed.	Move for consideration in the state legislative agenda.
<b>Federal Actions Defining Marriage.</b> City opposes legislation or a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as solely between a man and a woman	The Supreme Court declared in June 2013 in the Windsor case that same sex couples married in states where it is legal must receive the same federal health, tax, Social Security and other benefits that heterosexual couples receive.	Retain.
<b>Invasive Carp Prevention.</b> City supports legislation to permanently close the Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam as a barrier to prevent the movement of the carp into the Upper Mississippi River.  The city also supports funding for redevelopment of sites used for transporting goods and materials by water.	The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) included authority to close the lock within one year of the passage of the Act (June 2015).  Federal funding for the redevelopment was not included in the legislation.	Retain the funding request and put the dam closure in the “accomplished” section.
<b>Access to Voting.</b> State legislatures have debated	HR 281 would prohibit state and local governments	Retain but redraft.

<p>measures to modify voting laws. Several states have adopted legislation that could be viewed as making it more difficult for the young, poor and elderly to vote. The city supports efforts of the U.S. Department of Justice to monitor states to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act.</p>	<p>from requiring a photo ID as a condition to receive a ballot. The bill is authored by Rep. Ellison and has not been heard.</p> <p>HR 280 also authored by Rep. Ellison would require states to have same day registration and permit a voter to change information such as an address on election day. The bill has not been heard.</p>	
<p><b>Remittance to Somalia.</b> City supports federal action to facilitate the normal flow of remittances without compromising the safety and security of the country.</p>	<p>Rep. Ellison introduced the Money Remittance Improvement Act of 2014 that would assist in having remittances continued. The Act would have the Department of Treasury develop rules so that financial institutions can send remittances. The bill is not geographic specific.</p> <p>The bill passed the House in May 2014. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate and is in committee.</p>	<p>Retain pending Senate action.</p>
<p><b>U.S. Resettlement of Refugees.</b> Several reports including a Senate report in 2010 called for improvements to the federal refugee resettlement program. Congress and the Administration has responded by increasing some funding programs and attempting to better coordinate federal programs with local communities. The city supports the efforts to improve the program with particular emphasis on recognizing the various cultures and needs of refugees.</p>	<p>Rep. Ellison (HR 651) has introduced legislation that would require a multi-agency coordinated approach to refugee resettlement. The bill would require the federal agencies led by the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an assessment of the assessment and placement process for refugees. The bill also directs the Department of State to establish overseas English language job training programs for refugees approved for U.S. admission.</p> <p>Assistance programs and refugee eligibility for federal assistance programs are also modified. The bill is in committee.</p>	<p>Retain.</p>
<p><b>Transparency in Elections.</b> City supports amending the U.S. Constitution to ensure that Congress and the states have the power to regulate campaign contributions by for</p>	<p>Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) has introduced a Senate resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that would authorize Congress to set spending and revenue</p>	<p>Retain.</p>

profit entities. City also supports federal legislation that requires increased disclosure and reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures by private entities including nonprofits. City also supports Congressional oversight of federal agencies to ensure that there is access to campaign expenditure information and rules and regulations are consistent with legislative intent.	limits for federal elections. The amendment would provide the same authority to the states to regulate state campaign financing and spending. The bill is in committee.	
<b>American Community Survey.</b> City supports the continuation of the American Community Survey and opposes efforts to make the survey voluntary or to eliminate it.	The Congress has continued the survey and has not changed its format.	Retain.
<b>Immigration Reform.</b> City supports immigration reform that addresses undocumented residents and provides a path to legal status and eventual citizenship. The City generally supports a policy that allows immigrants to contribute to society.	The Senate passed a reform bill in 2013. The bill has bipartisan support. The House has taken no action and prospects for House passage of a reform bill are doubtful.	
<b>DREAM Act.</b> The city supports the DREAM Act.	The DREAM Act was included in the Senate Immigration reform legislation. There has been no movement on immigration reform in the House.  Approximately 15 states have adopted a DREAM Act.	Redraft as part of immigration section.
<b>Principal reduction for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Mortgages.</b> City supports the use of mortgage principal reduction for Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae mortgages that could be foreclosed. The President proposed the option in 2012 but the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) Director refused to adopt the option.	As of June 1, 2014, principal reduction has not been implemented by either Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae. The new FHFA Director, Melvin Watt, has indicated that the two enterprises should be involved in assisting homeowners. However he has not authorized a principal reduction program. The Treasury Department and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have operated a principal reduction program for non-Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae mortgage holders.	Retain and update.

<p><b>Minimum Wage:</b> City supports legislation raising the minimum wage and indexing it to inflation. While Minnesota does not have a minimum wage for tipped employees, the City supports increasing the federal minimum wage for tipped employees.</p>	<p>The President is supportive of raising the minimum wage and has indicated that a \$10.10/hour minimum wage that is indexed would be acceptable.</p> <p>The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 establishes a \$10.10 wage that is phased in over within three years of passage. The bill has not moved in either chamber. The President has directed the Department of Labor to require federal contract services pay a minimum wage of at least \$10.10 per hour.</p> <p>Eight states including Minnesota have enacted legislation in 2014 that increase its minimum wage.</p>	<p>Retain and update.</p>
<p><b>Sexual Exploitation of Youth.</b> City supports legislation that works to end the sexual exploitation of youth by building a system that responds effectively to their needs, including sufficient resources and training for law enforcement and service providers.</p>	<p>Rep. Paulsen and Sen. Klobuchar have introduced legislation that would encourage states to adopt legislation similar to Minnesota’s Safe Harbor Act. The Senate bill (S 1733) as introduced would require states to adopt legislation within three years of passage of the Act. The House bill as amended provides a priority for COPS grants if a state has passed a safe harbor’s law. Both bills allow victims of trafficking to be eligible for the Job Corps. The Senate increases the amount a victim can recover in a civil suit against the trafficker. Both bills also authorize funding for a national communications system to assist victims.</p> <p>The House passed the bill in May 2014. The Senate bill is in committee.</p>	<p>Retain the policy.</p>