



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

Date: November 6, 2014

To: Chair Elizabeth Glidden and Vice Chair Alondra Cano

Referral to: Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Subject: 2015 Legislative Agenda and Policy Positions

Recommendation: Receive and File presentations at this and the November 20 meeting

Previous Directives: The City annually approved a State Legislative Agenda. The agenda is amended each year to reflect legislative actions and City policy positions.

Department Information

Prepared by: IGR staff

Approved by: _____

Presenters in Committee: Melissa Lesch and Sasha Bergman

Supporting Information:

2015 Policy Positions and Legislative Agenda

In recent years, the City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda has consisted of a document organized by general issue areas, and contained statements of priority, support or opposition on specific issues. While this document is a useful tool and an important collection of City perspective and positions, IGR staff recommends a new way of organizing the City Legislative Agenda.

Currently, the Legislative Agenda is sixteen pages long and contains positions on a wide variety of issues. To reflect the frequently changing circumstances at the State Legislature each session, IGR recommends retaining the existing document and renaming it "City of Minneapolis 2015 Policy Positions." As is current practice, the Policy Positions could be updated annually and as needed. The Policy Positions would help direct IGR staff advocacy as issues arise.

In addition to the Policy Positions, IGR suggests creating a new "Legislative Agenda" document which will change each year to reflect the current legislative climate and context, and emerging City priorities. This Legislative Agenda would be a much shorter and more focused document than the current document. Having a more clear and abbreviated Legislative Agenda will help ensure that our advocacy efforts have focus and that City staff, legislators and legislative staff, and the public can then have a clear understanding of what the top priorities of the City of Minneapolis are in a given legislative session.

Legislative Agenda and Policy Adoption Schedule

November 6, 2014: Department Presentations

November 20, 2014: Department Presentations

December 11, 2014: Mark-Up

January 8, 2014: Adoption

2015 Legislative Session

The 2015/2016 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, January 6th at Noon. Since the 2015 session is the first year of the biennium, the two-year state budget must be adopted. In addition, there will be numerous policy proposals related to local government, transportation, health and human services, public safety and data practices. Although the first year of the biennium is not a traditional bonding year, it is possible that the Governor and/or Legislature could propose a bonding bill.

In developing the proposed recommendations for adoption by the City Council, IGR staff and Minneapolis City Councilmembers served on the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and Metro Cities policy committees. Participation on the policy committees for LMC and Metro Cities provided the City with input into the development of policies to be advocated for at the legislature and information regarding issues of interest to member cities that could be discussed with Minneapolis Councilmembers and City staff including members of the City's Policy Liaison Team.

City of Minneapolis Policy Liaison Team

The Policy Liaison Team is comprised of leaders from each City department who are involved in developing the City's legislative and policy goals. The Team serves as a forum for the participants to share views, generate ideas, review proposals and learn about the legislature and state government. The Team was formed in 2013 and assisted in the formation of the 2014 Legislative Agenda. During the summer and fall of 2014, the Team had a discussion with the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget regarding the state budget process and economic forecasting. The Team also requested legislative proposals from their respective departments. Once they collected their department's suggestions, they submitted the proposals via a formatted worksheet developed by IGR, providing as much relevant information as possible about the context for each proposal. Then, the Liaison from a department bringing forth a proposal presented the idea to their colleagues on the Team. The multidepartment vetting of new ideas or modifications of existing law generated lively discussion, and prompted a more comprehensive analysis of potential policy initiatives. As result of the vetting, the Team evaluated the proposals in terms of level of required effort versus level of impact on the City to help guide next steps in bringing the proposals to the IGR Chair and Committee for review and final evaluation.

The department presentations are tentatively scheduled for the November 6 and November 20 IGR Committee meetings. Tentatively scheduled for the November 6 meeting are eight proposals. Six proposals will be presented on November 20. The November 6 presentations will be made by the Mayor's Office, Health Department, Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, and the City Attorney's Office. The City Clerk's Office, Human Resources, Public Works and the City Attorney's Office will present proposals on November 20. These plans are tentative and may change.

Additional policy ideas that have not been scheduled for a committee discussion will be reviewed and further researched by IGR and the Policy Liaison Team for possible inclusion, at a future date, in the agenda.