

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 03/17/08		Item Number: A-2	
AGENDA ITEM: Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Implementation of the Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 and Rescinding Resolution No. 2007-R005.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Shelly Wolfberg		Phone Number: (310) 253-6008	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List (03/12/08).			
Department Approval: Martin R. Cole (03/10/08)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (03/11/08)	
Fiscal Impact Review: Jeff Muir (03/12/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (03/12/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) approving the implementation of the Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 for use in outlining legislative policies and activities and rescind Resolution No. 2007-R005. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Since 1978, legislators and voters of California have enacted several measures that have had the effect of limiting the autonomy, financial and otherwise, of local governments. This has left many cities vulnerable to the impact of legislation that diverts funds from local government coffers to help balance the state's budget. While circumstances for local governments have improved over the past three years (especially with the passage of Proposition 1A in 2004), local governments must continue to be vigilant in preserving local government's ability to best serve their constituents. <i>2007 Legislative Advocacy Program</i> At the February 12, 2007 City Council meeting, the Council adopted Resolution No. 2007-R005 which activated the Legislative Advocacy Program for 2007. The goal of the 2007 program was to address the legislative needs of the City, define legislative policy and set procedures for advancing that program. The adoption of these policies and procedures streamlined City legislative activity and allowed City staff to respond to issues of importance without seeking City Council direction on each and every item. The previous legislative agendas were prepared with the input of City Departments and members of the Legislative Liaison Committee, comprised of			

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

management level staff members assigned to this task by their Department Head. At the February 11, 2008 City Council Meeting, the City Council received a draft of proposed changes to the Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 and determined it would continue the item to a future Council meeting for discussion.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed revised draft Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 (Attachment 1) has taken into consideration prior legislative actions and the core principles of the Advocacy Program, resulting in a working document that addresses the City's legislative priorities at both the state and federal levels. Proposed changes to the Program are redlined.

The core principles and positions of the 2008 Legislative Agenda include a broad range of topics:

Air/Water Quality	Preemption of Local Authority
Arts	Public Notification
City Revenues	Public Safety & Crime Prevention
City's Liability	Public Works
Economic Development	Redevelopment
Employment	Senior & Social Services
Energy	State Mandates
Entertainment	Tax Base
Homeless Assistance	Telecommunications
Housing	Transportation
Parks & Recreation	Youth & Education

The creation of the proposed Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 included a review of the Legislative Program from 2007. The use of the Legislative Advocacy Program will supplement the efforts of the City's lobbyists: CJ Strategies (federal) and Joe A. Gonsalves and Son (state).

At the state level, legislation often moves quickly through the legislature and to the Governor's desk. Therefore, the City needs to be ready to advocate its position in an expeditious manner-either through written correspondence or by testifying before a legislative body. As such, it is staff's recommendation that the Vice Mayor be given the authority to sign a position letter in the event the Mayor is unavailable to sign the letter within a timeframe that is determined by staff or the City's lobbyist. Staff also recommends the same procedure be applicable to the Redevelopment Agency Chair with regards to the authority of the Vice Chair. Requests for signatures on position letters and testimony before committees will be recommended

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

by staff and our lobbyists in accordance with the adopted Legislative Advocacy Program. Staff recommends that a process be established to include all members of the City Council to allow for testimony on the City's position on a piece of legislation or action item that is in front of a legislative body.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this item. Successful results from some of the program areas could mean protection of existing City revenues or receipt of additional funding for projects/programs that would benefit Culver City.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed Resolution and Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the Resolution approving the implementation of the Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008 and rescinding Resolution No. 2007-R005; and
2. Authorize and direct the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Redevelopment Agency Chair, Redevelopment Agency Vice Chair as agents for the City of Culver City to submit the appropriate documents and correspondence in keeping with the goals of the Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008; and
3. Authorize the testimony of any Member of the City Council before a legislative body, whereupon the position advocated is consistent with City Council policy and the Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program for 2008; and
4. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to provide testimony before a legislative body and/or executive branch department consistent with the City Council adopted Culver City Legislative Advocacy Program.