

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 12/10/12		Item Number: <u>A-7</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: (1) Consideration of Recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee; (2) Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Implementation of the Legislative Advocacy Program Effective 2012 and Rescinding Resolution No. 2008-R018; and (3) Potential Dissolution of the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Shelly Wolfberg		Phone Number: (310) 253-6008	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-Mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (12/0712)			
Department Approval: Martin R. Cole (12/07/12)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (12/07/12)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by N. Kimball) ()		City Manager Approval: John Nachbar ()	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff is transmitting the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee's recommendations to the City Council for consideration. Staff recommends City Council adopt a Resolution approving the implementation of the Legislative Advocacy Program effective 2012 and rescinding Resolution No. 2008-R018 and discuss the potential dissolution of the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Culver City, particularly through direct action of the City Council and its members, has a long history of actively pursuing the policy interests of the City through the support (and sometimes opposition) to legislative proposals in Sacramento and Washington, DC. Over the past several years, the City Council has adopted a Legislative Advocacy Program (Program). The most recent Program was adopted on April 7, 2008 (Resolution No. 2008-R018). The purpose of the Program is to provide guidance to the City Council regarding advocacy on legislative positions. Guiding principles included in the Program are intended to provide direction on matters that affect the funding, programs, projects, and operations of the City of Culver City. At the May 7, 2012 City Council Meeting, Councilmember Clarke suggested creating a Legislation and Grants Subcommittee to express the views of the City to elected officials and to be proactive in pursuing grants. The City Council considered this request and approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee comprised of			

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Councilmembers Clarke and Sahli-Wells with the task of evaluating grant availability and grant writing and legislation.

DISCUSSION:

In recent months, staff has met with the Ad Hoc Subcommittee to discuss current processes related to grants and legislation. The group primarily focused its efforts on legislation and legislative advocacy. At the request of the Subcommittee, staff is forwarding the recommendations of the Subcommittee and is also providing some additional comments from staff. Many of the proposals contained in the Subcommittee's recommendations mirror those already in practice.

Recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee:

Framework

In determining which legislative proposals to consider, we propose establishing the following priorities:

1. Legislation which has a direct impact positive or negative upon the City;
2. Legislation which promotes the City's priorities (as determined by City staff and approved by City Council)
3. Legislation sponsored by our elected officials which helps to build our relationship with them.

Prior to the beginning of a legislative session (Fall of even years), the City Manager will direct the City departments to prepare a list of county, state and federal legislative priorities, which will be reviewed by Senior Management and presented to the City Council for adoption prior to the end of year. Whenever possible, the list will indicate if legislation has been previously sponsored regarding the issue or if this requires new legislation.

The list of adopted legislative priorities will become the guide for the City Manager to determine whether the City would take a position on a specific piece of legislation and whether the position would be one of support, support if amended, oppose.

The City staff will utilize all avenues available to become aware of pending legislation, including the League of California Cities, U.S. Conference of

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Mayors, municipal associations, professional associations, issue organizations, residents, and elected officials.

It is important to identify these legislative proposals early in the process if we wish to influence the outcome of the process and to continue to track legislation throughout the session as legislation can and often is amended with substantial changes.

The City Manager is encouraged to utilize the Mayor and interested Council members in the development of legislative correspondence as long as it does not overly delay the response.

Any proposed letter of support or opposition will be prepared by City staff and signed by the Mayor. The letter will be shared with the other members of the City Council, posted on the City web site, and reported upon by the City Manager at the following Council meeting.

If new legislation is necessary, the City Manager, department manager and members of the Council as appointed by the Mayor will arrange to meet with the appropriate elected official to determine if legislative sponsorship is possible. The City will provide factual information to the elected official to bolster the case for sponsorship.

The Mayor or his or her appointee and one other member of the Council appointed by the Mayor, along with appropriate City staff, will arrange to meet regularly with our county, state and federal elected officials to discuss issues of mutual interest. That Councilmember can vary based on the subject matter.

Whenever appropriate and in the interests of the City, we will support and promote legislation sponsored by our county, state and federal elected officials. In doing so, we hope to strengthen our relationship with these officials.

If we find that we oppose legislation sponsored by one of our county, state and federal officials, we will express that opposition in person in a private meeting with the elected official before making any opposition public.

In even years (the second year of the legislative session), City staff will review and amend the list of legislative priorities, as necessary, and present any proposed amendments to the City Council for adoption during January of even years.

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SUMMARY OF SUB COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The City Council is being asked to discuss and consider adoption of this framework. In summary, the Subcommittee suggests the City Council decide the following items:

Legislative Advocacy Program Adoption

Staff updated and discussed the new Program (Attached) with the Subcommittee and Executive Management. This document will serve as a guide for staff during the Legislative session and form the basis for position letters and other legislative advocacy efforts undertaken by staff and the City Council.

In addition to staff recommended changes, Subcommittee Member Sahli-Wells is recommending the following substantive proposed updates:

1. Support statewide efforts to ban or impose fees on the distribution of single-use carryout bags and polystyrene containers. (Polystyrene containers were added by Subcommittee Member Sahli-Wells).
2. Support the Police Department's mission of providing visible patrol; criminal investigations; follow up investigations; traffic accident investigations; and specialized investigations such as identity theft, vice offenses, and similar crimes.
3. Support efforts to advance the Police Department's goals to enhance community safety through the deterrence/prevention of crime, the apprehension of offenders, and the education of the public in self-protective measures to minimize victimization.
4. Support the Fire Department's mission of providing Emergency Medical Services; fire suppression and rescue services; hazardous material spill mitigation; fire prevention; arson investigation; and public education.
5. Support legislation to preserve and enhance Culver City's quality of life by: improving and protecting our parks and natural resources through best environmental practices; working constantly to make our parks safe, clean and healthful; facilitating and providing recreation and leisure opportunities; promoting health, wellness and human development; strengthening our sense of cultural unity through recognizing our cultural diversity; and strengthening our community's image and sense of place through collaboration with community members and groups.
6. Support efforts to maintain and increase funding for transportation operations, programs and projects throughout the City including public transit, alternative transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects, to enhance safety, reduce congestion, and increase efficient circulation in the City.
7. Promote goals and objectives in the City Council Adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, including "Complete Streets".

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8. Advocate for the preservation and enhancement of funding for Safe Routes to Schools.

Additionally, Subcommittee Member Sahli-Wells included the following items as listed under the expanded section entitled: Government Transparency, Participation, Accessibility, and Public Notification.

Government Transparency, Participation, Accessibility, and Public Notification

1. Support legislation and funding that provides for greater opportunities for transparency, enhanced delivery of government information, government accountability and public access for the community.
2. Support legislation and funding which increases opportunities for collaborative problem solving, maximum information accessibility and maximum inclusion in participatory processes whenever possible.

Additional Staff Recommendation: Should the City Council choose to adopt these items as part of the Program, staff recommends adding the word “and funding” in order to seek opportunities to recover any additional costs for implementing legislation in this area.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings with Legislators

As stated in the aforementioned Subcommittee’s recommended framework, the Subcommittee recommends that the Mayor appoint a Councilmember to join him or her in attending regularly scheduled meetings with legislators who represent Culver City. The appointed Councilmember may vary according to subject matter and availability.

Annual City Council Overview of New Legislation

The Subcommittee has recommended that staff bring forward a report to the City Council with all of the bills to track for the legislative session in March. This would follow the February 22nd deadline for bills to be introduced in the State Legislature. The annual review would not preclude the City Council from considering individual bills at a City Council meeting at any time throughout the year.

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Review of Positions Recommended by Non-Profit, Environmental, and Professional Organizations

As part of staff's review compilation of bills to track, the Subcommittee has requested that staff review and identify issues from non-profit, environmental and professional organizations that have areas of interest to both those groups and to the City.

Dissolution of the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee

With the presentation of this recommendation, the Subcommittee considers its legislative work complete and recommends the dissolution of this body after concluding a final discussion on grants.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact to implement the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee's recommendations.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution and Draft Proposed Legislative Advocacy Program

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Consider the following recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee and provide direction to the City Manager on:
 - a. Establishment of regularly scheduled meetings with Legislators;
 - b. Preparation of an annual overview of new legislation for presentation to the City Council in March of each odd numbered year;
 - c. Identification of issues that are important to various non-profit, environmental, and professional organizations

AND

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2. Consider and discuss the revised Legislative Advocacy Program; and (if desired) adopt a resolution approving the implementation of the Legislative Advocacy Program effective 2012 and rescinding Resolution No. 2008-R018; and
3. Dissolve the Ad-Hoc Legislation and Grants Subcommittee at a date certain.