



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 4, 2007
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Daniel E. Cartagena, Project Manager
Subject: 2007 State-wide and Federal-Level Legislative Platform
Attachments: 1. Amended 2007 Legislative Platform

INTRODUCTION

The City Council's Legislative Liaison Committee composed of Mayor Delshad and Councilmember Linda Briskman has directed staff to forward the attached version of the City's 2007 legislative platform for City Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

In July 2007, staff presented to the City Council legislative recommendations to consider incorporating in the City's 2007 State-wide and Federal-Level Legislative Platform. Three items were recommended: advocate, support and/or sponsor state legislation establishing a state-wide smoking ban in open air dining areas; support of Assembly Bill 221 authored by Assemblymember Joel Anderson of San Diego proposing divestment of public pension funds from businesses doing business in certain sectors with the Iran; and the option to include specific legislative bills currently listed on the City's Legislative Watch List.

The City Council referred the matter to its Legislative Liaison Committee. At its August 15th meeting, the Committee reviewed the draft amendments and recommends the inclusion of advocacy, support and/or sponsorship of a state-wide smoking ban in open air dining areas to the Platform. Moreover, the Committee recommended a correction to the Platform relative to the City's efforts to obtain funds for improvements to Santa Monica Boulevard.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt the Legislative Liaison Committee's amendments to the City's Legislative Platform.

Daniel E. Cartagena
Approved By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. E. C.', written over a horizontal line.

City of Beverly Hills
2007 STATE-WIDE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM
Approved September 4, 2007

Platform Overview

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills. Its primary focus is protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, obtaining funding for improvements to north Santa Monica Blvd. and actively supporting the Westside subway extension. The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the City to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Local Control: Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of state incentives for local government action rather than mandates, (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by State legislation or ballot propositions.

Fiscal Strategies: Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and needed public facilities and services including library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities and oppose unfunded State mandates.

Housing and Land Use: Support incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Prioritize funding to necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control in relation to all land use planning.

Transportation: Support and sponsor legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, reduces traffic congestion and supports regional transportation improvements including funding for improvements to north Santa Monica Blvd., extension of the Westside Red Line/Purple Line Subway and funding for Beverly Hills and the Westside Cities regional priorities such as the Expo light rail and the Roberson/I-10 intersection and issues related photo speed radar enforcement.

Environment: Advocate legislation that supports flexibility to pursue cost effective sustainable responsible environmental policy and programs that effect potable water, waste water, solid waste removal and storm water. Advocate for the expansion of the existing statewide smoking prohibition in enclosed buildings to include open air dining areas and public parks due to the health hazards of exposure to second-hand smoke.

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery and Homeland Security: Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promote and funds emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

Community Services and Public Health Infrastructure: Support legislation related to internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English as a second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and

park upgrades and affordable social services for seniors and disabled. Support legislation that provides for increases services to or funding for at risk populations such as the frail elderly, indigent, disabled, means challenged, and other challenged populations. Support legislation and other efforts to reduce the homeless population. Seek funding for parks and community facilities.