

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ACT WITH REGARD TO THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Legislative activities are ongoing with Congress and the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that many legislative issues affecting local government will be considered during the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, City staff prepared the recommended City of Mesquite 2017 Legislative Program, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and the Legislative Program has been reviewed by the City Council of the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that such Legislative Program is in the best interest of the City and its residents, should be adopted, and should be forwarded for consideration by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the further opinion that the City Manager or his designee should be directed to take action with regard to the Legislative Program as outlined below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Mesquite 2017 Legislative Program that is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is hereby adopted and approved as the Legislative Program for the City of Mesquite.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager or his designee is directed to communicate the items included in the City's Legislative Program to members of the Texas Legislature, in general, and/or to the appropriate legislative committees, committee members and others designated by the City Manager.

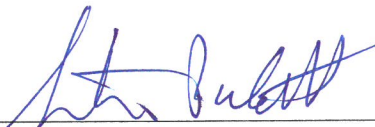
SECTION 3. That for those items designated as "support," the City Manager or his designee is directed to actively pursue passage of the appropriate legislation if it is introduced by some other entity. The City Manager's efforts to obtain passage of this legislation may include drafting appropriate legislation, seeking a sponsor and actively pursuing the passage of such legislation by providing testimony and through other means.

SECTION 4. That for those items designated as "oppose," the City Manager or his designee is directed to attempt to impede the passage of any such legislation.

SECTION 5. That it is recognized this policy will often be implemented in the context of great numbers of legislative proposals being considered within short time periods. City representatives, under the direction of the City Manager, shall be authorized to act on behalf of the City consistent with the necessary broad policy concerns set forth in this program.

SECTION 6. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 3rd day of October, 2016.



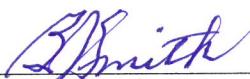
Stan Pickett
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sonja Land
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B.J. Smith
City Attorney



City of Mesquite 2017 Legislative Program
85th Texas Legislative Session

HIGHEST PRIORITIES

Oppose: Property Tax Caps

The City of Mesquite strongly opposes any legislation that attempts to erode local control of property tax revenues. Specifically, the City strongly opposes any efforts to reduce the revenue caps threshold from eight to four percent and impose an automatic election. The City views any legislation that seeks to alter its ability to raise local revenues as dangerous to its operations.

Support: Local Control

The City of Mesquite strongly supports local control. City officials, with the closest proximity to their constituents, are in the best position to determine how to serve their communities. The City strongly supports legislation that protects local control, allowing the local elected officials to raise the funds necessary to address the specific needs of their communities.

Support: Transportation

The City of Mesquite strongly supports expanding regional transportation funding options. A robust transportation system is critical to any thriving city and region. With the continued increase in population growth and underinvestment in ongoing maintenance, North Texas transportation systems are declining at a more rapid pace. The City supports legislation that increases roadway funding options and identifies a sustainable method of generating additional transportation revenues.

Support: Economic Development

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation that continues local control of Type 4B sales taxes and its current use categories.

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation that allows job and wage data to be calculated based on the school district in which the commercial activity resides instead of the county for Chapter 313 Agreements. This allows a school district incentive to be based on school district criteria.



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HIGH PRIORITIES

Support: Finance

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that resolves the inconsistencies between the Local Government Code, the Government Code and the Tax Code regarding electronic payments and related processing fees.

Support: Confidentialities under the Texas Public Information Act

The City of Mesquite supports expanding the exception of public information to include the name and contact information a complainant and expanding the exception of public information to include the name and contact information of an individual who adopts an animal from the City's shelter.

Support: Public Safety

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that provides additional resources for police and fire protections. The City of Mesquite also supports legislation that increases penalties for citations issued on property crimes.

Support: Increased regulations on Credit Access Businesses

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that provides state-level regulations on Credit Access Businesses (Payday Lenders). The City of Mesquite recently created a permitting process to protect residents from the predatory lending practices of these establishments in our community in lieu of any assistance from a state program. More specifically, the City supports:

- Closing any existing loopholes that allows payday, title, auto and other consumer loans providers to offer excessively-high annual percentage rates;
- Requiring payday, title, auto and other consumer loans providers to comply with the same standards as licensed lenders under Chapter 342 of the Texas Finance Code;
- Establishing a state-wide system to collect loan data from Credit Access Businesses to ensure that these entities are engaging in responsible lending practices with their consumers.

Support: Library Funding

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that would appropriate funds for shared digital content through TexShare for public and college library users. The City also supports funding for library workforce development training so libraries are better able to serve those residents seeking increased employment opportunities.