

RESOLUTION NO. 60-2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE 2021 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 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 2021 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 2021 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 that 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 16th day of November 2020.



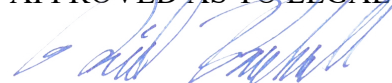
Bruce Archer
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sonja Land
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:



David L. Paschall
City Attorney



City of Mesquite 2021 Legislative Program 87th Texas Legislative Session

City of Mesquite Sponsored Legislation

Support: Increased Penalties on Discharging of Firearms

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation to increase the penalties of unlawfully discharging firearms in public and on residential property within a city. Throughout the year the City deals with an abundance of calls related to the discharging of firearms. Unlawful discharging of firearms is a nuisance to the community and can present a danger to many residents and their property.

Support: Additional Penalties for Burglary of Motor Vehicle and Auto Theft

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that increases the penalties and fines for burglary of a motor vehicle and auto thefts. Burglary of a motor vehicle and auto thefts continue to be major concerns and some of the most frequently committed crimes. These crimes have been responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in property loss for Mesquite residents.

Support: Increased Regulations on Fireworks Sales

The City of Mesquite supports legislation regulating the sale of fireworks by requiring signage at sales locations that lists penalties and lawful use of fireworks. The City of Mesquite supports legislation prohibiting the location of retail fireworks stands or stores in relation to proximity of a municipality. Unlawful use of fireworks within the City of Mesquite is an issue that residents deal with throughout the year especially during the dedicated firework holidays. Fireworks within the city limits put undue stress and anxiety on the city's residents. Health concerns, public safety concerns, and property damage concerns are common complaints related to fireworks.

HIGHEST PRIORITIES

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 develop a policy 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.



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Support: Economic Development

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

The City of Mesquite strongly supports legislation that renews Chapter 312 of the Tax code. This section of the Tax Code allows Cities to offer Tax Abatements to companies. Additional items to support include the Skills Development Fund and Texas Enterprise Fund.

Support: Coronavirus Relief Legislation (Local funding, testing efforts, etc.)

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that assists local efforts in addressing coronavirus relief with additional resources and flexibility.

HIGH PRIORITIES

Support: Public Works Project Procurement Efficiency

The City of Mesquite supports legislation that adjusts the requirements in Subchapter I of Chapter 2269 of the Government Code. The City would like the Code changed to allow for typical public works type of projects with job order procurement. The present constraint that only allows job order work for vertical construction is a hindrance to cities in maintenance work for water, sewer, sidewalk, street, etc. repair.

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 of a complainant and allow for a governmental body to be able to redact this information without the necessity of requesting an Attorney General decision.

Support: Limiting Open Meeting Act Requirements

The City of Mesquite supports revising Sections 551.043, 551.050 and 551.056 of the Local Government Code by requiring a governmental body with a population of 48,000 or more to post a notice of a meeting on its website, if the governmental body maintains an internet website, and not be required to physically post a notice of a meeting on a bulletin board. The City also supports deleting Section 2051, Subchapter C from the Local Government Code and adding a section allowing governmental bodies to post legal ads and notices on the City's website rather than publishing in a newspaper.



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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: Decrease Fire Certification Fees

The City of Mesquite supports decreases to certification fees for public safety. Fees paid to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection from cities and individual firefighters more than fund the agency. There was a welcomed decrease in fees in past legislative sessions but we would like to see the fees reduced to fund the agency but no more.

Support: Library Funding

The City of Mesquite supports funding for library workforce development training so libraries are better able to serve those residents seeking increased employment opportunities.