



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 41.

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON: OCTOBER 4, 2006**

**DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER**  
**DIRECTOR: DOUGLAS A. SELBY**

Consent  Discussion

**SUBJECT:**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Report and possible action on the status of the federal legislative action plan and municipal issues at the 109th US Congress.

**Fiscal Impact**

No Impact  Augmentation Required  
 Budget Funds Available Dept./Division:

**Amount:**  
**Funding Source:**

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

Our Federal Lobbyist, Vicki Cram of Ball Janik, will present an updated report on federal issues regarding the City of Las Vegas from the 109th US Congress.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Accept the report and direct staff accordingly.

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

None

Motion made by LARRY BROWN to Approve to Accept the Report

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2  
LOIS TARKANIAN, LAWRENCE WEEKLY, LARRY BROWN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-OSCAR B. GOODMAN, STEVE WOLFSON)

**Minutes:**

Before yielding the floor to VICKI CRAM, Federal Lobbyist with Ball Janik, to give a report on the subject matter, TED OLIVAS, Director of the Office of Government and Community Affairs, explained to the students from the Hispanic Youth Leadership Summit that the federal legislative action plan is much like a research paper that highlights what the City wants to do with federal monies and covers topics of import to the Mayor and Council. This information is presented to federal delegates to serve as a guide in their decisions on federal issues that could affect the City.

MS. CRAM then gave a report on the 2006 plan, including appropriations for last year and current topics in Washington, D.C. Congress adjourned September 29, 2006, and will have to

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return in November, for a Lame Duck Session, to resolve remaining key issues, including appropriations bills that fund domestic programs. Congress passed and approved the Homeland Security and Defense Appropriations Bill. The House passed all the appropriations bills; the Senate has only reported them out of committee. The City was working hard to ensure full funding for some key programs, such as Community Development Block Grant, EVOLVE and Batteries Included. Although the process is not yet complete, over \$1 million has been approved in specific funding for EVOLVE, an unspecified amount of for the Batteries Included program and \$250,000 for the Fifth Street School project.

MAYOR PRO TEM REESE noted that one bill that is very important to the City was signed during the last session, and with the assistance of the federal delegation, COUNCILMAN WEEKLY was able to acquire an eight-acre parcel on Decatur for future development.

MS. CRAM continued and commented that the City has also been very active on a number of important issues, such as the complex telecommunications overhaul, to enable the City to manage public rights-of-way and charge franchise fees for the use, while protecting and enhancing local ability. The House version of the telecommunications rewrite, HR-5252, passed the House by a vote of 321 to 101 and would make the franchising process occur at the Federal Communications Commission level. Both the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors oppose this bill. Senate Bill 286 is also on the table, in the City's point of view, but it has not yet been considered on the Senate side and there is a possibility it could come up during the Lame-Duck Session. Ball Janik lobbyists have worked very closely with the delegation on these and other versions of the telecommunications bill, and have also collaborated with other cities and national organizations in an attempt to perfect the legislation. Should the telecommunications overhaul not be completed this session, there is the possibility that the FCC might try to establish a national franchising mechanism through its rule-making process.

In the wake of several Supreme Court decisions, Congress has been very active in the issue of eminent domain. On September 29, 2006, the House passed HR-4772 by a vote of 231 to 181, which would allow property owners immediate access to federal courts in order to contest land-use or zoning decisions. The Senate is not expected to pass this bill during the Lame-Duck Session.

She assured the Council that Ball Janik lobbyists will continue to work closely with the congressional delegation until the aforementioned issues are resolved, and will be consulting with all City departments and the members of the Council to put together the legislative agenda for the 110th Congress.

In light of the Amish incident where students were shot, COUNCILMAN WEEKLY asked MS. CRAM if she believes Congress might issue funding directly to schools/the states to provide security. MS. CRAM answered that Congress might devote additional funding at the time the appropriations bill is considered.