



*Las Vegas*

Agenda Item No.: 45.

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH FRETWELL

Consent  Discussion

SUBJECT:  
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Discussion and possible action concerning the status of 2007 legislative issues - All Wards

**Fiscal Impact**

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

Staff will report on pending legislation of the 2007 Nevada State Legislature

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council accept the report and direct staff, if necessary

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

None

Motion made by LARRY BROWN to Accept the report

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

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

**Minutes:**

CHRIS KNIGHT, Director of Administrative Services, reported on the status of this year's legislative issues. The City introduced three Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) regarding lease purchase agreements for Public Works; City representation on the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security; and off-site improvements for the redevelopment area.

On February 8, 2007, CITY MANAGER SELBY made a presentation to the Assembly Government and Affairs Committee, which is being chaired by ASSEMBLYWOMAN MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, who is very energized. On the same date, a presentation was made to a joint meeting of the Assembly Taxation Committee and the Assembly of Transportation Committee by a blue-ribbon panel that was reviewing State of Nevada Department of Transportation issues. The panel reported that there is a funding shortfall for about ten identified

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major projects that will require \$950 million just in right-of-way acquisitions. This shortfall is in addition to the current \$3.8 million shortfall.

City staff has been meeting with representatives of the cable and telephone industry to discuss issues related to franchise fees, as a bill was introduced that would eliminate franchise fees. Staff is working with the industry to introduce two other bills to address franchise fees, including defining gross revenues and fees derived from advertising.

Proposed Assembly Joint Resolutions 1 and 16 were introduced. Resolution 10 would change voting residency requirements from six months to thirty days, and Resolution 16 would make it more difficult for the State to grant property and sales tax exemptions. Both resolutions would require constitutional amendments.

There are various Senate Bills of great import to the City. SB-3, which proposes to provide death benefits to spouses of firefighters and police officers, regardless of remarriage. Staff was successful in limiting it to spouses of firefighters or police officers killed only in the line of duty. SB-13 restricts local governments from enacting ordinances that would regulate the use of signs held or displayed on City public rights of way, which would affect Fremont Street. The Bill was referred to a subcommittee to negotiate a compromise. SB-66 would double the City's tort liability to \$100,000. SB-96 would reduce the amount of and revise the distribution of basic government services tax. This would fundamentally impact the City's revenue stream. SB-90 would amend the membership of the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security to include a City member. Also, three Senate bills have been introduced regarding Municipal Court administrative assessments, which are not exclusively used to fund Municipal Court activities. The bills would make it difficult for the City to increase fines and would place a burden on Municipal Court staff to administer the funds and collect them for the benefit of others.

Currently, staff is working on language revisions to a BDR that ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIRKPATRICK agreed to sponsor on behalf of the City. The bill would amend the City Charter in four areas: ability to construct affordable housing, utilize traffic hearings masters, appoint a master judge, and other housekeeping items. Language, which is not yet in bill form, has been proposed to eliminate all billboard reviews and to require fair market value payment to the developer for any billboards required to be removed.

Assembly Bills 14, 23 and 81 pertain to increased penalties for graffiti, including penalties for individuals in possession of tools used for graffiti. AB-23 proposes to revoke driver licenses of individuals convicted of doing graffiti and would impound any vehicles involved. AB-81 makes it a gross misdemeanor for graffiti damage between \$250 and \$1,000 and an E-class felony for graffiti damage over \$1,000.

On March 1, 2007, City staff will be making a presentation to the Joint Committee of the Assembly of Transportation and Assembly of Taxation related to the City's transportation projects.

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In closing, MR. KNIGHT stated that the City is tracking 170 of the 253 bills that have been introduced. As always, staff would endeavor to mitigate any negative impacts to the City and would keep the members of the Council apprised.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN asked MR. KNIGHT to provide her with a list of salient points regarding billboard and graffiti bills. MR. KNIGHT indicated that he would provide that information.

