



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Randall Lewis, Government Relations Officer
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: State Legislative and Federal Policy Agendas for 2014 – Requested City Council
December 3, 2013
DATE: November 12, 2013

SUMMARY:

Resolution approving the State Legislative and Federal Policy Agendas for 2014.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to the beginning of each year's session of Congress and the Washington State Legislature, it is beneficial for the City Council to indicate its priorities concerning issues that may come before these bodies.

Identifying priority issues helps members of the legislative and congressional delegation know which issues are most important to the City of Tacoma and helps City staff and contracted lobbyists, at both the state and federal level, to focus resources appropriately.

In 2013, the priorities centered around the following categories: Economic Development; Environment; Fiscal; Neighborhoods; Transportation; and, Longer Term issues.

ISSUE:

Towards the end of each year, the City Council reviews, discusses and approves their legislative agenda for the next year to ensure that they identify the City's priority issues.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council has the option of taking no action to approve a State Legislative and Federal Policy Agenda.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Council approve State Legislative and Federal Policy Agendas in order to give staff a clear direction and guidance needed to fulfill the Council's policy on issues that have resources and tools available at the State and Federal level. The agendas will assist our contracted lobbyists who advocate on behalf of the City for funding and other resources needed for the Council to meet their strategic goals. In addition, the agendas will assist the City as they work in partnership with a wide spectrum of public, private and nonprofit agencies/organizations to leverage existing resources and create new ones for the common goal of improving existing communities and meeting regional goals.