

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

Date Issued: February 1, 2007

IBA Report Number: 07-20

City Council Docket Date: February 6, 2007

Item Number: 332

Subject: Proposed 2007 Legislative Program

OVERVIEW

On February 6, 2007 the City Council will consider the establishment of the 2007 Legislative Program, consistent with requirements of the Municipal Code §22.1901. This item was heard at the Rules Committee on November 22, 2006 at which time the Committee adopted the criteria to establish priorities as enumerated in the staff report, and voted to forward the Legislative Program to the full City Council for consideration along with Council Member comments.

FISCAL/POLICY DISCUSSION

The proposed Legislative Program is the City's proactive list of state and federal legislative, budgetary and regulatory priorities, including implementation of the state bond measures passed last November, UASI eligibility and sponsoring a statewide Gang Commission, among others. The proposal before the City Council includes all of the elements presented to the Rules Committee in October. In addition, three items have been added. As described in the staff report, advocacy for protecting and enhancing State Revolving Funds for Clean Water and Drinking Water are a proposed priority based on committee feedback. Clean-up of requirements for legal defense funds was discussed at the Rules Committee in October and has been added to this proposed program. Finally, an opportunity to reclassify various parcels of designated open space to dedicated open space en masse has arisen, allowing the City to save significant time and money in pursuit of these classifications.

As this kicks off the legislative process for 2007, the IBA would like to advise the Council on work being pursued by this office in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Relations staff. As requested by Council Members last year, the IBA continues to work with staff to promote the establishment of a reasonable legislative process for the City of San Diego under the Strong Mayor form of government. While we do not expect the

need to establish new Municipal Code or Council Policy regulations, we wish to elucidate:

- Current Municipal Code requirements
- Reporting timelines and topics to the Rules Committee and the City Council
- Communication avenues and practices for the Executive and Legislative branches

We intend to pursue these topics working closely with the Intergovernmental Relations staff in order to establish expectations that maximize transparency and communication as well as effectiveness throughout the organization.

CONCLUSION

The IBA will continue to work with the Intergovernmental Relations staff to provide information and facilitate a discussion of the City's overall legislative process at a meeting of the Rules Committee and/or City Council in the near future.

[SIGNED]

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