




**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 19, 2017

TO: Councilmember Lorie Zapf, Chair, Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District 

SUBJECT: Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee Priorities for 2017

In response to your request for priorities for the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED&IR) Committee, I offer the following suggestions as the Committee develops its work plan:

Update the 2017 Federal & State Legislative Platform

- On December 6, 2016, the City Council unanimously approved the 2017 Platform and directed the ED&IR Committee Chair to revisit and update the Platform to reflect the priorities of the newly-elected Councilmembers.
- President Trump ran on a campaign that directly threatened the basic rights and humanity of San Diego's LGBTQ community, immigrants, and diverse faiths. His actions since the election clearly signal his intention to follow through on his reckless campaign rhetoric, and our city must send a clear message now to concerned residents and the administration alike that we will stand up for all San Diegans against hate and destructive policies. To that regard, I request that the ED&IR Committee update the 2017 Federal & State Legislative Priorities to include platform enhancements to protect our community:
 - Oppose federal funding cuts to cities where local law enforcement agencies do not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.
 - Oppose federal attempts to intervene with the interests of cities in governing their communities, including compelling local law enforcement to act as federal agents, or prosecuting city leaders who seek local protections for undocumented immigrants.
 - Oppose the development of any registry of individuals based on religious identification, country of origin, racial or ethnic background.
 - Oppose the funding and development of unnecessary and ineffective border infrastructure (a wall) and instead utilize proposed funding for cross-border commerce enhancements.

- Oppose the reversal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs that have helped DREAM Act-eligible minors and young adults pursue higher education opportunities with strong potential to substantially contribute to our region's economy.
- Oppose legislative and regulatory reductions on the annual cap of H1-B visas and related programs which help our biotechnology and high technology industries strategically compete.
- Oppose federal attempts to influence the state's ability to provide driver's licenses, professional certification, educational assistance, or other forms of support under the jurisdiction of the state.
- Support federal assistance and legislation to allow local law enforcement the ability to prevent and respond to hate crimes and discrimination.

Seek Online Sales Tax Reform

- The convenience of e-commerce has led to a consumer shift from in-store to online sales. As a result, the City receives a smaller portion of sales tax revenues. Sales tax revenues from online sales are distributed to the City through the county pool at a current rate of 0.48 percent compared to 1.0 percent for point of sales transactions within the City. The Committee should work with our State representatives and lobbyists to seek online sales tax reform to ensure that San Diego receives its fair share.

Dedication of Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) toward Economic Development Programs

- With the dissolution of Redevelopment Agencies in 2012, the State of California deprived local jurisdictions of their largest and most significant source of local funding for infrastructure, economic development, and affordable housing. Since that time, the State has designed a Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF), also referred to as "Boomerang Funds" to disburse property tax revenue associated with former redevelopment areas to local governments. The Committee should continue the work to develop a policy to ensure that these "Boomerang Funds" are used to continue the much-needed work to revitalize communities and create long-lasting economic development opportunities.

Oversight of Civic San Diego

- The Committee should oversee implementation of the recently approved Operating Agreement between Civic San Diego and the City to ensure it results in stronger projects that are reflective of the community and Council's priorities. Additionally, the Committee should work to strengthen community benefits requirements to improve developer certainty and create quality jobs in the community.

Workforce Development and Homelessness

- Most people experiencing homelessness want to work. Linking individuals and families with stable income is a critical tool in the fight to prevent and end homelessness. As the City works to identify solutions to curb homelessness, the Committee should partner with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to expand employment and training services so that job seekers who experience homelessness can be successful in work and chart pathways to self-sufficiency. In addition state and federal workforce development funding, the

Committee should also leverage Community Development Block Grants, Veterans Reintegration funds, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Employment and Training funds to create real opportunities toward self-sufficiency.

Intergovernmental Relations

- Collaborate with and receive regular reports in accordance with applicable Council Policies from the following:
 - San Diego Convention Center Corporation
 - San Diego Unified Port District
 - San Diego Regional Airport Authority
 - Civic San Diego
 - San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
 - San Diego Military Advisory Council
 - BIOCOT
 - CONNECT
 - San Diego Workforce Partnership
 - The Maritime Alliance

Report out on Federal and State Grant Opportunities

- The Committee should request an update regarding all Federal and State grant opportunities available, sought, applied for and awarded. Additionally, it should collaborate with our region's elected leadership and lobbyists on advocacy. Particularly, the Committee should ensure that the City and its partners are primed and positioned to compete for Cap and Trade resources, California Competes Tax Credits, and other competitive funding programs.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions please contact my office at (619) 236-6633.

cc:

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliot
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Liz Maland, City Clerk
Ryan Purdy, ED&IR Committee Consultant