RESOLUTION NO. 20121108-016

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The council adopts the City's Legislative Program for the 83rd Texas Legislative Session as set forth in the attached exhibit.

ADOPTED: November 8, 2012 **ATTEST :** Shirley A. Gentry

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk

City of Austin Legislative Program

For the 83rd Texas Legislature

General Principles

Austin supports legislation that enhances the City's ability to solve problems and improve the quality of life for our citizens. Austin opposes legislation that reduces the City's authority, increases the City's costs, or otherwise erodes the City's ability to govern our own local affairs. Our goal is to work with other cities and the Texas Municipal League in a spirit of collaboration and teamwork. When their positions are consistent with ours, we will support the League and other cities in their legislative efforts even if Austin is not directly impacted.

Primary Issues

- Monitor all legislation related to the electric utility industry, including sunset legislation for the Public Utility Commission, and take appropriate action to both protect the current status of the Texas electric markets and to maintain local control of taxpayer investment in Austin Energy.
- Oppose any reduction of Austin's water rights or future water resources.
- Oppose appraisal and/or revenue caps that would limit Austin's ability to raise revenues for providing necessary city services.
- Protect Austin's citizens and taxpayers from bearing the burden of paying for State mandates and from collecting revenues for the State.
- Protect municipal authority over rights-of-way and ensure that Austin can continue to be compensated for the private, commercial use of public property.
- Support the zoning authority cities currently have and protect the city's annexation and extra-territorial (ETJ) authority.
- Oppose any legislation that would reduce Austin's authority to protect the environment or protect water quality.
- Maintain the current ability of Austin to acquire property for uses that benefit its citizens and protect local taxpayers from paying additional compensation to individuals and businesses for decisions made in the public interest.
- Oppose any legislation that erodes municipal sovereign immunity.
- Seek adequate funding for health care programs to support the uninsured and underinsured residents of Austin, Travis County, and all of our health care programs.

Support

- Providing additional funding options for city and regional transportation programs.
- Increasing fines and fees designed for child safety programs, school safety, and crossing guards.
- Promoting higher water conservation standards for plumbing fixtures, better irrigation and landscape practices, and protecting city authority to establish conservation standards.
- Maintaining joint state and local authority over City of Austin employee retirement plans.
- Continuing State funding for social services, including homeless programs.
- Continuing State funding for public libraries.
- Legislation making the State Campaign Finance database available to cities.
- Legislation modifying the Construction Manager at Risk statute to restore purchaser's ability to examine subcontractor data prior to bid acceptance.
- Legislation regarding Design Build Contracts for civil projects to require that the construction phase is protected by performance bonds, and other minor changes to minimize risk to cities.
- Legislation facilitating the on-line resolution of municipal court cases.

Endorse

- Authorizing increased land development regulation powers including fire safety regulations for urban counties.

Oppose

- Prohibiting the authority of City officials to use municipal funds to communicate with legislators.