



## **Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations**

**Date:** January 2, 2015

**To:** Chair Elizabeth Glidden and Vice Chair Alondra Cano

**Referral to:** Intergovernmental relations Committee

**Subject: 2015 Legislative Policy Positions**

**Recommendation: Adopt 2015 Legislative Agenda and 2015 Legislative Policy Positions**

### **Previous Directives:**

The City annually approves a State Legislative Agenda. The agenda is amended each year to reflect legislative actions and City policy positions.

### **Department Information**

Prepared by: IGR Staff

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters in Committee: IGR Staff

### **Supporting Information**

#### **2015 Policy Positions and Legislative Agenda**

In recent years, the City of Minneapolis' Legislative Agenda has consisted of a document organized by general issue areas, and contained statements of priority, support or opposition on specific issues. While this document is a useful tool and an important collection of City perspective and positions, IGR staff recommends a new way of organizing the City Legislative Agenda.

Currently, the Legislative Agenda is sixteen pages long and contains positions on a wide variety of issues. To reflect the frequently changing circumstances at the State Legislature each session, IGR recommends retaining the existing document and renaming it "City of Minneapolis 2015 Policy Positions." As is current practice, the Policy Positions could be updated annually and as needed. The Policy Positions would help direct IGR staff advocacy as issues arise. The attached documents include the new policy document.

In addition to the Policy Positions, IGR recommends a new "Legislative Agenda" document which will change each year to reflect the current legislative climate and context, and emerging City priorities. This Legislative Agenda would be a much shorter and more focused document than the current document. Having a more clear and abbreviated Legislative Agenda will help ensure that our advocacy efforts have focus and that City staff, legislators and legislative staff, and the public can then have a clear understanding of what the top

priorities of the City of Minneapolis are in a given legislative session. The recommended Legislative Agenda is attached.

### **2015 Legislative Session**

The 2015/2016 Legislative Session started on Tuesday, January 6th at Noon. Since the 2015 session is the first year of the biennium, the two-year state budget must be adopted. In addition, there will be numerous policy proposals related to local government, transportation, health and human services, public safety and data practices. Although the first year of the biennium is not a traditional bonding year, it is possible that the Governor and/or Legislature could propose a bonding bill.

In developing the proposed recommendations for adoption by the City Council, IGR staff and Minneapolis City Councilmembers served on the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and Metro Cities policy committees. Participation on the policy committees for LMC and Metro Cities provided the City with input into the development of policies to be advocated for at the legislature and information regarding issues of interest to member cities that could be discussed with Minneapolis Councilmembers and City staff including members of the City's Policy Liaison Team.

### **City of Minneapolis Policy Liaison Team**

The Policy Liaison Team is comprised of leaders from each City department who are involved in developing the City's legislative and policy goals. The Team serves as a forum for the participants to share views, generate ideas, review proposals and learn about the legislature and state government. The Team was formed in 2013 and assisted in the formation of the 2014 Legislative Agenda. During the summer and fall of 2014, the Team had a discussion with the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget regarding the state budget process and economic forecasting. The Team also requested legislative proposals from their respective departments. Once they collected their department's suggestions, they submitted the proposals via a formatted worksheet developed by IGR, providing as much relevant information as possible about the context for each proposal. Then, the Liaison from a department bringing forth a proposal presented the idea to their colleagues on the Team.

The multidepartment vetting of new ideas or modifications of existing law generated lively discussion, and prompted a more comprehensive analysis of potential policy initiatives. As a result of the vetting, the Team evaluated the proposals in terms of level of required effort versus level of impact on the City to help guide next steps in bringing the proposals to the IGR Chair and Committee for review and final evaluation.