

RESOLUTION 2016-009

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA; APPROVING THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA; AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY ATTORNEY, OR THEIR DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENTS, TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES AND INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the City of Sierra Vista, through the City Council, has taken positions on a variety of state and federal legislative proposals and efforts over the years; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of the elected body, City staff and the City's lobbyist, the City's position on various issues have been communicated to both state and federal officials; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to more efficiently communicate the City's position on legislative actions that may come up at the state and federal level, the City Council has adopted a more formal legislative agenda periodically; and

WHEREAS, the attached 2016 Legislative Agenda for the City of Sierra Vista clearly articulates the position of the City Council on those priorities that are most critical to the community and the organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1

The City Council hereby restates its established policy supporting positions on issues of key importance to the community and the organization.

Section 2

That the City Council hereby approves the City of Sierra Vista 2016 Legislative Agenda attached hereto and made a part hereof by this reference.

Section 3

That the City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, or their duly authorized officers and agents are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA, THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.



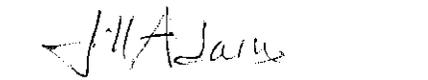
Frederick W. Mueller
Mayor

Approval as to Form:



Nathan Williams
City Attorney

Attest:



Jill Adams
City Clerk

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

State Legislative Agenda

In addition to guidance provided on specific issues, these guiding principles and key priorities will guide actions of City staff and external consultants on all other legislative matters that arise during the 2016 State legislative session. The Council approved agenda will define the City of Sierra Vista's priorities and frame City lobbying activities at the Arizona State Legislature.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND KEY PRIORITIES

Fiscal Sustainability

The City of Sierra Vista supports the preservation of shared revenues, including state transaction privilege tax (sales) and urban revenue (income) tax at the 15% distribution level and opposes any reduction or cap, regardless of the method.

In addition, the city supports the full disbursement levels of existing revenue streams including the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) and Vehicle License Tax (VLT). The City opposes attempts to redirect those funds away from these accounts, and supports efforts to maintain HURF monies for transportation uses. The City further supports the sustainment, and advocates for the expansion of, the State Aviation Fund for the state's portion of matching of federal grant investments in local airports.

The City also supports protection of local funding and authorities that bring revenues to local governments. The City opposes any effort to limit the elected body's ability to collect locally established taxes or fees, as well as any action that would increase costs to the City.

Further, the City supports actions to improve the long-term viability of all state retirement systems, including the fair allocation of financial responsibility to local governments. The City advocates for reforms to the Public Safety Retirement System that will return the system to financial viability based upon reasonable actuarial assumptions and an increase in participant obligations.

Local Authority

Cities and towns were voluntarily created by the residents of their communities to provide local self-government, and to allow their respective Councils to make decisions at the local level that best meet the needs of their communities. The City of Sierra Vista supports the protection of local control and decision-making authority and opposes efforts to erode this control through preemptions or mandates.

The development of infrastructure to facilitate community and economic development is a key function of local government and City supports local control as it pertains to all components of the planning and development process, including water requirements.

Economic Development

A strong and vibrant economy is essential to the quality of life for the City's residents, businesses, and visitors. The City of Sierra Vista supports working with the State through the Arizona Commerce Authority and Office of Tourism, other governments, and private enterprises to identify sustainable economic opportunities, and supports efforts to enhance the tools available to attract and retain quality jobs. The City opposes legislation that would diminish the ability of local governments to provide supportive services to local businesses or revitalize areas within City boundaries.

The City supports efforts to protect and expand tourism assets, as well as increase the visibility of Arizona, Sierra Vista and Cochise County as tourism destinations.

The City of Sierra Vista supports educational programs, policies and appropriate funding that result in a college, career-bound and technically skilled Arizona workforce. A highly-qualified workforce will support Arizona's competitiveness in the retention and attraction of quality high wage jobs.

Sierra Vista recognizes that access to capital is one of the major impediments to the formation and growth of new companies. Venture capital drives job creation and economic growth by helping entrepreneurs turn innovative ideas and scientific advances into products and services. Extension and funding of the Angel Investment Tax Credit beyond 2016 will encourage more venture capital investments within Arizona. Funding for the research and development tax credit is also necessary to encourage retention and attraction of companies with high wage jobs. The City supports the Legislature allowing companies that have earned tax credits through their investment and job creation activities to be able to apply those credits to other Arizona tax liabilities.

Military Preservation and Expansion

The City is an active partner in sustaining and expanding the long-term mission viability at Fort Huachuca. The City of Sierra Vista will continue to be involved in, and supports reasonable efforts to strengthen local and state actions limiting encroachment, enhance compatible land use planning, and elevate the advantages of the region and state for future mission expansions.

The City strongly advocates for reauthorization of the State's Military Affairs Commission and funding of the Military Installation Fund.

The City further advocates for environmental resource policies that support military centers of excellence and facilitate continued economic development.

Transportation

In addition to the support for HURF and the State Aviation funds, the City supports strong partnerships in planning for and funding future infrastructure improvements to enhance the region's and state's economic competitiveness through both national and international trade and tourism, as well as the overall quality of life of area residents.

Public Safety

The City supports efforts that preserve and enhance the ability of local governments to strategically plan for and respond to emergencies. In addition, as HURF funding is siphoned from communities to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the City strongly advocates for the state DPS taking back full responsibility for responding to calls and conducting accident investigations on state routes within the City limits, or conversely the funding distributed to the City in order to take on that role. In addition, the City supports the return of appropriate and statutorily required responsibilities to the State Fire Marshall's Office.

Neighborhoods

The City of Sierra Vista recognizes that healthy neighborhoods are the cornerstone of a healthy community. Proper enforcement of uniform codes for property maintenance, criminal activity and other nuisances can greatly contribute to improving neighborhoods. County islands within the City are provided a rural level of service by their governing body, and the differing codes and higher response rates bleed into adjacent incorporated areas. The City supports efforts to enhance a community's ability to annex County islands to improve consistency, improve government efficiency, and enhance neighborhoods. The City further supports legislation that will allow for the City's restitution of public funds utilized to clean up or secure dilapidated properties.

Federal Legislative Agenda

The federal government collects resources from Sierra Vista residents and the City is committed to working with its federal representatives to assure that the community receives the benefits of these contributions in the form of investments in infrastructure, including wastewater and transportation, as well as defense. The City supports collaboration with the federal government and locally-driven decision-making. Because Sierra Vista has the primary public sector responsibility to shape regional economic development, the City advocates for and needs appropriate authority, flexibility, and resources from federal, state, and county government partners to insure it can be an effective leader in job retention and expansion in the community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND KEY PRIORITIES

Military Preservation and Expansion

The City of Sierra Vista is committed to sustaining and expanding the long-term mission viability at Fort Huachuca. The City will continue to be involved in, and support all local, state and federal efforts and partnerships to elevate the programs and services currently provided at the Fort and also to advocate for mission expansion.

In concert with Sierra Vista's policy focus at the local and State levels, the City advocates for environmental resource policies that support military centers of excellence and facilitate continued economic development also extend to the federal government.

The City supports an end to the automatic sequestration of funds for purposes of budget control at the federal level, because of the impact this has on the viability and capability of Ft. Huachuca to meet our national defense needs, and because of the impact of force structure reductions on the local economy.