



Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Members: Steve Kornell, Chair; Charlie Gerdes, Wengay Newton and Amy Foster

**December 18, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- **Call to Order and Roll Call**
- **Approve Agenda**
- **Approve Report and Minutes of the September 18, 2014 Meeting**
- **2015 Florida Legislative Session**
 - **City of St. Petersburg Priorities (attached)**
 - **Appropriations**
 - **Florida League of Cities Legislative Program (attached)**
 - **Link to full document**
<http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/Assets/Files/Advocacy/2015-Legislative-Action-Agenda-web.pdf>
- **Discussion – Resolutions of Support**
- **Federal Update (attached)**
- **Schedule For Future Meetings**
- **Other Business**
- **Adjourn**

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Thursday, September 18, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Committee Chair Steve Kornell, Committee Vice-Chair Wengay Newton, Councilmembers Charlie Gerdes, Amy Foster and Karl Nurse (alternate)

Also Present: Councilmembers William Dudley and Darden Rice; Chief of Staff Kevin King; City Administrator Gary Cornwell; Chief City Attorney Mark Winn; Legislative Education & Intergovernmental Affairs Director Sally Everett and Assistant to the City Clerk, Heather Worley.

Committee Chair Steve Kornell called the meeting to order. Councilmember Gerdes moved for approval of the agenda. All were in favor of the motion. (Kornell, Gerdes, Foster)

Committee Vice-Chair Newton entered the meeting.

In connection with the new business, the Committee discussed potential issues for the City's Legislative Program for the 2015 Florida Legislative Session.

Councilmember suggestions included:

- Using "Hardest Hit" unspent funds allocated to the State for local programs dealing with foreclosed and abandoned properties (Nurse)
- Local/State conflict regarding submerged lands and docks (Rice)
- Limiting contribution levels for local campaigns (Rice)
- Supporting the re-writing of the Juvenile Justice code (Newton)
- Supporting DCF reform (Kornell)
- Clarifying DOT responsibilities for ROW maintenance (Kornell)

Suggestions received to date from departments:

- Changes to Nuisance Abatement when illegal drugs are stored in, and sold adjacent to a property (Police/Codes)
- Trafficking in Synthetic Marijuana (Police)
- Renewal of the Enterprise Zone Statute (Economic Development/Greenhouse)
- Local bill – Extension of non-profits' alcoholic beverage sales to 'main Street' corridors (Neighborhoods)

In connection with the new business, Florida League of Cities Legislative Program, Sally Everett, Director of Legislative Education & Intergovernmental Affairs, discussed that the City's Legislative Program will dovetail with that of the FL League of Cities, which is currently in development. Councilmembers Kornell, Newton and Nurse are also participating in that process. Additionally, City Administration is planning to position the City proactively with regard to issues such as Uber and AirBnB and legislative action to preempt local regulation of such issues is anticipated.

In connection with the new business, Appropriations Request Discussion, Committee members discussed potential requests for appropriations including:

- Urban Affairs program funding, similar to that vetoed this year
- Additional Mahaffey renovations
- Maximo Park-removal of FDOT materials from adjacent property

In connection with the new business, Federal Update, there was a brief discussion regarding federal issues, and informational print-outs from the National League of Cities were distributed.

The next Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting will be held on December 18, 2014. At that time, the committee will determine priorities for focus of legislative advocacy and potential resolutions for secondary issues.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Report of the LAIR Committee Meeting

September 18, 2014

In attendance:

Committee Members Kornell, Gerdes, Foster, Newton
Also attending: Council Member Rice

The Committee discussed potential issues for the City's Legislative Program for the 2015 Florida Legislative Session.

Councilmember suggestions included:

- Using "Hardest Hit" unspent funds allocated to the State for local programs dealing with foreclosed and abandoned properties (Nurse)
- Local/State conflict regarding submerged lands and docks (Rice)
- Limiting contribution levels for local campaigns (Rice)
- Supporting the re-writing of the Juvenile Justice code.(Newton)
- Supporting DCF reform (Kornell)
- Clarifying DOT responsibilities for ROW maintenance(Kornell)

Suggestions received to date from departments:

- Changes to Nuisance Abatement when illegal drugs are stored in, and sold adjacent to a property (Police/Codes)
- Trafficking in Synthetic Marijuana (Police)
- Renewal of the Enterprise Zone statute(Economic Development/Greenhouse)
- Local bill – Extension of non-profits' alcoholic beverage sales to 'main Street' corridors (Neighborhoods)

Additional ideas from departments are also expected.

The City's Legislative program will dovetail with that of the FL League of Cities, which is in development. Councilmembers Kornell, Newton and Nurse are participating in that process.

City administration is also planning to position the city proactively with regard to issues such as Uber and AirBnB. Legislative action to preempt local regulation of such issues is anticipated.

Committee members also discussed potential requests for appropriations including:

- Urban Affairs program funding, similar to that vetoed this year
- Additional Mahaffey renovations
- Maximo Park-removal of FDOT materials from adjacent property

There was a brief discussion of federal issues, and updates from the National League of Cities were handed out.

The Legislature will not start committee meeting until January and Session begins the first week of March.

The next LAIR meeting is scheduled for December 18. At that time, the committee will determine priorities for focus of legislative advocacy and potential resolutions for secondary issues.



**CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG
2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

December, 2014

- **Unfunded State Mandates**
 - Monitor and oppose any proposal that negatively impacts the City through imposing unfunded mandates
- **Nuisance Properties**
 - Amend Florida Statute 893.138(2)(b) to add the storage of controlled substances on the designated property, which would allow the City to proceed with a nuisance abatement action
- **State Funding for Homeless Housing Programs**
 - HB979, which passed during the 2014 Session, allocated \$4 million statewide to homeless programs through Challenge Grants. Support 2015 efforts to designate a dedicated funding source for local homeless programs
- **Enterprise Zone Reauthorization**
 - The state's Enterprise Zone act will sunset on December 31, 2105 unless reauthorized. Enterprise Zones are a key component of the City's urban revitalization and economic development efforts. Support reauthorization of the program.
- **Trafficking in Synthetic Marijuana**
 - Support law enforcement agencies' efforts to expand legal and administrative penalties for merchants who are supplying quantities of synthetic marijuana to street sellers and users
- **Parking Meter Revenue**
 - Oppose any proposal to limit parking meters on state rights-of-way after 1 year moratorium expires on June 30, 2015 and to share meter revenue with the state.

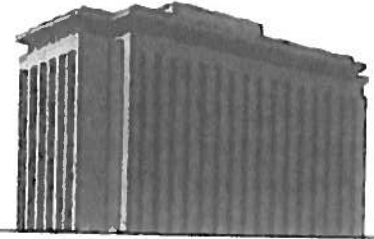
- **Children, Families and Juvenile Justice**
 - Support legislation and funding to strengthen state and local programs for these vulnerable populations

Potential Appropriations Requests

- Apprenticeship Academy
- Bio-Solids Project
- Skyway Marina Economic Development Project



2015 LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA



Municipal Police and Firefighter Pension Reform

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that protects municipalities' home rule powers to set and fund municipal employee benefit levels, and specifically provides:

- o comprehensive pension reform, including elimination of the extra benefit requirement;
- o disability presumption reform; and
- o a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their participation in the Florida Retirement System.

The League also SUPPORTS legislation that provides municipalities with flexibility in the use of insurance premium taxes, as currently interpreted by the Department of Management Services.

Communications Services Tax and Local Business Tax Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax. These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services, such as public safety and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve citizens and businesses.

Stormwater Fee Collection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that clarifies all users of a stormwater utility, including governmental entities, are required to pay stormwater charges to pay the cost of operation and maintenance of such a utility.

Water Quality and Quantity

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that provides a recurring source of funding for local government programs and projects that protect water resources, improve water quality and quantity, and expand the use of alternative water sources.

Enterprise Zones

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that reauthorizes and improves the Enterprise Zone program due to sunset on December 31, 2015.

Developments of Regional Impact

The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES expanding exemptions or repeal of the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process.

Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.

Ride-for-Hire Services

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that defines and establishes uniform safety and insurance standards for transportation network services and their independent contractors, and that preserves home rule authority over such services.

Homelessness

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that provides a sustainable and dedicated funding source to deliver training and technical assistance to programs that offer the necessary support services for Florida's homeless individuals and families and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Sober Homes

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that defines and establishes statewide minimum regulatory standards for properties used for "sober home" purposes and allows for local regulation of such properties.



Congress Struggles with Spending Debate

DECEMBER 5, 2014

By Neil Bomberg

With only six days left under the current continuing resolution to fund the federal government, members of Congress continue to negotiate over an appropriations bill that will keep the government open through September 30, 2015, the end of the current fiscal year. While leadership in both chambers and both parties have indicated a desire to get a bill passed by the December 11 deadline, disagreements may force Congress to pass another short-term measure and regroup in early 2015 to pass a longer appropriations package. Senate and House Appropriations Committee chairs have stated that while negotiations on funding levels for most federal programs have been completed, legislators are still addressing several policy disagreements that could result in some form of government shutdown.

Here are more details on the current state of the spending debate:

What type of appropriations bill is the leadership hoping Congress will pass by December 11?

The House and Senate leadership in both chambers and in both parties would like to pass a single omnibus appropriations bill that will keep the government open through the end of the current fiscal year. Failing that, Republican leaders would like to pass a combination continuing resolution/omnibus ("cromnibus") appropriations bill that would adopt 11 of the 12 spending bills and fund the bulk of the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year. Under the Republican plan, the bill would include one short-term continuing resolution to fund the Department of Homeland Security through March 15. Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid has indicated that if the House passes such a bill, he would bring it to the Senate floor and support it in an effort to avoid a government shutdown on or after December 11.

What would be included in the cromnibus appropriations bill?

The cromnibus appropriations bill would include a number of straight appropriations bills, providing specific program funding for specific departments and programs. This would occur for those departments, agencies and programs where there is agreement on funding priorities. The appropriations bill would also include a number of continuing resolutions that fund some federal agencies through the end of the current fiscal year (September 30, 2015) at current levels. In total, 11 of the 12 appropriations bills necessary to fund the government would be adopted for the remainder of fiscal year 2015. The 12th appropriations bill would be a short-term continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security through March 15, 2015.

Why would the Department of Homeland Security only be funded through March 15?

Congressional Republicans are attempting to find ways to prevent President Obama from implementing his Executive Order on Immigration by using the "power of the purse." Congress can do this by specifically prohibiting the president from using any funds appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security to implement his Executive Order. However, the principle agency responsible for implementing the Executive Order on Immigration - the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency or ICE - is largely funded by fees paid by those who apply for visas, green cards, and citizenship, and receives no funding from the general fund. Therefore, Congress would have to go a step further and actually prohibit ICE from using the fees it collects to implement the president's Executive Order. So far, Republican leaders appear unwilling to take that additional step and are hoping to find a way around this issue by March 15 so that they can use the "power of the purse" to stop Executive Order implementation. President Obama's executive order would permit as many as five million undocumented immigrants to obtain work permits, and protect individuals in families where one or more members are citizens from deportation.

Has the president agreed to sign the type of appropriations bill proposed by the Republican leadership?

At this point it remains unclear as to whether the president would sign an appropriations bill like the one described above that includes only partial funding for the Department of Homeland Security. In testimony before the House this week, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson stated that partial funding of the sort proposed by the leadership would seriously harm his department's ability to operate and provide the level of homeland security necessary. What the White House has made clear is that the president would veto any legislation that defunds his Executive Order on Immigration and that it prefers a bill that would fund the entire government through September 30, 2015.

What are the sticking points to passing an omnibus appropriations bill right now?

In addition to finding a way to defund the president's Executive Order on Immigration, other significant disagreements exist between Senate and House negotiators, though generally they are disputes over policy and not funding levels. For example, negotiators on the Energy-Water bill (HR 4923) must find agreement on outstanding issues that involve, among others, the EPA's climate standards and the proposed Waters of the United States regulation, as well as a provision that would bar redefining of "fill material" under the Clean Water Act (PL 95-217). Aides working on the Financial Services spending bill (HR 5016) are still grappling with funding levels for the IRS, and Congress' top four appropriators must soon decide the fate of a new policy rider reining in the District of Columbia's new marijuana policy. Negotiators have yet to strike a final agreement on the administration's \$6.2 billion emergency funding request for the Ebola virus. Meanwhile, negotiators have been able to find resolution on other issues such as foreign aid to Egypt and funding for the Capitol Police, according to senior appropriators.

