

**ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

January 31, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 100

AGENDA

Members & Alternate: Chair Ed Montanari, Amy Foster, Brandi Gabbard, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman; Alternate – Darden Rice

Support Staff: Cindy Sheppard, City Council Administrative Officer

- A. Call to order
- B. Approval of agenda
- C. Approval of minutes - September 20, 2018
- D. New/Deferred business
 - a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - b. Discussion of priorities for 2019 legislative session
 - a. John Rodriguez - Update on Administration's legislative priorities
 - b. St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce 2019 priorities (attachment)
 - c. St. Petersburg legislative delegation 2019 priorities (attachment)
 - d. St. Pete Day reminder (Wednesday March 20)
 - c. Discussion of issues surrounding federal government shutdown
- E. Upcoming meeting and agenda tentative issues
 - a. *May 30 2:00*

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Report

September 20, 2018

1:00 – City Hall – Room 100

Present: Chair Ed Montanari, Amy Foster, Brandi Gabbard, Charlie Gerdes (alternate), State Senator Jeff Brandes, State Representative Ben Diamond, Assistant City Administrator Tom Greene, Matt Lettelier Office Systems Specialist Paul Traci, Assistant City Attorney Jane Wallace, Legislative Aide Justin Andrews

The Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Montanari. Approval of agenda.

Chair Montanari offered each Councilmember time to ask the delegation about legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

CM Gerdes asked Sen. Brandes and Rep. Diamond about short-term rental legislation and CRAs. Sen. Brandes discussed preemption of short-term rental policy, enforcement, and what cities could do to influence policy to balance private property rights and tourism. Rep. Diamond agreed that a balance needs to be struck, preferably by local government. Sen. Brandes discussed bad actors in CRAs and perpetual CRAs, suggesting term limits to CRA with methods for extension. Rep. Diamond discussed a bill that could pass both houses to address the issues Sen. Brandes brought up, but questioned the State's position in CRA oversight.

CM Gabbard asked about funding for the 40th Ave. NE bridge project. Sen. Brandes suggested making small asks over the course of the project, rather than requesting \$6million in one session. CM Gabbard asked the delegation about their commitment to protecting the Sadowski Fund. Rep. Diamond discussed working on bills to protect the fund. Sen. Brandes suggested converting affordable housing funds into a block grant program for municipalities to utilize unilaterally.

CM Wheeler-Bowman asked the delegation about Stand your ground legislation. Sen. Brandes and Rep. Diamond discussed Stand Your Ground's status and what could be changed to address points of contention in the legislation.

CM Foster urged the delegation to look at child welfare in the upcoming session, specifically Federal legislation regarding reimbursement. Sen. Brandes and Rep. Diamond discussed programs that address child welfare and possible legislation.

Chair Montanari asked for state funding for school security. Sen. Brandes discussed current efforts and possible legislation to assist school districts with security funding. Rep. Diamond agreed and provided context to the funding issues.

John Rodriguez explained that the City is still developing priorities for the upcoming session, citing the upcoming election as a delay in priority development. Matt Lettelleir of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce discussed "St. Pete Day" and urged Council to attend.

Assistant City Attorney Jane Wallace presented a resolution regarding utility rate relief for residents, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.



2019 State Legislative Priorities and Agenda

Priorities:

Affordable Housing:

Protect the State Housing Trust Fund and Local Government Trust Fund from being swept into other funds (SB 70- Passidomo)

TBARTA:

Fully fund TBARTA operations (\$1.5 M) and the 41-mile Regional Premium Transit Project

Community Redevelopment Areas:

Protect CRAs and allow local governments to administer them without burdensome regulations and limitations

Economic Development Corporations:

Preserve local control of EDCs without burdensome regulation and limitations

Arts/Division of Cultural Affairs:

Fully fund the DCA Grant Program - \$61.6 M (\$2.5 M for Pinellas)

Additional Agenda Items:

Appropriations:

Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program (\$1.9 million)

R'Club Hurricane Hardening

School Safety/Security programs

St. Pete Beach Sewer Improvements

Tampa Bay Business Incubator (\$2 million)

Workforce Training Programs

Business Rent Tax:

Support further reduction of the business rent tax

Diversity and Inclusion:

Support the Florida Competitive Workforce Act which provides that sexual orientation and gender identity are impermissible grounds for discrimination

Education:

Support maximizing early learning investments through pay-for-performance, increased accountability and workforce development in early education

Support the alignment of VPK assessments to developmental standards

Electric Scooters:

Support amending state law to allow electric scooters on city streets and bike lanes

Healthcare:

Support preserving current Medicaid funding/Oppose further cuts

Support increasing funding for behavioral/ mental health programs

Enterprise Florida:

Support fully funding Enterprise Florida to help attract businesses to the state

Film Industry:

Support the reinstatement of tax credits to encourage filming in Florida as a economic development tool

Insurance:

Support Assignment of Benefits reform

Pinellas County:

Support the removal of residency restrictions for Construction Licensing Board appointment

Visit Florida:

Support fully funding Visit Florida to overcome effects of Red Time on tourism

St. Petersburg legislative delegation priorities

(From 9/20/2018 and 5/17/2017 Reports)

- 1) Short-term rentals
- 2) CRA term limits
- 3) 40th Ave Bridge
- 4) Sadowski Fund/ Block grants
- 5) Stand Your Ground
- 6) School Security
- 7) Opioid epidemic
- 8) Restoring arts funding



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Montanari and Members of Budget, Finance & Taxation Committee

From: Tom Greene, Assistant City Administrator

Date: January 22, 2019

RE: Budget, Finance and Taxation Committee Follow-Up

During the Budget, Finance and Taxation Committee meeting held on January 10, 2019, there was discussion of the impacts of the partial federal government shutdown on our operations or the operations of our partners. This brief follow up memorandum will summarize our findings to date.

Lot Disposition Program

There are five (5) residential lots in our lot disposition program that are being impacted by the federal shut-down. These lots are ready to be leased to a developer or non-profit to build an affordable housing unit, but the EPA is unable to process the paperwork for the environmental assessments.

Current CDBG/ESG draws on hold (FY 2018/19 funding): The amounts reported here are for the portion of the entity's budget that is funded through St. Petersburg pass through.

Boley Centers – Safe Haven \$ 8,688.02 (\$846,486 budget, we are only 7% of budget)
Homeless Leadership Board \$ 1,490.48 (\$400,648 budget, we are only 7% of budget)
Pinellas Opportunity Council \$ 11,906.50 (\$392,990 budget, we are only 8% of budget)
St. Vincent DePaul \$ 2,671.03 (\$399,374 budget, we are only 15% of budget)
Westcare - Turning Point \$ 3,091.40 (\$1,138,560 budget, we are only 3% of budget)
Westcare - Davis-Bradley \$ 7,316.11 (\$548,767 budget, we are only 12% of budget)

Based on recent conversations we have had with several of the providers, all report that the shut-down is negatively impacting their cash flows. The Pinellas Opportunity Council reports that the delayed reimbursements are beginning to minimize services provided. The Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board has not reduced services as yet but, as the shut-down continues they will have increased difficulty providing the same level of service.



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MEMORANDUM

Albert Whitted -- Airports in the FAA Contract Tower Program and ATC contractors

Richard Lesniak, Manager of the airport, reports that our Tower is staffed through the Federal Contract Tower Program. Here is the latest info on the shutdown impacts (this info came from the **American Association of Airport Executives**)

"We have confirmed with FAA that all contract tower operations will continue to operate and be funded through the end of February during the government shutdown."

FEMA/Flood Insurance Claims

Liz Abernethy, Director of Planning and Development, confirms that she and her department have not yet seen any impacts on FEMA Claims or Flood Insurance Claims. Regarding the FEMA grants, all current executed grants are processed through the state and the money has already been awarded. Future grant cycles may be impacted and any modifications that we may wish to ask for related to FEMA grants, could be affected.

As it relates to claims, these are handled through private insurance agents and we have not heard of any issues to date.

Additionally, Boriana Pollard, City Auditor, and her team met this week with individuals from FEMA to discuss the city's Hurricane Irma claims.



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