



**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**  
City Council Meeting of July 14, 2015

**DATE:** July 1, 2015  
**TO:** Ronald L. Olson, City Manager  
**FROM:** Tom Tagliabue, Director, Intergovernmental Relations  
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Wrap Up Report on the 84th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature.

**STAFF PRESENTER(S):**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Title/Position</u></b> | <b><u>Department</u></b>    |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tom Tagliabue   | Director                     | Intergovernmental Relations |

**OUTSIDE PRESENTER(S):**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Title/Position</u></b> | <b><u>Organization</u></b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Snapper Carr    | General Counsel              | Focused Advocacy           |

**BACKGROUND :**

The Texas Legislature meets 140 days in odd-numbered years. Just shy of 6,400 bills and joint resolutions were filed during the regular session and 1,430 were passed and sent to the governor – roughly 22 percent.

A successful outcome could involve: passage of legislation, defeat of legislation, no legislation being filed, or funding for a particular program supported by the City. Unsuccessful could also mean passage of legislation the City opposed, defeat of legislation the City supported, no legislation being filed, or reduced or no funding for a particular program supported by the City. Partial success could mean passage of legislation, but no funding to implement or it could mean legislation with provisions the City supports, but contains several provisions the City might not support.

The City greatly appreciates the efforts of the Coastal Bend legislative delegation, specifically Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Representative Todd Hunter, and Representative Abel Herrero, along with their Capitol, District and committee staff. The City’s success in advancing the Council’s legislative agenda would not have been possible without the support, cooperation and capable leadership of these dedicated individuals.

Below is a numerical summary of the outcomes for the City’s legislative priorities for the 84th Regular Session. In total, Council had adopted nine policy issues to address this session. In the end, five (55 percent) had outcomes that would be considered successful or partially successful. Specific information on the policy issues is contained in Attachment #1.

Of the City’s nine issues categorized as a “Priority” this session, five had outcomes that would be considered successful (55 percent).

Of the City’s nine issues categorized as “Actively Support” this session, five had outcomes that would be considered successful (55 percent).

Of the City’s nine issues categorized as “Endorse” this session, four had outcomes that would be considered successful (44 percent).

There were six other high profile issues tracked throughout the session involving the City’s policy guidelines, which ended with five successful outcomes (83 percent).

During the session a number of policy issues arise that do not fit within the Council’s adopted policy guidelines. In October 2012 as in previous sessions, the Intergovernmental Relations Director and the City’s lobby team analyze bills and amendments using the following principles:

| The City <i>SUPPORTS</i> legislation and/or administrative actions that:  | The City <i>OPPOSES</i> legislation and/or administrative actions that:   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance City revenues.</li> <li>• Reduces or eliminates costs to the City.</li> <li>• Support local control.</li> <li>• Protects policies previously established by City leadership through the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans.</li> <li>• Provide increased educational opportunities for the citizens of Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend region by supporting its public schools, community colleges, and universities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undermine the principle of home rule and local control by the City.</li> <li>• Results in the loss of revenue or negatively impacts potential revenue growth to the City.</li> <li>• Diminishes the authority of cities to regulate and manage their growth and development.</li> <li>• Nullify or undermine the City’s policies contained in existing provisions of the Charter, ordinances, resolutions, and master plans, unless such changes expand the City’s ability to manage its own affairs.</li> <li>• Imposes unfunded mandates that requires any expenditures by the City unless all costs are fully reimbursed by the mandating governmental entity.</li> </ul> |

An inordinate amount of effort and political capital are expended opposing bad or harmful legislation. The 84th Regular Session was no different as the Intergovernmental Relations Director, and lobbyists Tim Brown, Snapper Carr and Brandon Aghamalian worked diligently to prevent passage of bills and amendments that would limit, weaken, harm or negatively impact municipalities.

Throughout the regular session, the Intergovernmental Relations Director and the City’s lobby team worked with the Texas Municipal League as well as stakeholders in the Coastal Bend, such as the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Nueces County, the Corpus Christi Independent School District, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Regional Transit Authority, and others. Transportation Advocates of Texas, H2O4 Texas, Water

Environment Association of Texas, Texas Traffic Safety Coalition, and many others.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

1. Powerpoint Presentation
2. Matrix of the City's Legislative Priorities
3. Texas Municipal League's Legislative Update, June 5, 2015