



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: June 1, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: B. Francis, City Manager

Subject: Lobbyist Presentation (Discussion of priorities)

Background: The City Council gave approval to develop and advertise a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit proposals from lobbyist firms. The Council accepted the proposal of Gray Robinsons. The Lobbyist is to assist the City in preparing its annual legislative priorities and plan; advise, counsel, and represent the City in legislative matters; further the City's legislative priorities and may be called upon to pursue funding for municipal projects at the county, state and federal levels of government.

There are several areas that are of importance such as lake issues and control of the lake, the use of technology to conduct meetings, and those issues currently at the state level that erode Home Rule (Short Term Rentals, Business Licenses, permitting).

There is also the need to look at what federal programs the City can take advantage of such as American Rescue Plan Act and grant funding at the federal level for other large projects. With federal funding being extremely competitive and limited in availability, the lobbyist can assist in identifying federal grant programs that we might be eligible for.

Staff Recommendation: Discuss 2021-2022 priorities. Remember – the City directs the lobbyist on what they believe is the priorities for next year. Without knowing what is important to the City, the lobbyist will not be effective.

Suggested Motion: **None, but a consensus on what priorities the Council wants to move forward.**

Alternatives: None

Fiscal Impact: As discussed

Attachments: None but Council should bring their list of priorities that they want the lobbyist to work on.