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## City Council Regular Meeting

**DEPARTMENT:** Legal Department  
**FROM:** Justin Scharnhorst, Assistant to the City Manager  
**MEETING:** December 12, 2022

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**SUBJECT:**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the City Council's priorities for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session (*Staff Presenter: Justin Scharnhorst, Assistant to the City Manager*).

**SUMMARY:**

The City Council has historically developed a legislative program that lists the City's positions and priorities on local government-related issues prior to the convening of the Texas Legislature. The 88th legislative session begins January 10, 2023, and legislators began filing legislation in November 2020. During the 87th Session, more than 2,000 bills introduced would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way.

The city of Burleson, and other cities, utilize different organizations to help monitor legislation drafted and debated in Austin that may infringe upon local authority. The Texas Municipal League (TML) provides legal, legislative, and training services to city governments in Texas. But they also provide information to state legislators on how bills will affect local government. The city of Burleson also has a legislative consultant, Focused Advocacy, to help bring the city's position on specific issues to legislatures.

Why is it important to develop a legislative program?

Cities and elected officials are occasionally asked to have an opinion on a variety of bills that affect local government. There are also times when elected officials or staff, as subject matter experts, are asked to testify or speak to state legislators on specific issues/proposed legislation, or to pass resolutions in support or opposition to bills.

Staff would like to understand the City Council's position as a whole, not as individual members, on critical issues that will be discussed during the upcoming legislative session.

**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Approve City Council legislative program as proposed

- 2) Approve City Council legislative program with changes
- 3) Deny City Council legislative program

**RECOMMENDATION:**

N/A

**PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:**

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