



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Ginny Sawyer, Project and Policy Manager
Tyler Marr, Interim Deputy City Manager
Carrie Daggett, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2022-104 Adopting the City's 2023 Legislative Policy Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to adopt the City's 2023 Legislative Policy Agenda. Each year the Legislative Review Committee develops a legislative agenda to assist in the formation, analysis, and advocacy of pending legislation and regulation. The Legislative Policy Agenda is used as a guide by Council and staff to determine positions on legislation and regulation under consideration at the state and federal levels and as a general reference for state legislators and the City's congressional delegation.

The Legislative Review Committee reviewed and made changes/updates at the August 30, 2022, meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Legislative Policy Agenda (LPA) is a guiding document meant to highlight our home rule status and reflect issues that affect the quality of life and governance of our community. It also reflects strategic goals of the City and areas of specific focus based on recent Council and staff policy efforts. It is used as a guide by Council and staff to determine positions on pending or introduced legislation, and as a general reference for residents, community organizations, state legislators, and members of Congress.

The Legislative Policy Agenda also refers to the City's partners in the legislative space, which include the Colorado Municipal League, the National League of Cities, the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities, and Colorado Communities for Climate Action.

The 2022 LPA was developed with direction from Council and input from City staff, then reviewed by the Legislative Review Committee (LRC), which is currently comprised of Councilmembers Canonico, Peel, and Mayor Arndt.

A redlined version is attached to this Agenda Item Summary. A clean version is attached as Exhibit A to the Resolution. Once adopted, the Communications and Public Involvement Office will format and design into a polished document for limited printing and placement on fcgov.com. Noted changes in this year's version include:

- The addition of language intended to streamline and offer guidance when position requests are made.
 - *If staff or Councilmembers are contacted regarding letters of support or opposition from CML, CC4CA, or Representatives, staff will ensure alignment with LPA and provide a letter signed by the Mayor. If staff or Councilmembers are contacted by lobbyists or other interest groups with requests for letters of support or opposition no action will be taken unless directed by the LRC.*
- Added stronger language in parts of the ENERGY section.
 - *Supports initiatives to **reduce or eliminate** natural gas and petroleum use via beneficial electrification for thermal and transportation needs.*
 - *Supports minimizing the environmental impacts of energy production, **reducing fossil-fuel generated electricity and eliminating the use of coal.***
- Inclusion of a statement addressing the Council Priority around Animal Cruelty.
 - *Supports efforts to ensure the health and safety of domestic animals and appropriate penalties for cases of abuse, cruelty, and neglect.*
- Removal of statements that have been addressed through legislation.
 - *Opposes CRS Section 25 17 104, which limits local authority to regulate packaging material (e.g. single use plastic bags.)*
 - *Supports continued efforts to enable municipalities to consider local minimum wage policies.*
 - *Supports potential legislation to clarify when an email exchange among elected officials constitutes a “meeting” subject to the requirements of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, including possible identification of a safe harbor within which elected officials can communicate by electronic mail without constituting a meeting in order to preserve and enable the use of this effective and now common-place technology within appropriate transparency requirements and other reasonable limitations.*
- Added a statement supporting financing options for water conservation.
 - *Opposes barriers to financing for water conservation projects and supports new financing opportunities for these projects including grants, zero/low interest loans, etc.*

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A
3. Legislative Policy Agenda (redlined)
4. Legislative Review Committee Minutes, August 30, 2022