

# **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM**



## **2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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## **City of Beverly Hills**

### **STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

#### **Platform Overview**

The purpose of the legislative platform is to provide a means for summarizing the City's core legislative principles for the purpose of advocacy efforts at the regional, state and federal level. The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

The legislative platform sets forth the City's legislative objectives for the 2017 legislative session and provides direction for our legislative advocates as they work to secure clear and strategic initiatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Approval of the legislative platform also streamlines the City's process and allows the City's Executive team to effectively respond and take immediate action on pressing legislation under City Council direction.

The policies established within the platform do not preclude City Council consideration of additional legislative matters arising throughout the year that may be brought forward for City Council action as presented to the City Council Legislative/Lobby Liaison Committee.

The City's primary legislative focus includes protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, obtaining funding for environmental sustainability, transportation, recreational, technology and infrastructure improvements.

#### **Local Control**

- )] Support legislation that enhances local control of resources and that allows Beverly Hills to address the needs of local constituents within a framework of regional cooperation.
- )] Support legislation that encourages the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates.
- )] Oppose preemption of the City of Beverly Hills' local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.
- )] In general, oppose any county, state or federal mandates without the direct or indirect reimbursement for the costs associated with complying with new and/or modified laws, regulations, policies, procedures, permits and/or programs.
- )] Support measures increasing local autonomy, protecting privacy and maintaining local authority over public records. This includes measures that provide for the recovery of costs with regard to public records requests.
- )] Support transparent government and the role of the California Public Records Act while simultaneously observing and protecting the current Rule of Law in

California including better legislation in regards to protecting the privacy of public records and enhancing laws related to digital records.

- )] Support legislation that preserves local control of Airbnb

### **Pension Reform**

- )] Monitor, encourage, and lobby for legislative initiatives designed to achieve public employee pension reform.
- )] Inform the City Council of future legislative bills, statewide initiatives or other options as they emerge.
- )] Continue to support, where necessary and applicable, any future efforts that may impact Beverly Hills ability to achieve and/or maintain sustainable pensions.

### **Fiscal and Administrative Initiatives**

- )] Support fiscal sustainability and 'best in class' administrative initiatives to ensure the delivery of superlative city services.
- )] Monitor initiatives which seek changes in fiscal relationships at the local, state and federal level.
- )] Support legislation that guarantees ongoing revenue sources for local government.
- )] Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, homeland security, library, parks and social service facilities.
- )] Oppose any legislation that would undermine voter-approved initiatives to guarantee ongoing revenue sources for Beverly Hills.
- )] Oppose legislation that would preempt the City's authority over local taxes and fees.
- )] Protect the City's right to levy and collect Transient Occupancy Taxes from hotels, including online hotel intermediaries.
- )] Oppose any federal or state legislation that would provide immunity to online hotel intermediaries and/or prohibit the City from collecting (retroactively or otherwise) Transient Occupancy Taxes.
- )] Support continued or expanded funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- )] Oppose the reduction to Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Grants.
- )] Oppose any attempt to eliminate or limit the traditional tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- )] Engage in and advocate for legislation or ballot measures to prevent the state from borrowing, raiding or otherwise redirecting local government funds (local taxes, property taxes, etc.).
- )] Continue to promote increased flexibility for the utilization of municipally generated revenues.

- )] Support California League of Cities legislative efforts for pension reform and other post-employment benefits (**OPEB**) unfunded liability.

### **Electoral Process**

- )] Monitor legislative or other initiatives which may address the integrity of the electoral process.
- )] Encourage safeguards ensuring that all eligible voters are provided with the mechanisms to exercise the right to vote.
- )] Support initiatives which promote government transparency regarding the election process.
- )] Support legislation that provides a mechanism to ensure non-eligible voters are unable to vote in an election.

### **Public Safety**

- )] Oppose legislation or other administrative actions that seek to limit the Beverly Hills Police Department's ability to collect and utilize asset forfeiture funds for a wide variety of police services.
- )] Support legislation that provides frontline funding to the Beverly Hills Police Department for costs associated with the early release of state prisoners as a result of state-mandated criminal justice realignment provisions.
- )] Support the development and use of new firefighting technology in order to produce higher levels of health and safety for the Beverly Hills Fire Department.
- )] Advocate for legislation/funding that would take advantage of current technology to prevent crime in Beverly Hills (i.e. - the ability to use surveillance cameras and automatic license plate recognition technology).
- )] Support the deployment and research of new and emerging technologies that will provide the Beverly Hills Police Department with tools to provide the highest level of service including:
  - Next Generation 911
  - Mobile and Body Worn Cameras
  - New Generation Investigative Technology - including unmanned aircraft
  - Digital Evidence - support funding for local jurisdictions to collect, store and retain digital evidence.
- )] Support legislation and seek funding that will assist in preventing and reducing crimes in Beverly Hills, primarily related to cyber-crime, drugs, gang violence, mental illness, and pedestrian safety.
- )] Oppose legislation to expand "early release" for low-risk, serious and violent offenders.
- )] Support legislation to increase funding to ensure responsible supervision by parole agents and for local agencies that provide post-release supervision.
- )] Support efforts to reverse all legislation, including AB 109, that created "early release" for low-risk, serious and violent offenders.



- )] Oppose any efforts to further decriminalize existing crimes in California or lessen the sentences of any offenses that would result in the release of serious criminals who would further harm the safety of the public and law enforcement personnel.
- )] Support interoperable communication solutions that meet radio spectrum needs of first responders.
- )] Support efforts to eradicate human trafficking.
- )] Support legislation that aids paramedics and other emergency medical service practitioners in their ability to be responsive to community needs.
- )] Seek grants and pilot project/demonstration project funding for public safety programs and priorities.
- )] Support funding initiatives for Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) and other law enforcement support organizations.
- )] Support and encourage legislation and budget negotiations that retain funding the Beverly Hills Police Department that includes behavioral health treatment, drug and trafficking taskforces; crisis intervention teams; and adequate patrol staffing.
- )] Identify opportunities for reimbursements to Beverly Hills for increased custodial and supervision costs resulting from prison realignment.
- )] Support funding for the increased demand being placed on Beverly Hills to respond to societal issues including homelessness; substance abuse and dependency; and unpredictable and potentially harmful behavior towards the public and peace officers.
- )] Support a more effective and relevant reporting of local agency data, and ensure that any disclosed data be fair and equitable.
- )] Support legislation that amends the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulation *42 CFR 410.40 Coverage of Ambulance Services (e)* to allow Medicare reimbursement for beneficiaries not transported to the emergency department by the Beverly Hills Fire Department. This would include:
  - Allowing CMS to provide a benefit to local jurisdictions for 'dry runs'
  - Allowing CMS to provide a benefit for treatment in the field apart from transport, including reimbursement for mid-level practitioners, such as nurse practitioners, as many jurisdictions are moving towards a model of staffing Emergency Medical Services with a higher level of medical care.

### **Emergency Management and Homeland Security**

- )] Support strategies, legislation and funding that promotes emergency preparedness, resiliency and recovery efforts.
- )] Advocate for I.C.I. System (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations.
- )] Support funding opportunities for local homeland security, public safety and emergency management programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations.

- )] Seek grants and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security, public safety and emergency management priorities.
- )] Support federal funding for the deployment and long-term sustainment of the Biowatch program in Beverly Hills.

## **Housing and Land Use**

- )] Pursue incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements.
- )] Support federal and state funding for affordable senior housing opportunities and projects.
- )] Monitor land use issues and support legislative and administrative efforts to maintain the integrity of local government's control over land use, planning and zoning matters.
- )] Emphasize local control related to land use planning.

## **Transportation**

- )] Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to photo speed radar enforcement, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements.
- )] Promote funding, policy goals and visibility for the development of autonomous vehicles.
- )] Support regional, state and federal efforts for the development of compatible autonomous vehicle infrastructure.
- )] Support measures and discretionary grant programs that provide funding for critical transportation infrastructure projects that improve mobility for residents and visitors in and around Beverly Hills.
- )] Support legislation that expands transportation planning, funding, and voluntary incentives to include an increasingly multi-modal perspective focusing on transit, alternative fuel vehicles and fleets, pedestrian ways, bikeways, multi-use trails and parking.
- )] Support measures which provide the City's fair share of funding from the State's cap and trade funding sources.
- )] Support legislation that would discourage the misuse of disabled placards.
- )] Work with other agencies in the region to support current state and federal funding levels and encourage increased funding and flexibility in both operating and capital funding for mass transit.
- )] In conjunction with the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCOG) and other agencies, support legislation that provides incentives for the development of local transportation corridors.
- )] Support local, regional, state and federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory efforts that will expand and/or supplement funding for maintaining and upgrading

major thoroughfares in Beverly Hills, allowing for better traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

- )] Support increased state and federal resources to mitigate traffic congestion on the City of Beverly Hills' streets and rebuild and maintain roads.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- )] Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental policy and programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, potable water, wastewater, solid waste removal and storm water, among others.
- )] Support legislation protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment where it does not conflict with local control and land use designations.
- )] Support efforts to create partnerships among the City, Beverly Hills Unified School District, businesses, residents, and all other community stakeholders as necessary to achieve a sustainable community.
- )] Support legislation to combat climate change and improve air quality.
- )] Support funding to foster an energy efficient, walk-able community that provides ample goods, services and benefits to all residents while respecting the local environment.
- )] Support legislation and funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (MTA) and other regional transit authorities to continue to create multi-modal transportation systems that minimizes pollution and reduces motor vehicle congestion while ensuring access and mobility for all.

### **Community Services**

- )] Support legislation related to the Internet and filtering in public facilities.
- )] Support funding for literacy and English-as-a-second language programs.
- )] Support protection against censorship and restriction of free speech.
- )] Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades.
- )] Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations such as the frail elderly, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.
- )] Support legislation that provides opportunities for healthy aging in place options.
- )] Support funding and policy initiatives that support mental health care (e.g., access to psychiatric facilities, behavioral health care treatment, and street-based services).
- )] Support legislation that addresses the need for housing and supportive services, (e.g. health, mental health and social services) for the City's homeless population.

### **Public Health**

- )] Continue to promote legislation that enhances the health of the general population, with an emphasis on programs that focus on youth, the elderly and at-risk populations.



- )] Monitor opportunities to expand the City's 'Fresh Air Dining' ordinance to other communities or through state legislation.
- )] Support legislation that will increase funding for mental health at the local level in order to address mental health issues and the impact those with mental health issues have on Beverly Hills.
- )] Support legislation that expands the treatment of, and response to, mentally ill persons and the growing issues associated with the mentally ill.
- )] Support legislative efforts to regulate the smoking of any substance at multi-family complexes.

### **General Government**

- )] Support legislation that would prohibit the flying of helicopters or other aircraft at low altitudes over residential neighbors excluding police, fire or other public safety aircraft.
- )] Support efforts to increase state resources for local arts, cultural events and library programs, including performing and visual arts programs.
- )] Support legislation that encourages policies and programming that promote healthy lifestyles; e.g. physical activity, preventative screenings, healthful eating and core wellness for people of all ages and abilities.
- )] Support legislation that would establish state wide regulations prohibiting the use of unmanned aircraft to record or transmit any visual audio recording of any person or private real property in which the subject person or owner of property has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

### **Public Works - Stormwater**

- )] Support state and county efforts to develop avenues for agencies to collect revenue to support stormwater retention efforts.
- )] Support legislation that would classify stormwater as a utility similar to water, wastewater and solid waste services.
- )] Support legislation for funding stormwater infrastructure improvements, including building facilities to capture stormwater runoff and integrate with local, regional and statewide water resources.
- )] Support legislation that would provide pragmatic compliance goals in statewide and regional NPDES permits.
- )] Ensure the state continues to fund the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) capital construction budget for offsetting their requirements to limit their total maximum daily load (TMDL) for pollutant discharge. Encourage Cal Trans to continue to enter into Cooperative Implementation Agreements with local jurisdictions to fund stormwater capture and retention projects.
- )] Ensure that the State (State Water Resources Control Board) continues to provide Cal Trans Stormwater a Compliance Based Credit System that includes compliance based on using funds to support stormwater projects that would meet statewide TMDLs.

## **Public Works – Water & Utilities**

- )] Support measures that uphold the ability of the City of Beverly Hills City Council to regulate and manage their publicly owned water utility so that local authority is not eroded by state or federal agencies, authorities, or other regulatory bodies.
- )] Oppose legislation that adds requirements to provide services that customers do not value, want, or need.
- )] Support legislation that ensures local ratemaking authority is preserved and remains meaningful.
- )] Support policies that recognize, support, and credit the role of water conservation and water use efficiency in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- )] Support local control of groundwater uses and groundwater rights unless otherwise contraindicated.
- )] Support local control for planning management and use of water supplies to address local needs and contribute to long-term sustainability, unless otherwise contraindicated.
- )] Support efforts that seek to bring federal sources of funding to California for water infrastructure development and renewable energy development through water management.
- )] Support cost effective water conservation programs and incentives that are funded by the state or federal government.
- )] Support flexible funding options that will help Beverly Hills upgrade and replace water and wastewater infrastructure.
- )] Support legislation for state funding for the development of local water supply and water conservation efforts.
- )] Support legislation that provides the City of Beverly Hills the flexibility to implement community choice aggregation for the purchase of electricity and oppose legislation that would place overly strict requirements on the establishment of, and activities by, community choice aggregators.
- )] Oppose legislation that makes it more difficult for community-choice aggregators to begin operation.
- )] Support legislation that ensures equitable cost-sharing between investor-owned utilities and community choice aggregation for stranded costs.
- )] Support funding and legislation for water recycling projects.

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