

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL January 25, 1999

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of the List of Priority Issues for Federal and State Legislation for the 1999 Legislative Sessions

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the City Manager's list of priority issues for federal and state legislation for the 1999 legislative sessions.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City Manager has prepared a list of legislative priorities for the 1999 legislative sessions at both the state and federal levels. This list of priorities will be forwarded to our lobbyists and allow the City to take a focused, offensive approach to working with our elected officials in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. This list will inform our legislators of Pasadena's needs and priorities and let them know our position on critical issues. In some cases, the City will need to work with our legislators and request they author or support bills that will advance our needs. The complete list of federal priority issues can be found in Attachment A and the complete list of state priority issues can be found in Attachment B.

On December 8, 1998, the Legislative Committee of the City Council supported these priorities and asked to have them brought before the entire City Council for approval. Additionally, on January 11, 1999 at a joint meeting with the Board of Education, the City Council directed staff to include supporting legislation that would help reduce the number of children who are not covered by medical insurance added to the City's legislative priorities.

The City will still need to take positions on particular bills as they are created. As in past years, staff will return to Council with recommendations to support or oppose proposed laws that could impact Pasadena.

At the federal level, the City's key issues are the deregulation of the electric power industry and securing funding for a number of key city needs such as: the seismic retrofit and restoration of City Hall; transportation agencies such as the MTA; parks capital improvements; and the Community-Oriented Policing Services program.

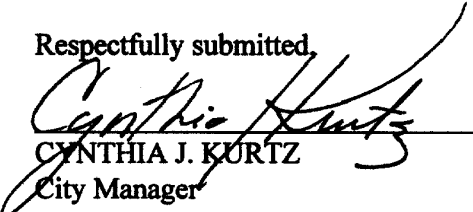
At the state level, eight issues occupy our priority list. The most important is the need for the state to review how local governments are funded and to return some of the property taxes raided from cities in the early 1990s. The seven other key issues areas are:

- Schools and libraries - funding for a comprehensive library skills program for PUSD students at our City libraries and a \$500 million state-wide bond initiative for library construction and renovation.
- Protecting the rights of publicly-owned power agencies as they compete in the new market place.
- Funding of capital improvements in our parks.
- Controlling handgun sales and banning assault weapons.
- Funding for the seismic retrofit and restoration of City Hall.
- Transportation issues such as protecting the funding of the Pasadena Blue Line Construction Authority and securing funding for sound walls.
- Improvement of the State's Children's Health Insurance Program or the Healthy Families' Program.

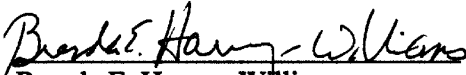
### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds are already budgeted for legislative lobbying efforts. This list of priority issues will help focus these programmed efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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