



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Adam Mayberry, Community Relations Manager

Date: January 31, 2012

Subject: **State Legislative Platform**

Background:

The City of Sparks recognizes the need for an active state Legislative Program to ensure that the interests of its residents are protected and/or enhanced. The City's state Legislative Platform is the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy.

Legislative platforms convey to legislators, policymakers, the public and the media where the Mayor and City Council stand in unity, on important policy positions. Similar to a strategic plan, the Legislative Platform also provides a mechanism for staff, the Mayor and City Council to be on the same page and better coordinate implementation of the City's priorities.

The Legislative Platform also allows the City to respond quickly in support of, or opposition to, issues that could directly impact the City.

Since 2006, the City of Sparks has utilized a full-time Government Affairs Program in reporting to elected officials, along with monitoring and coordinating state and federal legislative activities. The City Council approved the City's Federal Legislative Platform on December 12, 2011.

It is time to begin preparing for the 2013 Nevada State Legislative Session. To that end, the City's Charter Committee is scheduled to convene on February 15.

Analysis:

This agenda item discusses the draft State Legislative Platform and Policies, as well as possible bill draft requests and general election advisory question.

Draft State Legislative Platform and Policies:

The document attached to this staff report is a draft of the City's 2012-13 State Legislative Platform and Policies. The document establishes City Council policies,

procedures, and programs on state legislative issues and the government affairs functions. The current update, similar to the platform adopted in 2010, prepares the City's programs and policies for the 2012 Nevada legislative interim session, 2013 regular session, and on-going state relations.

New to the State Legislative Platform are core principles as proposed in this draft. The core platform principles are derived from the City's strategic plan.

Also, as in years past, the draft State Legislative Platform and Policies includes direction on communications and operations of the Legislative Team currently consisting of Mayor Martini and Councilwoman Julia Ratti.

Bill Draft Request / Advisory Ballot Question Discussion and Policy Direction:

Staff is also using this opportunity for the Mayor and City Council to provide policy direction on possible topics for bill draft requests (BDR) and any applicable legislative issues such as ballot questions. We want to use the time during this retreat to find out what is most important to you.

As an example, there has been interest in proposing a BDR that would reverse property tax depreciation at the point of sale. Staff will return to the Mayor and City Council with a broader analysis of BDR topics based on today's discussion.

The City is entitled to sponsor a single BDR for the state legislative session. The BDR must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau by September 4, 2012. In order to allow staff time to prepare and begin the process of submittal, we are asking that the decision on the City's BDR be made by June, 2012.

According to the Washoe County Registrar of Voters, a ballot question, along with an explanation and arguments must be submitted by July 16, 2012.

Alternatives:

1. The Council may approve the State Legislative Platform as presented and provide further direction to staff.
2. The Council may not approve the State Legislative Platform as presented and provide further direction to staff.
3. The Council may provide further direction to staff.

Recommended Motion:

I move that staff proceed with the State Legislative Platform and direct staff as presented.

cc: Shaun Carey, City Manager