

## RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

Establishing the City's priorities and positions on matters that may come before the 114th United States Congress, 1st Session, in 2015.

WHEREAS, the City Council established Priorities and Performance Indicators on January 10, 2013, through adoption of Resolution No. 130025; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned priorities have been the Council's guide in policymaking; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to publish general statements of its priorities and positions on matters that may become the subject of or be affected by proposed federal legislation during the 1st Session of the 114th United States Congress in 2015, relating to said City Council priorities; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the City Council of Kansas City hereby adopts the positions below on matters that may come before the 114th United States Congress, 1st Session, in 2015, and opposes any efforts to erode local control of municipal services.

### 1. **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

- a. **Long-term Infrastructure Investments** - Support the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs in a manner which enhances dedicated funding for key programs that connect communities, make streets safer, and promote healthy modes of transportation such as biking and walking.
- b. **Appropriation requests for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Projects** – Request continued Federal funding in FY 2016 for flood risk management and water resources efforts for the following projects:
  1. **Kansas City's Seven (7) Levees** – \$2,000,000.00 for Phase 1 construction and \$1,000,000.00 for Phase 2 design and construction;
  2. **Turkey Creek Basin** – \$18,000,000.00 for construction;
  3. **Swope Park Industrial Area** – \$10,000,000.00 for one major construction contract that will result in overall cost savings for the project or \$2,800,000.00 for crucial small segment construction;

RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

4. **Blue River Basin (Dodson)** – \$14,400,000.00 for construction to complete the project;
  5. **Missouri River Degradation** – \$300,000.00 for General Investigations;
  6. **Brush Creek Basin** – \$600,000.00 for design and construction under the Continuing Authorities Program;
  7. **Line Creek Basin** – \$100,000.00 for General Investigations;
  8. **Construction and Investigations Programs** – Support robust federal funding of flood risk management and water resources efforts through construction and investigations accounts;
  9. **Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)** – Support robust funding of CAP to allow small flood risk management and ecosystem restoration projects to move forward under the Congressional no earmark policy; and
  10. **Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 Policy Development and Programming Funding** – Support federal funding to develop new implementation guidance, WIFIA program funding, and levee safety program.
- c. **Authorization Requests for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Projects** – Request the following authorization requests be included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2015 Annual Report and authorized by Congress in the next Water Resources and Development Act bill:
1. **Kansas City’s Seven Levees** – Modification of existing authorization to include all Levee Units of the System at total project cost of \$402,500,000;
  2. **Turkey Creek Basin** – Authorization to increase the 902 limit to \$145,300,000.00;
  3. **Swope Park Industrial Area** – Authorization to increase the 902 limit to \$30,300,000.00; and
  4. **Blue River Basin (Dodson)** – Authorization to increase the 902 limit to \$47,000,000.00.
- d. **WRRDA 2014 Implementation** – Support implementing the following sections of WRRDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

1. **Project Streamlining** – expedites evaluation and processing of permits, concurrent Agency reviews, and accelerated project delivery;
  2. **Levee Safety Program** – establishes a comprehensive levee safety program that strengthens our existing flood protection systems and reduces risk; and
  3. **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)** - A new and innovative financing mechanism to help meet the nation's critical water infrastructure needs; support eliminating the prohibition on local government municipal bonds for local match and support increasing project eligibility to 100%.
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- e. **Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule Making** - Monitor EPA and U.S. Corps of Engineers on WOTUS rulemaking; support collaborative approach between EPA, Corps of Engineers, and state and local officials.
  - f. **Clean Water Affordability Legislation** - Monitor legislation on regulating EPA Clean Water Act Compliance and Ratepayer Affordability.
  - g. **Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act** – Support legislation for matching grants to communities for resiliency and climate adaptation infrastructure projects.
  - h. **Missouri River Basin** – Support of the recommendations of the Missouri River Independent Science Advisory Panel.
  - i. **Responsible Management of the Missouri River** – Support the efforts that assure the ongoing management of the Missouri River to meet all authorized purposes: flood control, navigation, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife, irrigation, recreation, and hydropower. Emphasis should be placed on 1) flood control – due to the immediate, large-scale and potentially life-threatening impacts upon public health and safety; 2) navigation – in part due to the recognition that when flows for water borne transportation are met so are many other needs in the lower basin; and 3) water supply – because this vital and essential resource must be managed and protected to assure its ongoing availability to future generations and the Kansas City region.
  - j. **Airport Passenger Facility Charges** – Support lifting the cap on local Passenger Facility Charges user fees at airports.

## RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

- k. **Amtrak** – Continue support of the national rail passenger network including repairs necessary for the continuing operation of the current Southwest Chief Amtrak route and other feeder routes for Kansas City including the Missouri River Runner and the proposed Heartland Flyer.
  - l. **Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)**  
– Advocate for the funding of the TIGER Discretionary Grant program.
2. **NEIGHBORHOODS & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**
- a. **Prepare our Kids for the Future** – Support efforts to expand early education for all children, including funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting, Head Start, and preschool development grant programs.
  - b. **Homelessness.**
    - 1. **Homeless Assistance Grants Program** – Support a \$2.4 billion appropriation for the Homeless Assistance Grants program within HUD to help the homeless gain independence, re-enter the workforce, and create more opportunities for their children.
    - 2. **Homeless Veterans.** Support funding for the Veterans Affairs homeless assistance programs at the level necessary to house every homeless veteran by the end of 2015 and empower a system that ensures that there is never another homeless veteran by providing \$75 million for new HUD-VA Supportive Housing vouchers and providing \$1.6 billion, including \$500 million for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.
  - c. **Low-income Housing.** Increase HUD’s ability to provide stable housing for low-income individuals by providing \$20 billion for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, enacting Section 8 voucher reform legislation, and by increasing access to permanent, affordable housing for extremely low-income individuals and families by modernizing the Mortgage Interest Deduction and using savings to capitalize and fund the National Housing Trust Fund.
  - d. **Access to Health Care and Public Health Interventions** – Continue support for full funding of the Affordable Care Act, including access expansion, consumer protections, emphasis on prevention and wellness, improving quality and system performance, expanding the health workforce and curbing the rising health care costs.
  - e. **Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act** – Support the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act.

## RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

- f. **Children's Insurance Program** – Support legislation for continued funding of the Child Health Insurance Program, which, since its inception in 1997, has helped to cut in half the uninsured rate for children.
  - g. **Affordable Child Care** – Support federal legislation that creates incentives for States to expand access to child care and to enhance quality of care standards for all existing and new child care agencies.
  - h. **Federal Block Grants for Prevention** – Continue to support Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant program; and support increased funding for the Nurse Family Partnership Program.
  - i. **Community Parks Revitalization Act** – Support the passage of the Community Park Revitalization Act which requires HUD to administer grants to assist localities in rebuilding, remodeling, expanding, or developing existing or new recreational facilities.
  - j. **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – Support full and dedicated funding to the LWCF, and support a mandated provision for a minimum of 40% of the total LWCF appropriation to the LWCF State Assistance Program annually.
3. **PUBLIC SAFETY**
- a. **Support Safer Communities** - Increase Department of Justice anti-violence funding for grants that will assist the Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KC NoVA) and the City's Aim4Peace Program. Several KC NoVA partners will receive funding besides the Kansas City (MO) police department, including the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission (fiscal agent for the initiative); the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology; the City of Kansas City's Neighborhood Prosecution Program; and Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC).
  - b. **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)** – Support continued UASI funding for Kansas City, Missouri to preserve critical capabilities to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond and recover from terrorism and other threats and hazards.
  - c. **Public Health Emergency Preparedness** – Support enabling legislation and additional funding for public health emergency preparedness that includes expanding the emergency response workforce; conducting community training; comprehensive communication systems; additional public health staffing; and continuation, support and expansion of

## RESOLUTION NO. 141021, AS AMENDED

monitoring systems along with public health supplies and equipment for emergency response efforts.

- d. **Assistance to Firefighter Grants (ASG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)** – Support continued funding of the ASG and SAFER programs funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- e. **Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)** – Support dedicated funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System which has operated without federal funding since 2011.

### 4. FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

- a. **Protect Infrastructure Financing** - Maintain existing tax-exempt status for municipal bonds, which are the primary vehicle for financing infrastructure projects. Elimination of the tax exemption would weaken local governments' ability to provide services at a low cost to constituents and would result in fewer new projects and a higher cost of services for the local community.
- b. **Immigration Reform**- Support comprehensive reform of current immigration laws to allow undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States to earn legal status and apply for citizenship.
- c. **Marketplace Fairness Act** – Support the Marketplace Fairness Act which allows state governments to require large out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales tax on purchases shipped to residents of those states.
- d. **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)** – Support the strong local governance role currently established in WIA. Oppose the consolidation of WIA funding into a state block grant, which would place primary decision-making on workforce development at the state rather than the local level.

### 5. OTHER AREA ORGANIZATIONS

**Other Area Organizations' Priorities** – Support the legislative priorities of the National League of Cities, Kansas City Industrial Council, Mid-America Regional Council, the Missouri and Associated Rivers Coalition and reStart for the 114th U.S. Congress, 1st session, in 2015.

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