

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

CC: 22R
Amend No. _____

Date prepared: January 24, 2008

Council Meeting Date: February 5, 2008

TO: Terrance L. Ellis, City Manager

FROM: John Schell, Intergovernmental Affairs Director 

SUBJECT: City of Peoria's Legislative Program for the 2008 State and Federal Legislative Session

RECOMMENDATION:

Mayor and Council are asked to provide direction on the City's Legislative Program for the 2008 State and Federal Legislative Sessions.

SUMMARY:

Staff will discuss the Intergovernmental Affairs Department responsibilities and guiding principles at the Legislature. Highlights from the 2007 legislative session will be briefly covered. Potential legislation of Peoria interest will also be discussed as described below.

State and Federal Legislative Issues

- Budget Overview (current and next fiscal year) – The State Legislature is working on fixing a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall for the current fiscal year 2008. The Governor and the Appropriations Chairs' have both come forward with their proposals. The Governor's economic estimates show a \$1.3 billion budget deficit in FY 2009; legislative budget analysts are predicting a \$1.7 billion shortfall. Potential impacts to Peoria will be presented.
- Property Tax and Income Tax Ballot Referrals – Several property tax reduction bills have already been introduced as follows: SCR1003 (Prop 13 Arizona) Property Tax Limits; Value Increases (Harper) and HCR2003 Property Tax; Limit Valuation Increases (McClure), HCR2051 Tax Exemption; Personal Property (Murphy, Pearce and Yarbrough), HCR2052 Repeal Business Personal Property Tax (Murphy, Pearce and Yarbrough). These and similar proposals will be presented.

CITY CLERK USE ONLY:

- Consent Agenda
- Carry Over to Date: _____
- Approved
- Unfinished Business (Date heard previous: _____)
- New Business
- Public Hearing: No Action Taken

ORD. # _____ RES. # _____
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Action Date: _____

- TIF (Tax Increment Financing) – Arizona is the only state in the country that does not have this financing mechanism in place. It is a tool used for redevelopment and community improvement projects. Legislation will be introduced to provide this tool for local governments as a way of enhancing local economic development efforts.
- TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) Peoria co-sponsored a resolution with City of Tucson and City of Yuma – this League of Cities resolution will urge the State Legislature to enable municipalities to enter into agreements with counties to provide for inter-jurisdictional transfer of development rights.
- Luke Air Force Base - The President has signed the Omnibus Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008 which included the \$5.5M for the Luke runway. He has also "pocket vetoed" the Defense Authorization Act due to some language regarding the ability of Iraqi POW's to sue the U.S. Government. The result of these actions is that \$5.5M for the Luke runway is absolutely secured.

Peoria's Exploratory Legislation

- "Rhinos" and "Rangers" – Peoria police officers continue to encourage operators of certain off road vehicles to operate them in a safe and community friendly manner. The use of "Rhinos" and "Rangers" pose unique public safety risks as they are not regulated in the same manner as other off road vehicles. The Peoria Police Department has requested the IGA department to help find a possible solution, including potential legislation.
- Jury Trials for Misdemeanor DUI Offenses - Peoria Municipal Court Judge Anagnost has proposed that the right to a jury trial be eliminated for "misdemeanor" DUI cases. Most (and even more serious) misdemeanor offenses are currently not jury trial eligible. The status of this proposal will be discussed.

ATTACHMENT: