

# Memorandum



DATE October 9, 2015

CITY OF DALLAS

TO The Honorable Members of the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee: Lee M. Kleinman (Chair), Mayor Pro Tern Erik Wilson (Vice Chair), Tiffinni A. Young, Adam Medrano, Jennifer S. Gates, Scott Griggs and Rickey D. Callahan

SUBJECT **Federal & State Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Lobbyist Contracts**

On October 13, 2015 the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee will receive a briefing on the FY2015-16 lobbyist contracts. The briefing will be provided by Assistant City Attorney Larry Casto and Brett Wilkinson, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Services.

The briefing materials are attached for your review.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.



A.C. Gonzalez  
City Manager

c: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

**FEDERAL & STATE  
Fiscal Year 2015-2016  
Lobbyist Contracts  
October 13, 2015**



# Overview

## **Recommend approval of contracts for legislative services with:**

- \* CapitalEdge Strategies (Ralph Garboushian)
- \* Paul Schlesinger and Hector Alcalde
- \* Randy Cain
- \* Kwame Walker
- \* Jesse Romero
- \* HillCo Partners



# CapitalEdge - Federal

Dallas is represented by CapitalEdge (Ralph Garboushian)

- \* Monitors federal legislation impacting Dallas and works with the Texas Congressional Delegation and the Executive Branch to advance City's interests and priorities as directed by City Council
- \* Works closely with national municipal organizations, including National League of Cities and US Conference of Mayors, to ensure awareness of the City's position and agenda
- \* Briefs Council Members and staff at annual meetings of NLC
- \* Visits the City annually and at other times requested by the City
- \* Works closely with City officials and staff to develop legislative and grant strategies

Dallas joined the Texas Cities Legislative Coalition (TCLC) in 1988

- \* TCLC is Dallas, Austin, Arlington, and Denton



# CapitalEdge Recent Successes

- \* Helped to preserve:
  - \* **Core local government programs** in the face of sequester mandated austerity (CDBG, HOME, local law enforcement assistance)
  - \* **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)**, which provides the Metroplex with **\$14 million** annually for disaster and terrorism preparedness and response
  - \* Language that protects the City's ability to charge rent for the use and management of City rights-of-way (over **\$30 million** annually) in the House-passed renewal of the Internet Tax Freedom Act
- \* Support from members of the House delegation for **sales tax fairness**
- \* Strong delegation awareness of the importance of **tax-exempt financing**
- \* General assistance and troubleshooting on a wide array of grant and regulatory issues
- \* Implementation of final 2008 ozone standard thus removing DFW from threat of redesignation to "severe non-attainment"



# Hector Alcalde and Paul Schlesinger - Federal

- \* Provides services related to the City's infrastructure needs for the Trinity River Corridor Project including:
  - \* Efforts to secure funding
  - \* Promoting adoption of legislative provisions that are beneficial to the project
  - \* Opposing legislation or regulations that might compromise the City's ability to complete projects
  - \* Assisting with the development of strategies to facilitate Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Transportation implementation of City priorities
- \* Provides legislative advocacy on federal transportation and water infrastructure that supports the City Council's strategic priorities



# Hector Alcalde and Paul Schlesinger

## Recent Successes

- \* Helped to secure:
  - \* Over \$100 million dollars for the Dallas Floodway Extension Project (DFE), most of which is above the amount requested by the Administration. Funding for DFE was accomplished almost entirely through “earmarks”
  - \* Nearly \$100 million for Trinity River bridges
  - \* Over \$11 million for the Dallas Floodway study, which is now complete
  - \* \$459 million for federal authorization of the Dallas Floodway, prior to completion of the Army Corps study process. The typical Corps process would likely have resulted in a project with much more limited scope
- \* Helped facilitate City discussion with Corps Headquarters on final approval of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Dallas Floodway
- \* Crafted clarifying legislation, despite the congressional earmark ban, that specifically includes west levee interior drainage as part of the above-referenced authorization
- \* Worked to secure \$8 million for the DFE Project in the FY 2015 Corps Work Plan



# General Lobbyists (State)

Randy Cain, Kwame Walker, Jesse Romero

- \* All lobbyists conduct necessary research, information gathering, and other supporting activities by maximizing the use of legislative contacts
- \* Review, analyze and monitor interim committee activities as requested by the City Attorney
- \* Study and recommend legislative initiatives for the upcoming State Legislative session
- \* Draft legislation as directed by the Assistant City Attorney





# General Lobbyists Recent Successes

## Initiatives Passed

- \* HB 1289 – Inclusion of commercial property in Urban Lank Bank Program
- \* HB 3160 – Expands municipalities' ability to file probate actions related to hazardous properties
- \* HB 2590 – Related to Deceptive Trade Practices Act and criminal penalties in certain real estate transactions
- \* SB 158 – Body Camera Pilot Program
- \* HB 100 – Tuition Revenue Bonds (UNT Dallas College of Law)
- \* HB 1733 – Transportation for Hire (insurance)
- \* HB 994 – Methane Recapture Property Tax Exemption
- \* SB 1101 – Protected Region C's interest in the Regional Water Planning Process (Rep. Sheets' amendment)



# General Lobbyists Recent Successes

## Opposed legislation that failed passage

- \* Restrict Annexation
- \* Preemption
- \* Restrict Home Rule Authority
- \* High Speed Rail
- \* Bond Limitations
- \* Revenue Caps
- \* Limit Eminent Domain
- \* CHL Cop Stop
- \* Anti-Toll road
- \* Concrete Barriers
- \* Vehicle for Hire Preemption
- \* Eliminate Red Light Cameras
- \* Veto Power by Regional Water Planning District
- \* Apply to Agency to Receive Disaster Recovery Funds
- \* Scenic Texas Mandates Vegetation
- \* Public Information Mandates
- \* Restrict TIFs
- \* Urban Garden Tax Exemption
- \* Cost Benefit Analysis Building Codes



# HillCo Partners (State)

- \* Hillco Partners represents the City on water issues in the Texas legislature and with State Agencies
- \* Works with City staff to represent the City on state level municipal water with a particular emphasis on funding for water resource projects, planning for water supplies, authority and regulation of water utilities, and use of eminent domain by utilities
- \* Advises the City on legislative actions and helps develop both short-term and long-term legislative strategies with respect to municipal water issues



# HillCo Partners Recent Successes

- \* Identified and tracked over 100 bills which changed water statutes or policies that could have impacted the City
- \* No legislation was passed or signed by the Governor which was detrimental to the City's utility or its water resources plans for the future
- \* Facilitated conversation between the City, HillCo, and members of the Legislature concerning future water supplies.



# State & Federal Lobbyist Contracts

## Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Lobbyist Contracts

LOBBYIST	FOCUS	AMOUNT
CapitalEdge Strategies	Federal	\$160,000
Paul Schlesinger	Federal	\$43,650
Hector Alcalde	Federal	\$73,800
HillCo Partners	State	\$86,250
Randy Cain	State	\$83,100
Kwame Walker	State	\$45,000
Jesse Romero	State	\$30,000
Total	<sup>12</sup>	\$521,800



# City Council Timeline

- \* October 13, 2015– Legislative Ad Hoc Committee Briefing
- \* October 28, 2015– Council vote on Lobbyist Contracts

