

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 8, 2017

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **December 13, 2017 City Council Agenda Items 48, 49 and 50 – Federal Legislative Services**

As mentioned in the City Attorney's memorandum to you on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 the City is reevaluating its state government relations program and has made a recommendation to forgo renewal of the state lobbyist contracts for FY 2017-18.

While the City reconsiders its state strategy, maintaining our federal lobbyist for FY 2017-18 is critical. With the current Administration and Congress, the City faces threats to several key sources of federal funding, as well as ever increasing threats to local control. Additionally, there are several important federal legislative matters impacting the City that Congress will likely consider in the coming year. For these reasons, staff is recommending renewal of contracts with CapitalEdge (Ralph Garboushian), Hector Alcalde and Paul Schlesinger. These individuals have an exceptional track record of proven success working on behalf of Dallas. Additionally, each has specialized background and expertise, as well as strong relationships with federal legislative offices and federal agencies, which has served the City's interest well.

For FY 2017-18, CapitalEdge will continue to advocate for a number of important items included in the City's legislative agenda, including protecting the City's interest in any tax reform legislation; protecting funding for core local government programs such as CDBG, HOME, local law enforcement and homeland security; enacting sales tax fairness legislation; increasing federal funding for the 2020 Census; increasing the Passenger Facility Charge and preserving the Contract Tower Program in the next FAA reauthorization bill; ensuring that the next National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization bill does not adversely affect Dallas property owners; and stopping efforts by the telecommunications industry to seek preemption of local authority on Capitol Hill and at the Federal Communications Commission.

Hector Alcalde and Paul Schlesinger will continue their important lobbying efforts related to water infrastructure and flood control. They will be working to secure federal funding for several flood mitigation projects related to the Dallas Floodway Project, as well as funding for work related to the Lewisville Dam repairs. Additionally, as in previous years, they will be working to further the City's needs through inclusion of any necessary provisions in the next Water Resources Development Act.

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The City Manager will be working closely with the City Attorney throughout the year as we review the City's entire federal and state government relations program, as well as our membership in local, state and national advocacy organizations. However, it is important, given the significant legislation planned for consideration in Washington next year, that the City retain its federal lobbyists for FY 2017-18. If you have any questions, please contact Brett Wilkinson, Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, at 214-670-5797.



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Chief of Staff, City Manager

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Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
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