

**CITY OF SAMMAMISH
WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. R2016-665**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH CITY
COUNCIL ADOPTING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2016**

WHEREAS, the City of Sammamish has an interest in influencing the development and amendment of state laws that affect the provision of City services, the construction of City facilities, and the associated revenues and costs; and

WHEREAS, to provide City services and facilities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, the City of Sammamish should communicate its priorities and interests to state legislators and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has established legislative priorities for 2016 under the themes of maintaining and restoring State-shared funding for infrastructure, local revenue options and reforms and greater flexibility in funding sources and that the City of Sammamish supports these priorities; and

WHEREAS, the legislative priorities attached to this resolution reflect the needs and interests of the residents and businesses in the City of Sammamish, and further support the AWC priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH,
WASHINGTON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The legislative priorities described in "Attachment A: City of Sammamish Legislative Priorities for 2016" are hereby adopted. The City Manager shall provide these priorities to legislators in Legislative Districts 41 and 45 prior to the start of the 2016 session and to other interested parties upon request.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF ON
THE 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.**

CITY OF SAMMAMISH


Mayor Donald J. Gerend

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to form:


Michael R. Kenyon, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: January 27, 2016
Passed by the City Council: February 2, 2016
Resolution No.: R2016-665

City of Sammamish Potential Draft Legislative Priorities For 2016

AWC Adopted and City Supported

Maintain and Restore State-Shared Revenue and Funding for Infrastructure: *It will be a priority of the city to protect "state-shared revenues" that are vital for local government operations, such as liquor taxes and municipal criminal justice assistance. Municipalities have aging and inadequate infrastructure and cities can't keep up with the increasing demands. If Washington is going to keep moving forward, we need the Public Works Trust Fund and other infrastructure programs intact, to allow for planned and sustained investments in communities.*

Local revenue Options and Reforms and Greater Flexibility with Funding Sources: *The long history of local/state revenue sharing, a partnership dating 70+ years, has been severely undermined in recent years as the state's needs for revenue have substantially been derived by diverting the revenue stream from cities. The temporary ability for Cities to use a portion of their Real Estate Excise Tax for infrastructure maintenance should be made permanent. The State should grant additional revenue options to the cities to keep the cities in the state fiscally sustainable.*

Help Cities prepare for and address the impacts of natural disasters and other emergencies: *Based on recent experiences with devastating wildfires, landslides, and other emergencies, cities need better ways to coordinate response and enhance communications in emergencies.*

Strengthen the Public Records Act in response to changing technology and burdensome requests: *Cities support open and transparent government and continue to seek the best ways to meet this commitment. Unfortunately there are a growing number of requestors who monopolize resources with broad voluminous retaliatory and commercial requests with public benefit disproportionate to the taxpayer dollars needed to fulfill these requests. Cities need additional tools to resolve conflicts outside the courtroom and the authority to charge a reasonable fee for such requests.*

Enhance the provision of much needed human service programs to address issues that drive increased homelessness and public safety costs: *Investment in the state's human services network is necessary. Greater access to mental health and substance abuse services is essential. Cities, together with the state, counties and other partners, need to develop strategies to address affordable housing shortages and homelessness.*

Preserve Regulatory Authority over Marijuana Business and Share Marijuana Excise Tax: *The new marijuana industry is subject to a 75% state excise tax, but none of that funding is directed to local jurisdictions to address public safety needs and other complex local impacts. Additionally, Medical and recreational marijuana regulations need to be reconciled to meet the federal mandate for a tightly regulated system.*

City Priorities

Support Liquor Tax Restoration: *Continue to support AWC efforts to ensure that suspension of liquor excise taxes going to local governments remains temporary (not permanent) and is not further reduced. The long history of local/state revenue sharing, a partnership dating 70+ years, has been severely undermined in recent years as the state needs for revenue have substantially been derived by diverting the revenue stream from cities.*

SR-202 is a vital regional commute corridor, not only for Sammamish but for many residents in Duvall, Carnation, Redmond and unincorporated King County. The corridor gets congested

Attachment "A"

during the AM and PM peak hours. An improved corridor would benefit many jurisdictions, including Sammamish. Thus, it should be among the City's legislative priorities to press the Washington State Department of Transportation to make necessary improvements.

Issaquah/Fall City Road is a critical transportation corridor for Sammamish, Issaquah and unincorporated King County residents. Sammamish has already taken initial steps to improve this road. We would like to get additional state funds to complete this much needed transportation corridor.

Support the Road Usage Charge Study: The Sammamish City Council unanimously supports the Road Usage Charge (vehicle miles traveled) study currently being conducted by the Transportation Commission as instructed by the Legislature.

Economic Development/Land Use/Environment

Support Legislation to ensure reliable cost recovery for upfront State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Work: Legislation is needed to allow local governments to fully recover SEPA review costs for infill development and planned actions via a latecomer's agreement or other mechanisms.

Support for the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF): The PWTF has served as a recurring and integral source of funding infrastructure for cities. *Funding for the Public Works Trust Fund has been systematically diverted by the state to fill their budget shortfalls. The diminished pool's funding process and project ranking criteria set by the PWTF Committee should be used to set the project list for funding rather than an executive or legislative list.*

Support for the eFairness Act: *Extend Sales Tax Sourcing Methodology nationally ensuring tax collection on goods coming into the state and protection for Washington based businesses from competitors using tax free pricing.*

Reduce Unfunded Mandates: *As an example, the cost to ratepayers and taxpayers to comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements are substantial. Additionally, the City supports efforts to restore funding cuts previously made to Growth Management Act (GMA) planning grants.*

Affordable Housing Efforts

Support Funding of State's Housing Trust Fund: Also allow projects to be selected based on operative and effective criteria rather than on a Legislative List of Projects to be funded: *The State Housing Trust Fund has been a consistent funding source for East King County projects. The combination of reduced funding for the HTF and a project list set by the legislature resulted in a significant reduction of the ability to fund affordable housing projects in this geographic area.*

Other

Binding Arbitration: *Change binding arbitration to take into consideration pertinent factors and use the final and best offer from either labor or management, thus ensuring more realistic positions from the parties, rather than allowing the arbitrator to write the labor contract.*