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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jean Quan
President Kernighan and Members of the City Council

From: Townsend Public Affairs, Inc.

Date: December 5, 2013

Subject: **REVISED AT THE DECEMBER 5th RULES COMMITTEE**
Summary of 2013 Legislative Activities and Proposed 2014 State Legislative Agenda

Townsend Public Affairs, Inc. (TPA) has prepared this report for the City of Oakland following the end of the 2013 legislative session. This report lists a summary of our efforts to date for the legislative and funding advocacy objectives of the City of Oakland.

Additionally, TPA has participated in meetings with City leadership, and based on those meetings, we have prepared a recommended 2014 State and Federal Legislative agenda for adoption. This recommendation includes the framework for legislative proposals for the upcoming legislative year, with both specific City-sponsored legislative proposals and legislative and funding priorities for monitoring, as well as recommended actions.

2013 State Legislative Highlights

TPA worked with the elected City leaders and staff to develop, advocate and secure several major City initiatives through various means, including: legislation, grants and working directly with the Brown Administration. Please note the following state legislative efforts and highlights:

1. Staffed five Oakland-sponsored bills that passed the Legislature and were sent to the Governor for his consideration:
 - **AB 48 (Skinner): Large Capacity Magazines – Signed into law**
 - **AB 180 (Bonta): Gun registration + Vetoed**
 - **AB 767 (Levine) Stolen Vehicles – Signed Into law (This measure was originally introduced as AB 1324 (Skinner/Bonta))**
 - **SB 254 (Hancock): Mattress Recycling – Signed into law**
 - **SB 613 (DeSaulnier): Bay Area Toll Authority – Signed into law**

2. Monitored over 100 bills, which were identified as important to the legislative agenda of the City of Oakland. Specifically, TPA advocated on the City's behalf for 41 bills on which the City took either a support or an oppose position. Of these measures, 11 were signed into law by the Governor, 7 were vetoed by the Governor, and 23 bills were held in the Legislature for potential consideration in 2014.

- TPA's advocacy efforts included working in concert with the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the Council President, City Staff, State legislators, legislative committee members and staff, and the Governor's Office.
3. Partnered with the Assistant City Administrator to overturn a decision by the Department of Finance on RDA dissolution. TPA successfully overturned and reallocated over \$1.7 million dollars in post-RDA funds for the Low and Moderate Income Housing Project staff on the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule.
 4. In tandem with the Mayor's Office, Office of the City Manager, City Attorney's Office and the master developer of the Oakland Army Base, TPA worked closely with the Governor's Office, Senator Hancock, Assembly Member Skinner, Assembly Member Bonta and the Department of Finance to overturn a previous decision by the Department of Finance and reallocated over \$44 million dollars for the Oakland Army Base project. Additionally, numerous land parcels were also transferred back to the project to ensure the project moves forward.
 5. Through our efforts in statewide public safety initiatives, TPA arranged for the City and the Police Chief to participate as a member of the working group formed by the Senate Democrats to develop a comprehensive package of gun safety bills.
 6. As a result of the effort listed above, the Chief and Assistant Chief provided testimony to legislative committees on four separate occasions to help advance these measures through the legislative process and secure their passage. TPA arranged for testimony, drafted speaking points, and staffed the Chief and Assistant Chief at the committee hearings.
 7. Organized a meeting between the Mayor, Public Works Staff, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission to address flooding problems near Interstate 880 and the 23rd/29th Avenue off ramp. TPA then helped drive the follow-up and resolution for the project.
 8. Worked closely with the offices of Assembly Member Bonta and Assembly Member Skinner, the Mayor's Office, and the Oakland Police Department to get additional CHP support to address public safety in the City.
 9. Provided City staff support, updates, and strategic advice as the City fought to keep its Enterprise Zone intact.
 10. Served as a key member of a state wide coalition that completely drafted and rewrote the medicinal cannabis guidelines to provide statewide regulations, while ensuring the proposal would be in the best interest of the City and residents.
 11. Worked closely with the East Bay Legislative delegation, a large coalition of businesses, labor, and environmental groups to amend AB 1273 (Ting) which added protections to the San Francisco bay and waterfront.
 12. Sent weekly legislative updates and bill matrices to the Mayor, City Council and Administration. These updates included specific bills we were working on for the City along with bills we suggested the City watch, support or oppose. The legislative categories included: Public Safety, Planning, Housing and Land Use, Infrastructure, Environment, Energy and Sustainability, Economic Development, Youth, Constitutional changes, and Miscellaneous.
 13. Identified and then notified the City of funding opportunities to help support City priorities. TPA would also provide additional support, including: helping draft applications, working with the State agencies, securing letters of support, and other advocacy methods, when deemed appropriate by the City.
 14. Provided City Council staff training on the State Legislative Process.

2013 Federal Highlights

1. TPA worked directly with the Mayor's Office and Oakland Police Department to apply for, advocate on behalf of, and ultimately secure \$4,515,703 from the FY13 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant. Our efforts also included working with the COPS office and staff before the solicitation was released.
2. Worked to secure additional time, and keep the funding in place, for the City's FEMA-Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-Domain Awareness Center (DAC) award in the amount of \$2,900,000. The Port had not acted quickly enough so the City needed more time to advance the project and through our efforts an extension was secured and the City was not required to return the original funding.
3. Organized advocacy trips to Washington DC for the Mayor, Police Chief, and Assistant Police Chief. These efforts included securing meetings, developing and providing background on various agencies and staff, providing each agency a pre-meeting briefing preparing on the City's needs, staffing the City during all meetings, and working with the City and each agency to ensure proper follow up on action items.
4. Provided support and strategy as the City resolved matters with the US Army over past cleanup efforts at the Oakland Army Base. TPA also worked with the office of Senator Feinstein on this matter.
5. Worked with Congresswoman Lee's office and the Department of Education regarding the City's Safe Passages grant application. TPA was able to secure reviewer comments to pre-applicants and worked to help submit a full application.
6. Updated the offices of Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein and Congresswoman Lee on our opposition to the Farm Bill and its impact on Oakland.
7. Provided daily updates on the Federal Government shut down and how it impacted the City.
8. Provided numerous summaries of funding opportunities and helped City staff secure additional information in order to determine if certain opportunities were viable for specific City projects.

City of Oakland Legislative Priorities for 2014:

The City of Oakland's legislative agenda for 2014 will reflect the adopted priorities of the City Council and the Mayor. The strategic agenda includes advocating for legislation, regulations, and funding that is consistent with the City's adopted goals. TPA has included input from the Office of the Mayor, City Council, and City Staff. This report is compiled into three sections:

1. City Sponsored State Legislative Proposals;
2. Federal and State Legislative Priorities for Monitoring and Recommended Action;
3. Funding Opportunities and Requests.

At the December 5th, 2013 Rules Committee meeting, the Committee also directed TPA to coordinate with the advocacy firms representing Alameda County, Oakland Unified School District and Port of Oakland to ensure coordination and unified efforts.

1. City Sponsored State Legislative Proposals

Below is a list of Oakland specific legislative proposals. If the Council is supportive of these proposals listed below, TPA will immediately begin to research what can be accomplished through legislation, regulations, or direct advocacy with State agencies and other organizations to help address Oakland's needs.

Once a bill number is assigned to the legislation, the City Council will have an opportunity to review the bill and determine if the final language meets the city's objective.

- **Efforts to reduce human trafficking at massage parlors.** The City has been a leader in efforts to reduce sexual exploitation and to reduce human trafficking. The goal of this legislation would be to give the City additional enforcement tools to address the proliferation of human trafficking that occurs at massage parlors.
- **Robberies/Assaults linked to Smart Phones.** The era of "smart phones" has unequivocally made all of our lives a bit easier and most people carry their phones with them everywhere they go. This practice, unfortunately, has become a target for thieves. In order to ensure that the residents of Oakland can feel completely safe using their smart phones in public a legislative initiative would be crafted to help limit the use of smart phones on the secondary market. The goal of this legislation would be to remove the profit motive for those who would attempt to steal smart phones.
- **Illegal Dumping/Blight Enforcement.** As Oakland and other cities work towards their zero waste goals, some communities are burdened and negatively impacted by illegal dumping. The dumping harms the quality of life in these neighborhoods while attracting more problems. The goal of this legislation would be to provide more tools for local government to take on this challenge.
- **Medicinal Cannabis Statewide Regulations.** A comprehensive, thorough approach to statewide medicinal cannabis guidelines, is needed, while at the same time allowing existing, approved dispensaries to continue to operate and show the federal government that California has clear guidelines. The goal of this initiative is to provide regulations that allow existing dispensaries to operate, and to set up an entire system statewide.
- **Economic Development: Tidelands Trust.** The City will explore the impacts of the public trust doctrine on Jack London Square.
- **Economic Development: Coliseum City and the Oakland Army Base project.** Due to the loss of redevelopment funding, a new form of economic development is needed to attract additional support to large scale developments. As the City moves forward with the build out of Coliseum City and the Army Base, some form of tax increment funding will likely be needed. The goal of this proposal would be to develop a new funding model which local governments could utilize in the development of large scale projects with broad community support.
- **Illegal gambling parlors/Sweepstakes issue.** Some small business owners are trying to get around local zoning regulations and are opening online gambling establishments via software called sweepstakes. The goal of this initiative would be to provide greater support for local government and regulations from the State.

2. Federal and State Legislative Priorities for Monitoring and Recommended Action

The following legislative themes have been identified by the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff as priorities. TPA maintains a constantly updated matrix of state bills for the City of Oakland, providing additional analysis and information to inform the development of a position by the city.

If legislation is introduced that impacts any of the priorities, staff will be asked to analyze and evaluate the need for City Council action. The City Council may choose to take a position on a measure, continue to monitor without a position, or determine if any further response or reaction is needed. TPA will monitor legislative activity in the following areas:

- Public Safety
 - Measures relating to gun and ammunition access, efforts to provide local law enforcement with additional support, and incentives for re-entry programs.
- Economic Development
 - Measures providing for new tax increment financing opportunities, and efforts to encourage local manufacturing, light industrial and bioscience opportunities.
- Infrastructure
 - Measures affecting funding for roads and transit oriented developments.
- Planning, Housing and Land Use
 - Measures affecting local control over affordable housing.
- Environment, Energy and Sustainability
 - Measures pertaining to clean energy efforts, graffiti abatement, reducing waste, and other environmental impacts of local agencies.
- Youth
 - Measures providing education or employment opportunities for youth and resolving issues pertaining to the final audit for Oakland Unified, absenteeism and drop outs.
- Constitutional Modifications
 - Measures which would impact local governments, such as lowering the voter threshold to 55% for various bond issuances and local taxes.
- Miscellaneous
 - Any other measure or budget action which could potential impact the operations of, or services provided by, the City, and support to make local government whole from past budget actions.

3. Funding Opportunities and Requests

TPA will continue our proactive efforts to immediately notify the City once various funding opportunities are announced. In addition to the specific funding opportunities listed below, we will keep the City informed of any potential funding opportunities throughout the year. City staff will work with the City Council to prioritize projects submitted to the state for funding and TPA will advocate for those approved projects as appropriate. As new funding opportunities arise, TPA will make sure to inform the city and consult in the development of the optimal strategy to maximize funding for the City.

Public safety related funding for projects such as:

- Expansion of the crime lab;
- Additional police officers;
- Opportunities to enhance substance abuse programs for treatment;
- Re-Entry and anti-recidivism programs
- Radios and 911 dispatch support; and,
- Social services such as homelessness, AIDS/HIV support, and Hepatitis C prevention.

Economic Development related funding for projects such as:

- Oakland Army Base;

- City parks;
- Lake Merritt;
- Howard Terminal;
- Transit oriented projects for both residential and commercial areas; and,
- Job training funding.

Transportation and infrastructure projects such as:

- The Broadway Shuttle;
- Fruitvale Parking Garage;
- Safe Routes to School funding for locations throughout the City;
- Bus Rapid Transit;
- Seismic upgrades for residential soft stories; and,
- LAAMPS project.

Planning, Housing and Land Use projects such as:

- Support for affordable housing; and,
- Prefabricated housing issues.

Environment, Energy and Sustainability for projects such as:

- Clean energy funding;
- Healthy city funding;
- Addressing illegal dumping/graffiti abatement; and,
- EDA brownfields cleanup for sites such as GE Site.

Youth such as:

- Children of incarcerated parents;
- Literacy support; and,
- State funding for urban schools.

Process for Reporting

In addition to the weekly progress reports we send the City, TPA proposes to report out to the Rules Committee and then City Council when the State Legislature is on break. For example, we would report out the week of April 10th, 2014 while they are on Spring Recess and during July while they are on Summer Recess.