



**OFFICE OF MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 2007

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Mayor Jerry Sanders 

SUBJECT: Rules Committee Item #4- City Council Participation in Intergovernmental Relations

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**Background**

The City of San Diego's Intergovernmental Relations Department (IRD) is responsible for advocating on behalf of the City of San Diego's needs with both the federal and state government. The department exists to provide research, advice and advocacy on proposed legislative, budgetary and regulatory actions. Additionally the City employees contract lobbyists at both the state and federal level who report directly to the IRD Director.

While the Intergovernmental Relations is located within the Mayor's office, it has informal and formal reporting duties to the City Council and the Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (Rules Committee). This structure is similar to IRD departments in large cities all over the state of California and all over the nation.

The process by which IRD selects which bills to carry, support and oppose flows from this structure. Each year IRD solicits potential legislative bill ideas, budgetary requests and regulatory solutions from both the City Council and city management. Those ideas are captured in a legislative program for the year which is taken to the Rules Committee for input and then forwarded to the City Council for approval. For instance, legislative ideas within the 2007 legislative package were generated from a variety of sources including: AB 802- Statewide Gang Commission bill from Councilmember Young, AB 1441- Separate legal defense funds bill from the San Diego Ethics Commission and SB 373- Dedicated Open Space bill from the Mayor and Councilmember Atkins.

As the City implemented the Strong Mayor form of government, there was a desire for the Council to retain a role in designing the City's legislative package. In order to allow the Council to continue to have a strong voice in the process, IRD along with the IBA and the Rules Committee Consultant in November 2006 agreed to report to Rules on a regular basis predetermined by key announcements and deadlines at both the State and Federal levels. Those reports included but were not limited to:

- a. Report on Governor's Proposed State Budget (2/7/07 - Rules)
- b. Update on newly introduced legislation (This was changed in 2007 to present the recommendations on both the Federal and State Lobbying Contracts – 2/7/07 and 3/7/07 respectively.)
- c. Update on the Legislature's budget recommendation/final state budget (June/July - flexible due to uncertainty in state legislative process)
- d. Review of the Legislative Session (September)
- e. Proposed Legislative Program (October)

#### **Timeline for development of Leg Policy Guidelines and 2008 Legislative Program**

In addition to the annual legislative package, IRD is guided by Council Policy 000-19, the Legislative Policy Guidelines, which are updated every few years, as needed. These legislative guidelines which go to the Rules Committee and the City Council for approval are proposed to be updated in 2007.

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| <b>July 18, 2007</b>     | IRD presents first draft of proposed updated Council Legislative Policy Guidelines to the Rules Committee for a "workshop" on the item. |
| <b>August 2007</b>       | IRD incorporates the results of the Rules Committee workshop into the draft policy guidelines document.                                 |
| <b>September 9, 2007</b> | Present the updated report on Legislative Policy Guidelines to Rules Committee.   |
| <b>September 2007</b>    | Begin development of the City's 2008 Legislative Program.   |
| <b>October 2007</b>      | Present the Rules Committee approved Legislative Policy Guidelines to the City Council.   |
| <b>October 24, 2007</b>  | Present the draft 2008 Legislative Program to the Rules Committee.  |
| <b>November 20, 2007</b> | Present the Rules Committee approved 2008 Legislative Program to the City Council.  |

### Recommendations

The current formal and informal process for setting the City's legislative programs works very well and IRD has an extensive track record of success. In light of the City's successes and the City's need to focus resources on financial stability, I recommend the City retain the current IRD structure and process. Adding additional procedures does not appear necessary, especially given IRD history of carrying every bill that the City Council has requested, and will end up draining scarce resources.

cc: Ronne Froman, COO  
Kris Michell, DCO  
Job Nelson, Associate Director, IRD