

City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 12 Ordinance/Resolution# 11-135 Council District:

For Meeting of December 6, 2010
(Adoption Date)

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES
PRIMARY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION: To establish State Legislative Priorities.

Drafter and Staff Contact: Robert L. Garza /jj		Department: Administration		Phone: 541-2271	
Department	Signature	Phone	Department	Signature	Phone
Administration		541-2271	Budget		541-2107
			Assistant City Manager		541-2271
Legal		541-2128	City Manager		541-2076

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The City of Las Cruces appeals to the state legislative delegation on an annual basis in hopes of gaining support and funding assistance for major community capital improvement projects. The 2011 state legislative session is anticipated to convene in mid January and extend for a period of 60 days.

While there is a considerable projected shortfall in revenues in state government and resulting challenges with balancing state budgets, there are still many viable requests and initiatives of interest to the City of Las Cruces where legislative assistance can be called upon.

There is a possibility of securing funding for regional projects or those with statewide impact and benefit. Two specific local projects meet this criteria and if approved would help multiple communities. The projects are:

1. Crisis Triage Center
2. Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority – Public Safety Answering Point Facility.

Additionally, the City has considerable interest with policy matters affecting our community. There are three specific areas where we are asking for legislative delegation assistance.

1. Hold Harmless Provision for Food and Medical

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

2. Flood Control Authority
3. Camunez Building Conversion

The attached exhibit provides a more detailed explanation of each of these projects and initiatives.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. Resolution.
2. Exhibit "A" – 2011 Legislative Priorities / Funding Requests.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A	Is this action already budgeted?		
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:
	<i>Budget Adjustment Attached</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from:
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue source (i.e. grant; see details below)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from fund balance in the _____ Fund.
Does this action create any revenue?			
	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: _____ in the amount of \$ _____.
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.

FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
N/A					

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

1. Vote "Yes" and approve the Resolution. This action will authorize staff to proceed to work through the City's lobbyist to pursue the council objectives.
2. Vote to "amend" the list of priorities for the 2011. This action could amend the priority list.
3. Vote "No" and not establish a list of priorities for the 2011 legislative session

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

REFERENCE INFORMATION:

The resolution(s) and/or ordinance(s) listed below are only for reference and are not included as attachments or exhibits.

1. N/A

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

Resolution 11-135

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES PRIMARY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature will convene on January 18, 2011 for a 60 day legislative session, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature will likely have the ability to use Severance Tax Bond funds and other opportunities to fund such projects, and

WHEREAS, there may be the opportunity to gain support and secure funding for regional projects or those with statewide significance, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Las Cruces has identified specific projects that would meet these goals, and

WHEREAS, there are also policy matters of concern to the City of Las Cruces that have been identified, and

WHEREAS, the attached Resolution has been prepared to delineate priorities which will facilitate lobbying efforts during the upcoming legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

(I)

THAT, the 2011 State Legislative priorities for the City of Las Cruces, attached at Exhibit "A", is hereby adopted.

(II)

THAT, City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

DONE AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2010.

APPROVED:

(SEAL)

Mayor

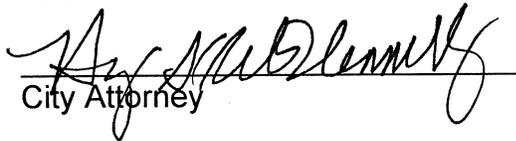
ATTTEST:

City Clerk

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima: _____
Councillor Silva: _____
Councillor Connor: _____
Councillor Pedroza: _____
Councillor Small: _____
Councillor Sorg: _____
Councillor Thomas: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney



Crisis Triage Center

Mission:

To provide safe and secure environment for individuals with serious mental health issues until they are stabilized beyond the crisis moment, and establish linkages with services beyond the crisis triage center through collaboration with community services.

Statewide Benefit:

Development of a Crisis Triage Center in Southern New Mexico would have benefits spanning the entire state. Not only would such a facility directly serve the population in Southern New Mexico but it would also relieve pressure for similar services in the northern part of the state by eliminating the burden on Albuquerque and Las Vegas facilities and services.

A Crisis Triage Center Provides:

- A 23-hour stabilization facility
- Immediate assessment and stabilization for non-violent individuals
- Connections to resources that can assist and guide those in need

Need:

- Nationally, almost 50% of men and 31% of women in jail have serious mental illness (three time more than in hospitals)
- Courts, law enforcement, detention centers, dispatchers, and emergency room systems will otherwise continue to bare associated burdens
- Inappropriate use of emergency rooms

Associated Costs:

- Land \$0 (county land)
- Capital \$1.6 million (building & fixtures)
- Operations \$996,478 (est. annual)



MVRDA - PSAP

Mission:

Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority (MVRDA) is a consolidated 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) formed under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to answer 911 calls and dispatch emergency services for the benefit of Doña Ana County, the City of Las Cruces, the City of Sunland Park, the Town of Mesilla, and the Village of Hatch.

Benefits:

Construct a new regional facility to service six public agencies that will:

- Possess a high degree of survivability, reliable systems and protected communications linkages to ensure continued operation during power outages, catastrophic storm events and other operational scenarios.
- Be designed to meet current and 10 year growth for operational needs
- Be strategically located

Need:

The existing facility is located in a county owned building that was re-purposed for use as a regional dispatch center. The current building is located within a flood plain which could compromise delivery of essential public safety services during inclement weather. MVRDA serves multiple agencies within Dona Ana County. It is critical to provide a reliable and safe facility to enable law enforcement, fire protection services and ambulance services are carefully coordinated.

Associated Costs:

- Land: Funded (BLM / public land)
- Capital: \$4.5 Million (building only)
- Operating: Funded (JPA defined)

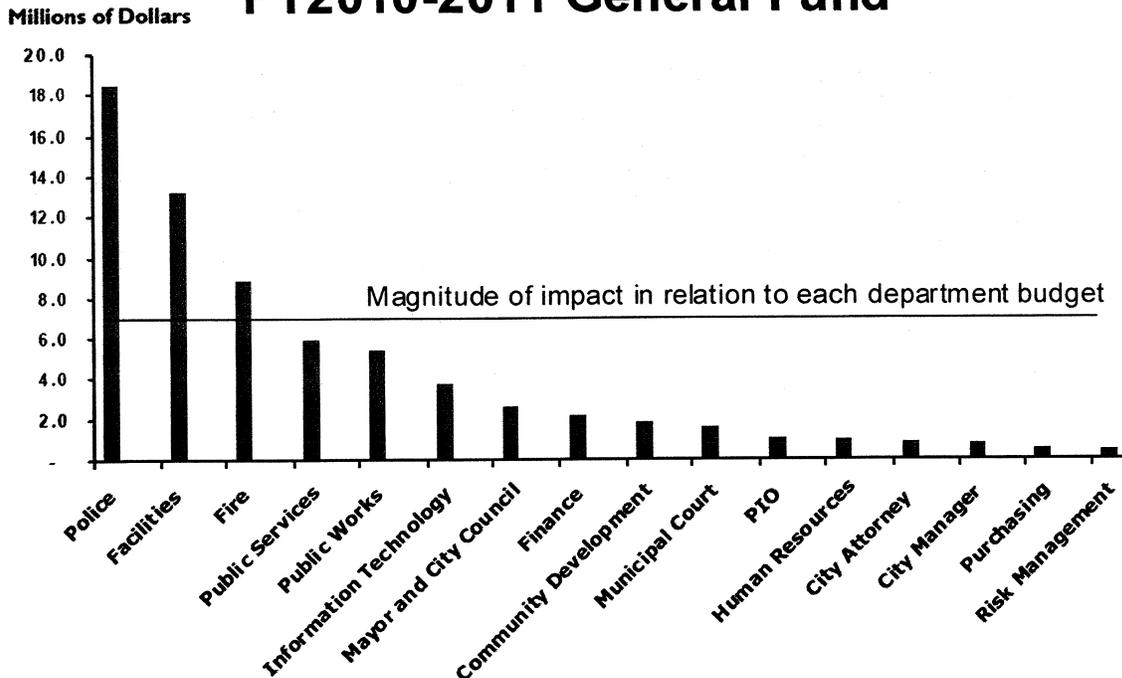
Hold Harmless Tax Issue

Current economic conditions have placed a strain on state and local governments. The City of Las Cruces urges the New Mexico Legislature to protect revenues of local governments when pursuing methods for balancing the state budget.

The City is dependent on gross receipts tax revenues, including the hold-harmless amounts, to provide essential services to our citizens; particularly in the public safety arena.

The cost impact to the City of Las Cruces of removing the full hold-harmless provisions currently in effect would be \$7.5 million annually (about 10% of our general fund). Potential impact to our municipal operations is illustrated below:

Budget by Department FY2010-2011 General Fund



Flood Control Authority

The City of Las Cruces supports the establishment of a regional flood control authority for southern NM in Dona Ana County. The city desires to be a planning partner with the flood control authority to pursue mutually beneficial projects while maintaining the inner City flood control program. City residents already pay a flood control tax to the City and should not be required to pay further for projects that might not have a direct benefit to them.

Camunez Building Conversion

The State of New Mexico owns this building located in downtown Las Cruces. Several community groups have created a plan to develop a business incubator / community event center to link into downtown Main Street and an adjacent public event space, La Placita. The City is supportive of taking ownership to enable the conversion of the building to this new use.