

February 15, 2021



Item 3

# 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

## Update and Discussion

Goal 6. Set the Standard for Sound Governance  
and Fiscal Management







# Presentation Summary

- Provide an update on legislative initiatives
- Provide an update on various bills that will impact the city
- Receive additional guidance and direction

# El Paso State Delegation

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**Sen. Blanco**

- Health & Human Services
- Higher Education
- Transportation
- Veteran Affairs & Border Security



**Rep. Fierro**

- Elections
- Licensing & Administrative Procedures



**Rep. González**

- Vice Chair, Appropriations
- Public Education



**Rep. Moody**

- Vice Chair, Calendars
- Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
- Redistricting



**Rep. Ortega**

- Higher Education
- Transportation



**Rep. Ordaz Perez**

- Business & Industry
- International Relations & Economic Development
- Resolutions Calendars

# Governor's Priority Legislative Initiatives

## ❖ Rural Broadband Expansion

- SB 506/HB 1446 (Ashby/Nichols)
- HB 425 (K. King)
- HB 1511 (Button)
- SB 154 (Perry)

## ❖ State Involvement in Police Funding

- HB 741 (Allison)
- HB 638 (Krause)
- HB 1692 (Tinderhold)

# Governor's Priority Legislative Initiatives

## ❖ Election Integrity

- SB 208/HB 25 (Bettencourt/Swanson)
- HB 329, HB 330, HB 335 (Cain – Chair of House Elections Committee)
- HB 574 (Bonnen)
- HB 1368 (Leach)
- SB 155 (Perry)

## ❖ Bail Reform

## ❖ Liability Protections from COVID-10 Related Lawsuits

# City Priority Legislative Initiatives



1. Appropriate money for the Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG)
  - Senate and House appropriated \$30 million, going through appropriations budget hearings
2. Seek legislation that will expand program eligibility under the Texas Economic Development Act to include back office and large-scale warehouse distribution companies and extend the Act
  - Bill will be filed by Senator Blanco

# City Legislative Priorities

3. Seek legislation that will clearly allow municipalities to convey city owned property as part of Chapter 380 economic development agreement
  - Bill will be filed by Senator Blanco
4. Seek legislation that will provide for more economic incentives and support for solar and renewable energy initiatives
  - Bill filed by Senator Blanco
5. Appropriate funding for the Wyler Aerial Tramway
  - Place holder in TPWD



# City Legislative Priorities

6. Seek legislation concerning police reform and training that will enhance and foster public trust in the police department, to include the appropriation of funding to municipalities for the acquisition of police body cameras and storage of data obtained by body cameras
  - More than 40 police reform bills have been filed
  - Not all will get to a committee hearing but police reform will be addressed
  - George Floyd Act
  - **Need additional guidance from Council** to support, oppose or remain neutral
  - General subject matter of bills are:
    - ✓ Use of Force
    - ✓ Policies and Procedures
    - ✓ Employment and Discipline



# Police Department Recommendations

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## *Police Justice Reform Bills Recommend Oppose*

- Prohibiting neck or throat restraint, unless allowed in those extreme circumstances
  - ✓ When deadly force is required to protect officer or third party
  - ✓ Distinction between Use of Force vs. Use of Deadly Force
- Removal of qualified immunity
- Elimination or revision of asset forfeiture
- Prohibition of no knock entries, unless adopted under TCOLE policy
  - ✓ Family violence, terrorist incident, gang activities
- Unfunded mandates
- Disciplinary matrix
- Cite and release mandates

# Police Department Recommendations

## *Police Justice Reform Bills Recommend Support*

- Policies or procedures in conformance with existing EPPD Policy
- Use of force policy promulgated by TCOLE
- De-escalation policy promulgated by TCOLE
- Release of police employment records promulgated by TCOLE
- Duty to intervene
- Additional reporting requirements for use of force, no knock entries
- Consent to motor vehicle search, provided that motor vehicle recording is also authorized
- Additional training, provided that does not result in significant increase in costs, unless state provides resources and funds

# City Priority Legislative Initiatives

7. Seek legislation that will **strengthen community safety** and **prevent mass violence** by strengthening existing laws to allow for a stronger more efficiently and consistently enforcement of laws and new legislation that will assist in the identification of risk indicators for potential threat to include the use and role of mental health professionals and ways to reduce the risk

# Bills Filed by State Delegation

- Unlawful possession or transfer of assault weapon or large capacity magazine
- Unlawful carrying of certain firearms
- Criminal Background checks for private sale or transfer of firearm
- Strengthening protection orders
- Creating county task force for the disposition of firearms
- Creating criminal offense for false or misleading statements to acquire firearms
- Reporting of lost or stolen firearms
- Declaring gun violence a public health crisis.
- Voluntary registry of individuals experiencing mental illness who waive the right to purchase or receive transfer of a firearm; creating criminal offenses.
- Shooter drills conducted by public schools



# Other City-Related Bills being Monitored

- Restrictions on joining associations, hiring consultants, and other restrictions on city/community advocacy and government relations efforts
- Health Care expansion
- State bills related to COVID relief, vaccination and support
- Reduction of Prima Facie speed limit on residential streets from 30 to 25



# Questions?