

## **Kansas City, Missouri City Council's 2008 State Legislative Agenda**

Section 1. **MAJOR PRIORITIES.** That the following legislative priorities, listed in alphabetical order, are established for the 2008 Session of the Missouri General Assembly:

1. **Economic Development - Black Heritage District.** Support State designation of a Black Heritage District in Kansas City.
2. **Economic Development - Municipal Airports.** Support exemption of major municipally owned airports from taxation of the bonus value of property devoted to economic development purposes.
3. **Economic Development - Tax Increment Financing and MODESA.** Support adjusting the state TIF cap upwards while making it revenue neutral by lowering the MODESA cap in order to insure that the Missouri Department of Economic Development can sign a certificate of approval for the Three Trails Project under the new cap.
4. **Economic Development - Tax Increment Financing.** Oppose any efforts that restrict the use of Tax Increment Financing for economic development or redevelopment, but support meaningful reforms that implement statewide the City's current TIF policies and procedures.
5. **Economic Development - Urban Land Assemblage.** Support modification to the Urban Land Assemblage language to allow for use within Kansas City's urban core.
6. **Public Health - Life Sciences.** Oppose all legislation that would restrict the development of the life sciences in Missouri, including proposals to limit Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer research, aimed at developing more effective therapies and cures for disease and disability.
7. **Public Safety - Blasting.** Support reform to the blasting statute to enable Kansas City to better protect residential neighborhoods near blasting sites.
8. **Taxation - Earnings Tax.** Support maintaining the current system of earnings tax collection in Kansas City.
9. **Tourism - Festivals.** Support revising the festival district statute to allow other districts to schedule events with one annual permit.
10. **Transportation - Tax Increment Financing.** Support authorization to remove future new sales taxes from inclusion in a subsequently authorized tax increment financing project special allocation fund.
11. **Transportation - Regional Light Rail.** Support enabling legislation for a regional light rail system that addresses governance and funding.

Section 2. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.** That the City will continue to seek State funding for major public capital improvement projects and opportunities to maximize State funding of other important City projects and programs; and

Section 3. **ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS.** That the City adopts the following additional important priorities and positions on matters that may come before the Missouri General Assembly during its 2008 Session:

### **1. Economic development**

*Angel Investor tax credit.* The City supports the Angel Investor tax credit proposal.

*Eminent domain.* The City opposes any efforts that restrict the City's use of eminent domain by impeding the City's ability to provide core services to its citizens or limiting the ability of the City to protect and build revenue through economic development or redevelopment.

*Enhanced Enterprise Zone.* The City supports efforts to raise the Enhanced Enterprise Zone cap to increase small business assistance.

*Increase Missouri Housing Trust Fund.* The City supports an increase in the Missouri Housing Trust Fund.

*Job training and retraining.* The City supports providing sufficient funding to job retraining and new job training programs to allow expansion of such programs.

*State economic development programs.* The City supports the continuation of tax credit programs such as Historic Preservation Tax Credits, special economic districts such as Community Improvement Districts and other appropriate sales tax relief and business development financing mechanisms as economic development tools.

*Support of State TIF.* The City supports any additional State tax increment financing projects which have the support of the City.

### **2. Education**

*Continuation of Workforce Investment Act and Summer Youth Employment Program.* The City supports reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and the Summer Youth Employment Program.

*Health care programming.* The City supports an annual appropriation to increase the number of graduates who become health care professionals.

*Higher education funding and capital improvements.* The City supports increased funding for higher education and funding for capital improvements at the City's institutions of higher education.

*School foundation funding formula.* The City supports revisions to the State's foundation funding formula allowing for adequate and equitable funding for local schools and funding for state mandated programs.

***Tax exemption bus fuel.*** The City supports a tax exemption for bus fuel to reduce local schools transportation costs.

***A+ College Scholarship Program.*** The City supports expansion of the A+ Schools Scholarship program.

### **3. Funding for Kansas City projects**

***Continuation of State funding.*** The City supports continued and increased ongoing funding for programs traditionally and appropriately supported by State funding including all current local State TIF and MODESA line items, Bartle Hall convention facilities, the Jackson County Sports Complex, higher education, health services, mental health services, the life sciences, Missouri Arts Council, and landmark parks.

### **4. Health Care**

***Child care subsidies eligibility.*** Support an update of State income eligibility guidelines for receiving child care subsidy benefits to ensure access to quality child care facilities to enable parents to enter the workforce.

***Indigent health care.*** The City supports programs and funding to provide access to adequate health, dental and mental health care for the indigent.

***Stroke and Heart Attacks Centers.*** The City supports the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services initiative to create a statewide system of stroke and heart attack centers for the improved treatment of critical patients.

### **5. Neighborhood / Environmental Issues**

***Consumer protection - short term loan industry.*** Support reform of Missouri's short-term loan industry ensuring access, but protecting citizens and local communities from unscrupulous lending practices and artificially high interest rates.

***Energy efficiency.*** The City supports the utility industry's legislative package to provide financial incentives to energy companies to promote energy efficiency.

***Katy Trail.*** The City supports the connection of the Katy Trail to the Kansas City, Missouri parks system.

***Zoning violations.*** Support the elimination of one of the two conflicting versions of Section 89.120, regarding zoning penalties, through the enactment of a new version of that statute that would allow Kansas City to impose increased fines for zoning violations.

***Street grade changes.*** The City supports streamlining the processes used to change the grade of streets while preserving all current protections afforded property owners in such process.

***Theft of scrap metal and copper.*** The City supports increased protections for residents, businesses, and public safety agencies facilities and systems from the theft of scrap metal and copper.

## **6. Public Safety**

***Ambulance reimbursement rates.*** The City supports increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulance services.

***Animal control.*** Support allowing the City's animal health and public safety division to directly purchase medications for the animal control facility.

***EMS peer review.*** The City supports extending protections to emergency medical services for peer review to support quality improvement efforts by local agencies without fear that those quality improvement records would be used against the agencies in litigation.

***9-1-1 funding.*** The City supports a state surcharge on wireless communication services to adequately fund 9-1-1 services as done in the other 49 states.

***Police pay.*** The City supports the Police Departments pay authorization legislation.

***Police retirement.*** The City supports equalizing the supplemental benefit in the Police Departments retirement system.

## **7. Transportation/Public Transit**

***Greenways and trails.*** The City supports authorization allowing the public to vote on the creation of a metropolitan park district for greenways and trails.

***Multi-modal / public transit funding.*** The City supports appropriate increased funding for multi-modal transportation, especially public transit, to create access to jobs and for seniors and disabled citizens.

***Primary seat belt law.*** The City supports a primary seat belt law.

## **8. Water**

***Collection of bills.*** The City opposes any efforts to impede its ability to collect amounts owed for water and sewer services.

***Continued funding.*** The City supports continued revolving loan programs, grants and funding for improving and replacing combined sewers, sanitary sewers and storm sewers to achieve a cleaner, safer environment and for projects to better control storm water and flooding.

***Drinking Water Revolving Fund.*** The City supports sufficient funding of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund.