

To: City Council

From: John Marchione, Mayor

Date: January 5, 2010

RE: Authorization for Consultant Agreement with Outcomes by Levy for Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy and Support Services

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the Mayor to sign a consultant agreement with Doug Levy of Outcomes by Levy for legislative and regulatory advocacy and support services for the 2010 legislative session.

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT

John Marchione, Mayor	556-2101
Jane Christenson, Deputy City Administrator	556-2107
Nina Rivkin, Chief Policy Advisor	556-2103

III. BACKGROUND

In the FY 09-10 budget process, the City Council discussed the need for city lobbyist services to monitor, advocate for and advance the city's adopted legislative agenda. As Councilmembers are aware, the 2010 legislative session is expected to be extremely challenging, given the State of Washington's fiscal climate. The City Council adopted the attached 2010 legislative agenda on December 1, 2009, and met with its state legislative delegation to review its priority issues on December 8, 2009.

Last year, following the Council's adoption of the FY 09-10 budget, the City prepared and issued a request for proposals for lobbyist services. Based on his extensive experience in advancing city legislative interests and his knowledge of Redmond's priority legislative issues, Doug Levy of Outcomes by Levy was selected for this work. Contract costs for 2010 are estimated at \$60,000, consistent with 2009 costs.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

As the legislative session progresses, the administration will work with Doug Levy as it did in 2009 to ensure there are several strategic check-ins with the City Council on policy matters over the coming months. These include but may not be limited to the following:

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- Weekly written report on current developments/insights on City issues
- Monthly briefing meetings with Council throughout the session
- A special session report prior to the annual Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Legislative Conference
- Support for Councilmembers attending the AWC Conference (January 27-28)
- Briefing/strategy update sessions with Councilmembers who come to Olympia to testify/meet with legislators on key Redmond issues
- Executive summary session de-brief and policy implications for off-session work and planning for next year

A calendar for these activities is a work in progress and will be transmitted to Council in mid to late January.

V. ATTACHMENTS

2010 Legislative Agenda Adopted December 1, 2009

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL AGENDA:

/s/ _____
John Marchione, Mayor

12/28/09 _____
Date

CITY OF REDMOND
2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Guiding Principles:

The City has adopted the following principles to guide the City's legislative actions:

- **Protect home rule and local authority:** The Legislature should refrain from pre-empting the authority of local cities and communities which are closest to the citizens they serve.
- **Refrain from imposing unfunded or "under-funded" mandates:** It is important that the Legislature stay within the boundaries of Initiative 601 and refrain from imposing new unfunded or "under-funded" mandates upon local jurisdictions unless there is adequate funding provided to implement them. Redmond believes the Legislature has been much more sensitive to this issue in recent years.
- **The state should not erode local revenues and local taxing authority:** As "creatures of the state," cities in Washington have only the taxing and revenue authority directly provided to them by the State Legislature. It is vital that lawmakers refrain from making decisions that erode or eliminate those revenues and the local taxing authority that is given to cities.
- **The state should preserve Operating, Capital, and Transportation budget funding that flows to cities:** In 2009, the Legislature took several actions that cut or eliminated operational and infrastructure funding for Redmond and other cities. We urge the Legislature to preserve existing funding in 2010.
- **In its decision-making, particularly in grant and loan programs, the Legislature should reward jurisdictions that are stepping up to implement the policy goals developed by the state:** Redmond is an example of a city that is doing the right things to implement the Growth Management Act (GMA), accommodate density, ensure the urban centers of downtown and Overlake are conducive to "transit-oriented" and pedestrian-friendly development, embrace "green building" and climate-change and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) strategies, etc. As it makes funding decisions and policy decisions regarding grant and loan programs, the state should find ways to reward jurisdictions, such as Redmond, that are carrying out and embracing these policy objectives.

CITY OF REDMOND
2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Top Priority Issues

The City of Redmond appeals to the State Legislature to:

- **Finalize Replacement of the State Route 520 Bridge and Corridor Improvements within available funding and on schedule**, to open in 2014 concurrent with completion of the Eastside Transit and HOV Project.
- **Toll SR-520 and I-90 to pay for SR 520 Bridge and Corridor Improvements:** The City believes SR-520 is part of a larger system and that tolling of both SR-520 and I-90 is the most appropriate way to operate and finance the system. The tolling of both bridge structures is also consistent with the “Vision 2040” transportation plan being developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).
- **Advance design and funding for Bel-Red Corridor Improvements (SR-520 at 148th/Overlake and 124th Streets):**
 - Redmond and Bellevue view “Bel-Red” Interchange Improvements at 148th and 124th as key to the future functionality, capacity, and mobility of the SR-520 Corridor. The two cities will work together to ensure that design and ultimate construction of these interchange improvements occur.
 - Include a proviso in the 2010 Supplemental Transportation Budget that requires SR-520 work to accommodate the design of interchange improvements at SR-520 and 148th/Overlake.
- **Advance SR-520 Eastside Corridor Action Plan for area between I-405 and SR-202/Avondale:**
A “Corridor Action Plan” for SR 520 between I-405 and SR-202/Avondale in Redmond needs to be developed to identify detailed costs, sequencing, and construction of projects along the SR-520 corridor between 405 and SR-202/Avondale. *Redmond believes the Corridor Action Plan requires discussion in 2010, with funding provided in 2011 for WSDOT to prepare a Corridor Action Plan.*

Support/Oppose Items

Reward Jurisdictions Accommodating Growth

- Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF): This low-interest loan program plays a critical part in assisting local jurisdictions with water, sewer, storm water, and transportation investments and should be restored at the earliest opportunity. However, as the Legislature rebuilds the funding level for the PWTF, it should also look for ways to prioritize its investments toward areas that are doing the most work to accommodate growth under the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- 20-year Look-Back at GMA: The Governor's Office is evaluating the idea of requesting that the Legislature authorize a detailed study of the GMA, which is now nearly two decades old. If a review of GMA is authorized, this is another area to look at how to prioritize grant and loan funding towards those areas that have done the most work to implement the Act and embrace its objectives.

Economic Development

- Support additional economic development and economic development planning tools for cities: The City is completing a new Economic Development strategy, and will support 2010 legislative initiatives, including those put forth by the Prosperity Partnership, that help to provide tools and incentives to carry out that strategy.

Environment

- Support legislation that advances and incentivizes green development and sustainability: Redmond is poised to support legislative initiatives that move the ball forward on green development and sustainability, while also seeking to ensure that cities are not left with expensive mandates and requirements.

Fiscal/Budget

- Support legislation to preserve cities' authority to impose a "Brokered Natural Gas" tax: AWC and numerous individual cities will be pursuing this. Redmond will support expected 2010 legislation.
- Support preserving "full mitigation" Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) funding in 2010: While Redmond is no longer receiving much in the way of mitigation payments, the City supports the idea that "full mitigation" payments continue to be an integral part of making the SST, and new "destination-based sourcing," fair and equitable for cities.
- Refrain from unfunded mandates and actions that erode local authority while preserving key areas of funding for cities: As noted in the "Guiding Principles," Redmond opposes new unfunded or "under-funded" mandates, and will actively work to preserve local authority and local funding for cities (funding areas include public health, human services, auto theft prevention, etc.). The City will also work with other jurisdictions and the AWC to oppose efforts that undermine issues such as franchising and right-of-way authority, contracting and bidding laws, etc.

- Flexibility and Efficiency/Cost-Saving Items: Redmond will work closely with the AWC, which will bring to the 2010 Legislature a variety of ideas on how the state could add flexibility to existing funding for cities, or enact statutory changes that enhance efficiency and/or provide cost-savings.

Funding Requests or Requests Involving Taxing/Fee Authority

- 9-1-1 Taxes – New Technologies such as “Voice-Over-Internet Protocol” (VOIP): 9-1-1 taxes are imposed on land-line and cell-phone calls, but a number of emerging technologies, including “VOIP,” are not subject to the tax. Law enforcement, fire, and dispatch centers see this as a major hole in the system that threatens public safety. In 2009, legislation (2SHB 2029) to address this loophole came forward. While 2SHB 2029 received a majority vote, it was classified as a tax bill subject to the 2/3 majority requirements of Initiative 960 and the 2/3 majority was not achieved. This legislation may return in 2010 and Redmond supports it.
- “Local Revitalization Financing” (LRF) Program: Under 2SSB 5045 enacted in 2009, the Department of Revenue (DOR) received \$2.5 million per year (beginning in 2011) to award as state-matching funding for economic development projects that demonstrate job-creation and revenue-generation if public infrastructure investments are made. The DOR will award full or partial funding to six projects; six others would not receive funding. AWC and several cities will push for additional per-year funding beginning in 2011. While Redmond did not apply for “LRF” funding, the city supports efforts to add funding to “LRF” projects.

General Government

- Oppose changes to the “Call Before You Dig” law that would shift liability to municipal utilities: Underground contractors unsuccessfully sought legislation in 2009 and an interim task force is sorting through these issues. If contractors again bring legislation forward to re-define terms under the “Call Before You Dig” law and shift liabilities to municipal utilities, Redmond will join AWC and others in opposing it.
- Utility Liens: The city has joined other cities in opposing legislative threats to utilities’ authority to impose liens against a landlord or building owner in cases involving unpaid bills by tenants of a rental property.
- Election law reforms: Redmond will support legislation, if brought forward by the Secretary of State, to require that voter absentee ballots must be received in election offices by Election Day. The City believes this reform would make the election and vote-counting process significantly more efficient and less time-consuming.

Law Enforcement

- Law Enforcement Academies: Redmond will join other law enforcement agencies in opposing legislation that would unnecessarily undermine the current model of law enforcement academy funding and training.
- Red-light cameras: In response to a class-action lawsuit filed against numerous cities that currently have “photo-radar” enforcement, there is a potential of 2010 legislation that fine-tunes statutory

language governing the use of these cameras. Redmond is evaluating the establishment of a “photo-radar” program and thus will support legislative initiatives in this area.

Land-Use/Planning/GMA

- Transit-Oriented Development – Oppose “mandate-driven” – support incentivizing: Last Session Redmond joined AWC and many individual cities in opposing legislation (SHB 1490) that would have mandated local jurisdictions to require a 50 units-per-acre level of density around transit stations. Redmond will join many others in pushing for *incentives*, not *mandates*, as a way of encouraging “transit-oriented development” projects and density around transit stations. The City believes strongly that an incentive-driven approach makes the most sense and will strongly oppose a mandatory approach.

Regionally Significant Issues

- Housing & Human Services: Redmond will strongly support the 2010 Legislative Agenda priorities put forth by the Eastside Human Services Forum, which includes key recommendations to prevent and end homelessness; enhance early childhood education and school readiness; improve access to basic needs; and serve older adults in need.
- Regional Transportation Governance: Support creation of a regional governance mechanism to invest in balanced transportation improvements
- County Utility Tax proposals: It is expected that King County, joined by the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) will ask the 2010 Legislature to grant unincorporated-area utility taxing authority to counties. Redmond will not oppose an unincorporated area utility tax proposal, but will strongly oppose any proposal that seeks a *countywide* utility tax.