



**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED
TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF
THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

October 14, 2020

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The Texas Municipal League Legislative Policy Process

Annual Business Meeting Resolutions and/or Interim Municipal Policy Summit

The primary function of the Texas Municipal League is lobbying on behalf of its member cities. That's the way it has been since the League's formation in 1913 because many significant decisions affecting Texas cities are made by the Texas Legislature, not by municipal officials. Now, just as they did over a century ago, newly elected mayors and councilmembers quickly realize the legislature can address virtually any aspect of city government.

This fact is vividly demonstrated during each legislative session. For example, during the 2019 session, more than 7,500 bills or significant resolutions were introduced; more than 2,000 of them would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way. In the end, over 1,400 bills or resolutions passed and were signed into law; over 300 of them impacted cities in some way.

The number of city related bills as a percentage of total bills filed rises every year. Twenty years ago, around 17 percent of bills filed affected cities in some way. By 2019, that percentage has increased to almost 25 percent. In other words, almost a quarter of the legislature's work is directed at cities, and much of that work aims to limit municipal authority.

League staff lobbies against those efforts (and also seeks to pass beneficial legislation) based on a "legislative program" that is developed by member city officials and adopted by the TML board of directors. The program is essential to the legitimacy of the League's advocacy efforts. To develop the program, city officials provide input in primarily two ways.

First, a member city, TML region, or TML affiliate may submit a resolution for consideration at the business meeting of each year's annual conference. Each city is asked to provide one delegate to serve as its liaison at the meeting. The delegates will be briefed on the content of the resolutions and given a chance to vote on whether they merit inclusion in the legislative program. The resolutions form the basis of a "fixed" legislative program, under which – each session – modifications to the program will only be considered at a future Municipal Policy Summit (see next paragraphs), business meeting, or TML board meeting.

Second, member city officials participate in the League's "Municipal Policy Summit" during the summer of each even-numbered interim year. The summit participants are appointed by the TML President based on volunteers and others chosen to balance the demographics of the TML membership at large.

The 2020 Summit was an intensive, two-day virtual workshop using Zoom technology during which League staff briefed the participants on the issues faced by cities. Most were issues that arise each session, but several consisted of solicited or unsolicited issues brought by city officials.

After relevant subject-matter briefing, the participants made concise recommendations on any changes. Those recommendations are placed into resolution form and submitted to the League's annual business meeting, discussed above.

The somewhat complex policy development process is necessary to ensure that the League advocates as directed by its members. The League is nothing without the involvement and expertise of its members, and participation in the process is an invaluable part of protecting municipal authority.

At the 2020 TML Annual Conference, all resolutions will go directly to the membership at the TML Business Meeting, which will meet using Zoom technology on October 14, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.

Each city is entitled to one delegate at the business meeting. The delegate isn't required to have any special expertise, and an elected official representative is encouraged but not required. The delegate must sign up electronically prior to 5:00 p.m. on October 9, 2020, for planning purposes.

Cities are encouraged to sign up their delegate early. The delegate must sign up electronically at www.tml.org. Hover over "Policy" at the top of the page, then "Legislative," and finally "Policy Committees." The "2020 Business Meeting" link on that page will allow the delegate to sign up prior to the deadline.

The TML Legislative Philosophy

The TML approach to the 2021 session will undoubtedly be guided by principles that spring from a deeply rooted TML legislative philosophy:

- The League will vigorously oppose any legislation that would erode the authority of Texas city officials to govern municipal affairs.
- Cities represent the level of government closest to the people. They bear primary responsibility for the provision of capital infrastructure and for ensuring our citizens' health and safety. Thus, cities must be assured of a predictable and sufficient level of revenue and must resist efforts to diminish that revenue.
- The League will oppose limitations on the ability of cities (and TML) to advocate for local decision-making in their communities.

TML Legislative Policy Process Schedule

The League's 2019-2020 legislative policy development schedule is roughly as follows:

October 2019 – the TML membership considered resolutions at the 2019 Annual Conference at the annual business meeting.

June 2020 – the chair, vice-chairs, board representative, and delegates of the League’s Municipal Policy Summit were appointed by the TML President.

July 2020 – Municipal Policy Summit materials were distributed to the officers and delegates.

August 2020 – the Municipal Policy Summit, a two-day virtual policy briefing using Zoom technology at which the members made recommendations for the League’s 2021-2022 legislative program, met.

October 2020 – the report of the Municipal Policy Summit, along with any other resolutions, will go forward to the annual business meeting at the 2020 Annual Conference.

December 2020 – the TML Board will finalize the League’s 2021-2022 legislative program based on resolutions passed in both 2019 and 2020.

Suggestions for City Officials

City officials can significantly impact the outcome of the 2021 legislative session. When making recommendations for the League’s Legislative Program, they should keep in mind the following:

- 1. There is a practical limit to what the League – or any group, for that matter – can accomplish in any legislative session.** It is obvious that all resources – human, financial, and political – are limited, and no group can hope to achieve all its legislative objectives. The most powerful interest groups in the state sometimes come away from a legislative session bruised and battered. On occasion, the best that can be expected is that damage be mitigated.
- 2. TML will expend the vast majority of its resources killing bad bills.** This has always been so and will probably always be the case. At one point during the 2019 regular session, the League was monitoring more than 2,000 bills or resolutions, many of which were bad for cities. The League’s legislative philosophy has traditionally been, first and foremost, to defeat bad legislation and, secondarily, to seek passage of beneficial legislation as time, resources, and political realities permit.
- 3. It is unlikely that any other interest group in the state monitors and opposes as many bills as does the Texas Municipal League.** During recent legislative sessions, the League took steps to oppose bad legislation dealing with everything from annexation to zoning and from autonomous vehicles to tree preservation. The breadth of the League’s legislative focus becomes obvious each year when TML completes and submits its state-mandated lobbyist registration form. One schedule of the form asks

which of 83 subject matters are of interest to the organization. All 83 fall within the League’s areas of interest.

4. **Unfortunately, the number of bad city-related bills grows almost every year. (Please see the chart on the next page.)** As a result, the League has been forced to expend an ever-greater percentage of its resources simply fending off bad ideas.

5. **Given the League’s finite resources, and because vast amounts of those resources are necessarily expended in defeating bad legislation, the League must very carefully select bills that it will support or for which it will attempt to seek passage.** A sharply focused legislative program is more likely to lead to success than is a very large and wide-ranging program. In addition, supporting a bill that has a low probability of passage requires a large amount of time and political resources that can be used more productively in other ways. **Thus, it is important to advocate only those initiatives that are truly important and that have a realistic chance of passage.**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Bills Introduced *</u>	<u>Total Bills Passed</u>	<u>City-Related Bills Introduced</u>	<u>City-Related Bills Passed</u>
2001	5,712	1,621	1,200+	150+
2003	5,754	1,403	1,200+	110+
2005	5,369	1,397	1,200+	105+
2007	6,374	1,495	1,200+	120+
2009	7,609	1,468	1,500+	120+
2011	6,303	1,410	1,500+	160+
2013	6,061	1,437	1,700+	220+
2015	6,476	1,329	1,600+	220+
2017	6,800	1,220	2,000+	290+
2019	7,500	1,400	2,000+	300+

* Includes bills and proposed Constitutional amendments; regular session only.

6. How can city officials identify initiatives that are truly significant and that merit a place in the TML legislative program? They may wish to ask the following questions about each discussion item:
 - ◆ **Does the initiative have wide applicability to a broad range of cities of various sizes (both large and small) and in various parts of the state?**

- ◆ **Does the initiative address a core municipal issue, such as erosion of local control and preservation or enhancement of municipal revenue?**
- ◆ **Will the initiative be vigorously opposed by strong interest groups and, if so, will member cities commit to contributing the time and effort necessary to overcome that opposition?**
- ◆ **Is this initiative, when compared to others, important enough to be part of TML’s list of priorities?**
- ◆ **Is this initiative one that city officials, more than any other group, should and do care about?**

The foregoing suggestions are not meant to imply that TML can’t pass good, solid legislation. It can, it has in the past, and it will again. The suggestions are meant merely to emphasize the fact that any group, to succeed, must use its resources and its political strength wisely and selectively.

Categories of Legislative Positions

Legislative positions should reflect one of four categories that will direct League staff. Keep in mind that there is a difference between “seek introduction and passage” and “support.”

- **Seek Introduction and Passage** means that the League can attempt to find a sponsor, will provide testimony, and will otherwise actively pursue passage. Bills in this category are known as “TML bills.” **These bills require an enormous amount of time and resources, and the committee should be very cautious about putting items in this category.**
- **Support** means the League will attempt to obtain passage of the initiative if it is introduced by some other entity.

With very few exceptions, any item that makes its way into the 2021-2022 TML Legislative Program should be categorized by the two terms above, or by a recommendation that TML “**oppose**” or “**take no position.**”

League staff will, based upon the foregoing principles and its knowledge of current legislative realities, determine the amount of time and resources devoted to any item in the program. City officials serving throughout the process is an essential part of protecting municipal authority. The League is nothing without the involvement and expertise of its members.

Have questions or comments? Contact Scott Houston or JJ Rocha, TML Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager, at 512-231-7400.

2020
TML RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

Sponsoring Entity: TML Municipal Policy Summit

Brief Background: This resolution is the report of the TML Municipal Policy Summit. It represents the culmination of the work undertaken by the Summit delegates regarding legislative priorities.

What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish: This resolution and the accompanying TML fixed legislative program with modifications and additions (highlighted in the attached program draft by strikeouts (deleted) and underlines (added)) are intended to assist the membership and the TML Board in identifying priority legislative issues. Most, if not all, of the issues described in the report are self-explanatory. Any of the issues can be fully described and explained by Summit delegates and/or TML staff during the Annual Business Meeting.

How the Resolution is City-Related/How it addresses a Municipal Issue: This resolution addresses issues that have been identified as city-related by Summit delegates.

Statewide Importance: The issues addressed in this resolution and the accompanying TML fixed legislative program with modifications and additions are of statewide importance by definition. The Summit included delegates from each part of the state, and the delegates carefully considered statewide importance – and other factors – when making recommendations.

Submitted By: Summit Chair Robin Mouton, Councilmember, City of Beaumont

For further information: Scott Houston
Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel
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1.

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REPORT OF
THE 2020 TML MUNICIPAL POLICY SUMMIT

WHEREAS, the 2020 TML Municipal Policy Summit was appointed by TML President Eddie Daffern in early 2020; and

WHEREAS, almost 100 municipal officials from cities of every size across the state served on the Summit; and

WHEREAS, the Summit reviewed the fixed legislative program, studied numerous city-related issues, and recommends certain modifications and additions to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Summit has completed its work and has drafted the attached fixed legislative program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates assembled at this 2020 Annual Conference of the Texas Municipal League that the attached program from the TML Municipal Policy Summit be accepted and adopted.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this 14th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

Eddie Daffern,
President

ATTEST:

Bennett Sandlin,
Executive Director

THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE PROPOSED FIXED LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM (2021 – 2022)

Introduction

City officials across the state are well aware of the fact that many significant decisions affecting Texas cities are made by the Texas Legislature, not by municipal officials.

During the 2019 session, more than 7,500 bills or significant resolutions were introduced; more than 2,000 of them would have affected Texas cities in some substantial way. In the end, over 1,400 bills or resolutions passed and were signed into law; more than 300 of them impacted cities in some way.

The number of city related bills as a percentage of total bills filed rises every year. Twenty years ago, around 17 percent of bills filed affected cities in some way. By 2019, that percentage had increased to 25 percent. In other words, a quarter of the legislature's work is directed at cities, and much of that work aims to limit municipal authority.

There is no reason to believe that the workload of the 2021 session will be any lighter; it will probably be greater. And for better or worse, city officials will have to live with all the laws that may be approved by the legislature. Thus, the League must make every effort to assure that detrimental bills are defeated and beneficial bills are passed.

The TML approach to the 2021 session is guided by principles that spring from a deeply rooted TML legislative philosophy:

- The League will vigorously oppose any legislation that would erode the authority of Texas cities to govern their own local affairs.
- Cities represent the level of government closest to the people. They bear primary responsibility for provision of capital infrastructure and for ensuring our citizens' health and safety. Thus, cities must be assured of a predictable and sufficient level of revenue and must resist efforts to diminish their revenue.
- The League will oppose the imposition of any state mandates that do not provide for a commensurate level of compensation.

In setting the TML program, the Board recognizes that there is a practical limit to what the League can accomplish during the legislative session. Because the League (like all associations) has finite resources and because vast amounts of those resources are necessarily expended in defeating bad legislation, the Board recognizes that the League must very carefully select the bills for which it will attempt to find sponsors and seek passage.

Each initiative is subjected to several tests:

- Does the initiative have wide applicability to a broad range of cities of various sizes (both large and small) and in various parts of the state?
- Does the initiative address a central municipal value, or is it only indirectly related to municipal government?
- Is this initiative, when compared to others, important enough to be part of TML’s list of priorities?
- Will the initiative be vigorously opposed by strong interest groups and, if so, will member cities commit to contributing the time and effort necessary to overcome that opposition?
- Is this initiative one that city officials, more than any other group, should and do care about?

The Board places each legislative issue into one of four categories of effort. Those five categories are:

- **Seek Introduction and Passage** – the League will attempt to find a sponsor, will provide testimony, and will otherwise actively pursue passage. Bills in this category are known as “TML bills.”
- **Support** – the League will attempt to obtain passage of the initiative if it is introduced by some other entity.
- **Oppose** – the League will actively and vigorously attempt to defeat the initiative because it is detrimental to member cities.
- **No Position** – the League will take no action.

Our Highest Priority: Oppose Bad Bills

The Board determined that TML’s highest priority goal is the defeat of legislation deemed detrimental to cities. As a practical matter, adoption of this position means that the beneficial bills will be sacrificed, as necessary, in order to kill detrimental bills.

The TML Priority Package

The TML Priority Package includes the following items in priority order:

1. Defeat any legislation that would erode municipal authority in any way, impose an unfunded mandate, or otherwise be detrimental to cities, especially legislation that would:
 - a. erode municipal authority in any way, impose an unfunded mandate, or otherwise be detrimental to cities.

- b. provide for state preemption of municipal authority in general.
 - c. impose further revenue and/or tax caps of any type.
 - d. erode the ability of a city to issue debt.
 - e. erode municipal authority related to development matters, including with respect to the following issues: (1) annexation, (2) eminent domain, (3) zoning, (4) regulatory takings, (5) building codes, (6) tree preservation, and (7) short-term rentals.
 - f. erode the authority of a city to be adequately compensated for the use of its rights-of-way and/or erode municipal authority over the management and control of rights-of-way, including by state or federal rules or federal legislation.
 - g. limit or prohibit the authority of city officials to use municipal funds to communicate with legislators; or limit or prohibit the authority of the Texas Municipal League to use any revenue, however derived, to communicate with legislators.
2. Passage of any legislation that would:
- a. eliminate reauthorization provisions for the collection and use of street maintenance sales and use tax and authorize cities to reimburse themselves from sales and use tax collections for actual election costs required for tax implementation.
 - b. allow cities the option of using either an official newspaper or a website for the publication of legal notices.
 - c. authorize a city to annex across a road to bring a voluntarily-requested area into the city limits.
 - d. allow a city official to submit a request for an attorney general letter ruling under the Public Information Act by email at no charge.
 - e. make beneficial amendments to H.B. 2439, the building materials bill.
 - f. make confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Public Information act certain information related to a city's cybersecurity technology.

Support

The Board supports legislation that would:

- 1. make beneficial amendments to the equity appraisal statute; close the “dark store” theory of appraisal loophole; and require mandatory disclosure of real estate sales prices.

2. authorize a council-option city homestead exemption expressed as a percentage or flat-dollar amount.
3. convert the sales tax reallocation process from a ministerial process into a more formalized administrative process.
4. authorize a city council to opt-in to requiring residential fire sprinklers in newly constructed single-family dwellings.
5. make beneficial amendments to H.B. 3167, the subdivision platting shot clock bill.
6. allow for greater flexibility by cities to fund local transportation projects; amend or otherwise modify state law to help cities fund transportation projects; or provide cities with additional funding options and resources to address transportation needs that the state and federal governments are unable or unwilling to address.
7. provide additional funding to the Texas Department of Transportation for transportation projects that would benefit cities and provide local, state, and federal transportation funding for rail as one component of transportation infrastructure support regionally appropriate highway improvement and rail as components.
8. allow a city to lower the prima facie speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour without the need for a traffic study.
9. in relation to federal transit funding: (1) clarify federal congressional intent of federal transit law to protect cities across the United States from being penalized due to a population drop suffered as a direct result of a natural disaster, retroactive to 2000; (2) explicitly state that only presidentially declared major disasters are covered, in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 100-707); and (3) protect federal transit funding streams for urbanized areas until the execution of the next decennial census.
10. establish that expenditures of Community Development Block Grant funds by cities are a governmental function.
11. require city consent before TCEQ is authorized to issue a standard permit for a rock crushing operation, cement crushing operation, or any similar activity that may be authorized under a standard air permit from TCEQ within the corporate limits or ETJ of a city. (Alternatively, or in addition, such legislation may: (a) authorize a city to restrict, prevent, or regulate the locating of such activities in the city's corporate limits or ETJ in other manners, such as imposing minimum distance from such operations and schools, hospitals, churches, and residences; (b) require TCEQ to provide notice of applications for standard permits to cities for activities proposed in the city's corporate limits or ETJ and require TCEQ to address any and all comments received from the City as required by Sec. 382.112 of the Texas Health & Safety Code; or (c) prohibit TCEQ from issuing a standard permit for activities proposed in the city's corporate limits or ETJ unless the city verifies

that the proposed in the city's corporate limits or ETJ unless the city verifies that the proposed activity is authorized under the city's zoning ordinance or comprehensive plan to locate at the proposed location.

12. provide consistency and uniformity in the compliance deadlines and fees for compliance dismissals of Class "C" misdemeanors.
13. provide courts with access to TexasSure database to verify financial responsibility.
14. provide additional funding through the Municipal Court Building and Security Fund and the Municipal Court Technology Fund.
15. rectify the wording of Texas Government Code Section 29.013 to eliminate the requirement that a city secretary notify the Office of Court Administration of elected or appointed mayors or municipal court clerks.
16. protect from disclosure the list of applicants for a mail in ballot up until the time ballots are sent for those applications, regardless of whether a request is made for the applications
17. promote pay-as-you-go financing for capital projects by authorizing a dedicated property tax rate that is classified similarly to the debt service tax rate in property tax rate calculations.

Oppose

The Board opposes legislation that would:

1. negatively expand appraisal caps but take no position on legislation that would authorize a council-option reduction in the current ten-percent cap on annual appraisal growth.
2. impose new property tax or sales tax exemptions that substantially erode the tax base.
3. limit or eliminate the current flexibility of the Major Events Reimbursement Program as a tool for cities to attract or host major events and conventions.
4. limit the type of incentives available to the city or that would limit any use of incentives by a city.
5. further erode local control as it pertains to retirement issues.
6. substantively change or expand the scope of the current disease presumption law, unless doing so is supported by reputable, independent scientific research.
7. require candidates for city office to declare party affiliation in order to run for office.
8. eliminate any of the current uniform election dates.

9. impose additional state fees or costs on municipal court convictions or require municipal courts to collect fine revenue for the state.
10. restrict city authority to draft ballot propositions in such a way that reflects the full fiscal impact of the proposition.
11. require preclearance of city ballot propositions by a state agency.

Take No Position

The Board takes no position on legislation that would relate to immigration matters, so long as it does not impose new and substantial unfunded mandates or unavoidable liabilities on cities.

Other

The Board takes the following additional actions:

1. take no position on legislation that would impact local sourcing of sales and use taxes for Internet orders.
2. with regard to economic development: (1) take no position on legislation that would broaden the authority of Type A or Type B economic development corporations; and (2) oppose legislation that would limit the authority of Type A or Type B economic development corporations statewide, but take no position on legislation that is regional in scope and that is supported by some cities in that region.

2020

TML RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

Sponsoring Entity: The Cities of Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, and Yorktown (Note: The Yorktown resolution was submitted without a cover sheet and after the deadline for submission, but it is identical to the resolutions submitted by Dripping Springs and Fredericksburg.)

Brief Background: The Cities depends on tourism for some of their economic success. One of the main attractions to the City of Dripping Spring is its park and trails, including Dripping Springs Ranch Park and others, and its walkable downtown. The hotel occupancy tax reflects this and the City would like the ability to use some of these funds to improve and connect some of its attractive resources, its parks. Especially now with the emphasis to spend any social time outdoors in Texas, many other cities are seeing their parks and trails flooded with tourists.

Additionally, cities around the state have a backlog of unfunded needs for park improvements. With recent limits to the authority of cities to increase property taxes, these funding needs will be very difficult to address without additional revenue sources

What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish: Allow cities to use hotel occupancy funds to improve City parks and to connect parks to hotels and other tourist destinations within the City through trails. Support legislation that would authorize a City to spend Hotel Occupancy Tax on park and trail improvements and connectivity for parks and trails used by tourists.

How the Resolution is City-Related/How it Addresses a Municipal Issue: Cities who have hotel occupancy taxes are limited in the manner on which these funds may be used. This Resolution and potential legislation would expand its use while still focusing on the city issue of attracting tourists. Funding of municipal park improvements that create recreational opportunities benefits both residents and tourists.

Statewide Importance: Hundreds of general law and home rule cities throughout the State of Texas impose and expend hotel occupancy taxes.

Submitted By: Name & City: Laura Mueller, City Attorney, City of Dripping Springs
Kent Myers, City Manager, City of Fredericksburg
John Barth, City Administrator, City of Yorktown

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2.

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAXES FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF IMPROVEMENTS IN MUNICIPAL PARKS

WHEREAS, cities adopt a municipal hotel occupancy tax ordinance in order to raise revenue for the promotion of tourism and the hotel and lodging industry; and

WHEREAS, city parks are popular attractions visited year-round by a significant number of tourists and visitors to the cities and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, city parks are utilized for multiple large annual events and festivals that are attended by a significant number of tourists and visitors to the city and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, city parks are in need of additional improvements and amenities and connectivity to lodging establishments and tourist attractions, as the current demand for certain park facilities and amenities frequently exceeds the operating capacity of said improvements and amenities, due to the large attendance at annual festivals, events, and related tourist activities held on city parks and would benefit from connectivity and additional public facilities; and

WHEREAS, city tourism and hotel and lodging industries would benefit from the expenditure of municipal hotel tax revenue on construction of improvements and connectivity to the city parks, as tourist and visitors frequently visit the city parks, and improvements to the city parks will increase the quality and number of amenities available at said city parks for use and enjoyment by tourists and visitors to the cities and surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, city tourism and hotel and lodging industries would benefit from the expenditure of municipal hotel tax revenue on construction of trails and sidewalks that connect city parks to lodging establishments and other tourist attractions, which will increase the use and enjoyment by tourists and visitors of lodging establishments, parks, tourist attractions, and related public facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates assembled at this 2020 Annual Conference of the Texas Municipal League that the League support legislation that would allow for the expenditure of municipal hotel occupancy for construction of improvements in municipal parks and trails/sidewalks that connect parks, lodging establishments, and other tourist attractions, and related public facilities.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this 14th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

Eddie Daffern,
President

ATTEST:

Bennett Sandlin,
Executive Director

2020

TML RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

Sponsoring Entity: Texas Association of Black City Council Members (TABCCM)

Brief Background: The men and women in law enforcement perform very important responsibilities, under difficult and often dangerous circumstances, including enforcing our laws, preserving the peace, and preventing and responding to crime. The criminal justice system operates best, and police are able to do their jobs most effectively, when there is trust between them and the communities they serve and protect.

What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish: We believe the awareness for the need of criminal justice and police reform will enhance the overall contribution to the science and practice of public policy in individual municipalities.

How the Resolution is City-Related/How it Addresses a Municipal Issue: The deaths of Ahmaud Aubrey, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor reignited a national movement against excessive use of force and police misconduct, and these incidents led to international demonstrations against institutional and systemic racism in the criminal justice system and policing tactics. In the wake of these demonstrations, a call for criminal justice and police reforms is taking shape at the state and federal level

Statewide Importance: To reform/standardize criminal justice and police policy statewide.

Submitted By:

Name:	Stephen Mason
Title:	Mayor
City:	Cedar Hill
Email:	Stephen.mason@cedarhilltx.com
Telephone:	(972) 291-5100 x 1012

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE REFORM

WHEREAS, the Texas Association of Black City Councilmembers (TABCCM) is a TML affiliated group created to represent the interests of African American councilmembers in the state of Texas, and

WHEREAS, criminal justice and policing issues have a significant impact on communities represented by members of TABCCM; and

WHEREAS, the men and women in law enforcement perform very important responsibilities, under difficult and often dangerous circumstances, including enforcing our laws, preserving the peace, and preventing and responding to crime; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system operates best, and police are able to do their jobs most effectively when there is trust between them and the communities they serve and protect; and

WHEREAS, 2020 has been an unprecedented year for high profile police and criminal justice matters, and

WHEREAS, the deaths of Ahmaud Aubrey, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor reignited a national movement against excessive use of force and police misconduct, and

WHEREAS, these incidents led to international demonstrations against institutional and systemic racism in the criminal justice system and policing tactics, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of these demonstrations a call for criminal justice and police reforms is taking shape at the state and federal level, and

WHEREAS, the Texas legislature will meet in 2021 to consider several criminal justice and police reform measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates assembled at this 2020 Annual Conference of the Texas Municipal League that the League supports enacting legislation related to criminal justice and police reform including legislation that seeks to standardize police policies statewide on the following issues:

- Ban on the use of chokeholds and neck restraints
- Require the use of de-escalation in use of force incidents
- Cite and Release for Class C misdemeanors
- Require mandatory use of body worn cameras during police - citizen encounters

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this 14th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

Eddie Daffern,
President

ATTEST:

Bennett Sandlin,
Executive Director

4.

**A RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION
AS IT RELATES TO THE NAMING CONVENTIONS OF THE AMERICAN
PLANNING ASSOCIATION TEXAS CHAPTER AND THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION**

WHEREAS, the Texas Municipal League (TML) Constitution provides for twenty-one affiliates;
and

WHEREAS, the members of the American Planning Association Texas Chapter seek to have their
affiliate name properly represented in the TML Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association seek to
have their affiliate name properly represented in the TML Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the TML Board of Directors wishes to amend the TML Constitution to properly
reflect the names of the two affiliates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 7.1 of the TML Constitution be amended
as follows:

Section 7.1 - Affiliates Named. The affiliates of the League shall be the
following:

- (1) Texas Association of Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners
- (2) Texas City Management Association
- (3) Texas Municipal Utilities Association
- (4) Texas City Attorneys Association
- (5) Government Finance Officers Association of Texas
- (6) Texas Chapter of American Public Works Association
- (7) Texas Municipal Human Resources Association
- (8) ~~Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association~~ Texas
Chapter
- (9) Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.
- (10) Texas Police Chiefs Association
- (11) Texas Fire Chiefs Association
- (12) Texas Municipal Library Directors Association
- (13) Building Officials Association of Texas
- (14) Texas Public Purchasing Association
- (15) Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers
- (16) Texas Association of Municipal Health Officials
- (17) Texas Court Clerks Association
- (18) Texas Association of Black City Council Members
- (19) Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials
- (20) Texas Association of Governmental Information Technology
Managers
- (21) Texas Recreation and Park Society

Other organizations may be admitted to the League as affiliates by resolution at the Annual Conference, subject to the prior recommendation of the Board of Directors of the League, provided, however, that the League shall not have more than twenty-one affiliates at any time. When the League has twenty-one affiliates, a request by an additional organization to become an affiliate of the League can be approved only by combining the requesting group with an existing, similar affiliate. When the League has fewer than twenty-one affiliates, an additional organization may request affiliate status if the organization meets the requirements of Section 7.5.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this 14th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

Eddie Daffern,
President

ATTEST:

Bennett Sandlin,
Executive Director

5.

**A RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION
AS IT RELATES TO ADDING GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY COORDINATION TO
THE DUTIES OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS ON THE BOARD**

WHEREAS, the TML Legislative Committee on Advocacy Strategy met on February 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the committee made numerous recommendations related to how the League communicates with member city officials; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the committee were adopted by the TML Board of Directors on February 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, one of those recommendations was to add grassroots advocacy coordination to the duties of the regional directors on the TML Board; and

WHEREAS, the TML Board of Directors wishes to amend the TML Constitution to make that addition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Section 4.1A. of the TML Constitution be amended as follows:

A. Regional Directors. One director to be elected by and from each of the TML regions, provided that such regional director shall in every case be a mayor, councilmember, city commission member, alderman or other member of an elected municipal governing body. Each regional director shall be responsible for grassroots advocacy coordination for their region.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this 14th day of October, 2020.

APPROVED:

Eddie Daffern,
President

ATTEST:

Bennett Sandlin,
Executive Director