

CITY OF BLAINE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION
MEETING DATE: December 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution 1694a-16 Adoption Blaine's 2017 Legislative Agenda.

DEPARTMENT: Admin Services

PREPARED BY: _____
(Digital Signature)

AGENDA LOCATION: Consent Agenda Council Action Unfinished Business

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution 1694a-16 with Exhibit A

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

At the October 24th council meeting, staff brought forward Resolution 1694-16, adopting Blaine's 2017 Legislative Agenda. Following the adoption of the resolution, it was determined that additional priorities should be considered in 2017; reinstatement of a passenger train stop in Blaine, and consideration by the state of an increase from the one-cent per gallon gas tax. Adoption of this amended resolution would support the City's efforts and endorsement of consideration and funding of the city's priorities.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the city council adopt resolution 1694a-16 adopting the city of Blaine's 2017 legislative agenda.

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)

COUNCIL ACTION:

Approved Denied Tabled/Deferred Assigned to: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 1694a-16

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BLAINE, WASHINGTON, AMENDING RESOLUTION 1694-16,
ADOPTING THE CITY OF BLAINE'S 2017 LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA.**

WHEREAS, efforts of representation on behalf of the City of Blaine to influence, affect or guide the passage of legislation in the Washington State legislature are enhanced by a comprehensive package of priorities that have been officially adopted by the City Council pursuant to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Blaine City Council adopted Resolution 1694-16 on October 24, 2016, adopting the City of Blaine legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, the Blaine City Council has determined additional priorities be included in the 2017 Legislative Agenda:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Blaine, Washington, adopts the attached City of Blaine 2017 Washington State Legislative Priorities as the position of the City of Blaine on the items stated therein, as amended.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, on the 12th day of December, 2016, and approved by the Mayor on the same day.

CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON

Harry Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

Sheri Sanchez, City Clerk



CITY OF BLAINE 2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

City of Blaine 2017 Top Priorities

- Blaine supports state funding sources for the I-274 Interchange.
- Blaine supports federal funding sources to relocate the Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS) to address emergency access and ensure public safety.
- Blaine supports legislation to address freight rail safety and congestion issues, oil spill responses, and first responder training for hazardous materials.
- Blaine supports dedicating a portion of any new fuel tax revenue to direct distributions to cities and counties for their local road maintenance needs.
- Blaine supports allowing both the state and local governments the option of replacing the property tax cap up to the rate of inflation or 1 percent, whichever is higher.
- Blaine supports Whatcom County expediting funding and construction of new jail facilities and improving the Whatcom County courthouse.
- Blaine supports state funding to reinstate a passenger train stop in Blaine.
- Blaine supports state consideration to increase the one-cent per gallon gas tax for border cities.

State Priorities

The City of Blaine supports legislation to promote the City Council's goals and protect the City's ability to provide basic municipal services to its citizens.

- Maintain the city-state partnership for shared revenues to fund key services.
- Support and enhance actions to increase affordable housing, decrease homelessness, and improve a strained mental and behavioral health system.
- Update the Public Records Act so cities can continue to provide open and transparent government services to Washington residents.
- Revitalize key infrastructure assistance programs to support job creation, our health and safety, economic vitality, and quality of life.
- Provide adequate and sustainable funding to maintain high-quality statewide training for law enforcement personnel.
- Respect city local authority with regards to revenue, taxes, licensing, and home rule; city officials are elected and must have the authority to solve local challenges.
- Maintain funding for the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) to provide vital support for local government performance.

Federal Priorities

The City of Blaine supports federal fiscal policies that enhance the ability of local elected officials to respond to needs at the local level including funding to build infrastructure, support economic development, deliver human services, and ensure public safety.

- Close the online sales tax loophole.
- Protect municipal bonds.
- Invest in infrastructure.
- Maintain community development funding.
- Ensure safe communities.