

# **Legislative Intent for 2015**

## **1. Economic Impact of Lower Oil Prices and Mild Winter Weather on the 2015 Salt Lake County (SLCO) Budget.**

It is the intent of this Council to quantify the budgetary savings that will derive from lower-than-expected oil prices and the mild winter weather experienced in 2015. It would be most helpful if the anticipated savings were allocated among the following categories: gasoline prices; diesel fuel prices; snow removal savings; supplies and equipment savings; other savings; and —to the extent possible— the increase in SLCO sales tax revenue estimated to derive from lower fuel costs. The Council's Fiscal Manager will work with the Mayor's staff and the SLCO Fleet Board to help ensure the timely completion of this analysis. The economic impacts should be available for Council review and discussion as soon as practical but no later than May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Added February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **2. Equestrian Center Report**

It is the intent of the Council that the Community Services Department provides a quarterly report to the County Council regarding the management transition for the Equestrian Center from SLCO to the management group SMG.

Added December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **3. Discussion of SLCO Budget Process.**

It is the intent of the Council to convene a meeting among the Council, the Mayor and the independent elected officials, during the first quarter of 2015, to discuss, evaluate and explore possible improvements to the Salt Lake County budget process.

Added November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **4. Countywide Hiring Review.**

It is the intent of the Council to continue, during the 2015 Committee of the Whole Meetings, the review process for filling vacant positions. Positions that are vacant or become vacant may only be filled after the Council's review. In addition, each month the Human Resources Director, or his designee, will report to the Council regarding compensation-related issues, including:

- A general update on the pulse of the county's job market;
- Salary and turnover pressures and their effects on recruiting and the pace at which vacancies are being filled;
- Progress reports for the Hay study of SLCO pay and benefits; and
- Other relevant issues.

Added December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and modified December 9, 2014

#### **5. Restrict Certain Appropriation Unit Shifts.**

It is the intent of the Council to restrict appropriation unit shifts between personnel and operations, and between personnel and capital. The justification for any and all such requests shall be vetted by the County Budget Officer, and then brought to the Council for review and direction. The Council extended this restriction, which was effective January 1, 2014, to include budget year 2015.

Added November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 & Modified December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and again on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### **6. In the Event Salt Lake City Transfers Ownership of the Utah Theater.**

It is the intent of the Council that in the event Salt Lake City transfers ownership of the Utah Theater to Salt Lake County it shall be without stipulation as to the use of the facility or continued ownership. Once the transfer is complete, the county is free to use the facility for whatever purpose it deems to be the highest and best use—including selling the asset.

Added on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

#### **7. Salt Lake County Supports Blueprint Jordan River.**

It is the intent of the Council to affirm support of the goals and visions of Blueprint Jordan River, and to encourage all Salt Lake County elected officials and elected officials in municipalities of Salt Lake County to become active participants in the plans of Blueprint Jordan River by adhering to the following actions:

1. Permanently preserving as open space all land within the Jordan River corridor that was zoned as open space as of February 2009;
2. Enacting or modifying zoning ordinances to assure that development within the Jordan River corridor is compatible with Blueprint recommendations;
3. Considering participation in cooperative efforts to fund open space acquisition, trail development, habitat restoration, etc. where practical;
4. Selecting representatives to serve as members of the Jordan River Commission to oversee continued progress toward realization of all goals and visions of Blueprint Jordan River; and
5. Declining public financial participation of any form (including CDAs, RDAs, and sales tax sharing) in proposed developments that are incompatible with the principles, goals and visions of Blueprint Jordan River.

Added on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### **8. Auditor's Evaluation of the County's Bidding Process for Property Tax Sales.**

It is the intent of the Council that the newly elected County Auditor shall review and evaluate the county's bidding process for property tax sales. This review should occur as soon as practical in 2015. After reviewing the County Auditor's findings and recommendations, the Mayor and the Council shall consider such actions as may be appropriate to improve the efficiency of the bidding process as well as foster greater public understanding.

Added on April 15, 2014.

### **9. Council Information Sessions from Mayor's Departments.**

It is the intent of this Council that on a quarterly basis one County government department shall present, in the Committee of the Whole meeting, information regarding its mission, major programs, and funding sources. Following the department presentation, Council Members may invite divisions from the department to provide additional information at a future meeting.

Added on March 11, 2014.

### **10. Funding for the Regional Gang Reduction Initiative.**

It is the intent of the Council that the Mayor's Office of Regional Development prepares an annual appropriation request to help finance the county's new Regional Gang Reduction Initiative, and that the staff provides an update during the annual budget sessions regarding this initiative.

Added on March 11, 2014.

### **11. Employee Health Clinic Updates.**

It is the intent of the Council to receive updates on the Employee Health Clinic from the Human Resources Division for the next two years on a quarterly basis. The updates should include the following: information regarding the number of patients served; the types and costs of medical services provided; and the estimated financial impact of the clinic on the county employees' health insurance program.

Added on February 25, 2014.

### **12. Council Contributions to Offset County Facility Charges.**

It is the intent of the Council to devote \$15,000 per year of its contribution funds to offset County facility use charges (rental fees, use fee, etc.) for deserving organizations consistent with the following criteria:

- The entity is a 501c(3) organization;
- The entity will either use the County facility to serve disadvantaged youth who qualify for free or reduced school lunches (the rental fee offset shall be pro-rated based on the proportion of disadvantaged youth served); or the entity will use the facility to allow a youth group to host an event designed solely to fundraise so that the group can represent Salt Lake County at a national or international competition; and
- The entity shall not receive more than \$5,000 in any calendar year to offset rental fees at one or more County facilities.

Added November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### **13. Interlocal Agreement with Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District (WFWRD) Regarding Fee Increases & Related Matters.**

It is the intent of the Council that the Mayor's Office negotiates an interlocal agreement with WFWRD consistent with the following parameters:

- That the WFWRD will be represented on the Salt Lake Valley Landfill Council by the Council of Governments' representative and will not seek separate representation;
- That it is in the collective best interests of the county and its residents that WFWRD continues to use the county landfill and county transfer station for the disposal of a substantial percentage of the **annual net waste stream**. (The net waste stream is the difference between the gross tonnage collected and the diverted tonnage that consists of green waste, glass and other recycled materials.);
- That the WFWRD will not seek legislative authority to remove the Salt Lake County Council's ability to modify, limit, or revoke the powers delegated to the WFWRD by the Council; and
- That the WFWRD will not attempt to become a local district.

Added November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### **14. New County Compensation and Pay Practices Policies.**

It is the intent of the Council to review and begin to refine compensation, pay practices and related policies during 2014. Specifically, the County Council would like to work with the Administration to develop new proposed compensation and pay practice policies by October 2015 that:

- Define the overall policy for the County to adjust its compensation practices: market-based, longevity, a combination or a completely different approach;
- Address the differences between the tier 1 and tier 2 retirement systems as they impact overall compensation, and consider policy alternatives;
- Update and re-define processes for reclassifications, equity adjustments, market adjustments etc.;
- Address pay for performance;
- Address bonuses;
- Address tuition reimbursement;
- Re-affirm or alter the County's paid time off policies (i.e. traditional sick/vacation versus general paid time off); and
- Establish a rational policy and process for paying elected officials and their appointed staff members (e.g. should elected officials be able to decline a pay increase? Should there be pay consistency among elected officials and between their key staff? Should the compensation of the Mayor, Sheriff and DA more closely relate to each other and be higher than other elected officials based on span of control, risk to the county etc.? What role does/should longevity play in the compensation of appointed officials?)

The Council and the Mayor look to receive input from the Director of Human Resources regarding possible compensation alternatives for the 2015 budget as soon as practical but not later than September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Added November 5th, 2013; amended March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### **15. Annual Review of County Fees.**

It is the intent of the Council that the SLCO Revenue Projection Committee conducts an annual comprehensive review of all County fees.

Added November 5th, 2013

#### **16. Analyze the Current Relationship between the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association and Salt Lake County.**

It is the intent of the Council to analyze the possibility of changing the County's relationship with the Salt Lake Legal Defenders Association (LDA) such that instead of contracting with the LDA for legal services the County employs the LDA staff.

Added November 12th, 2013

### **Other Legislative Intent**

#### **17. Council-led Review and Evaluation of Existing Post-Retirement Benefits.**

It is the intent of the Council to review and evaluate the eligibility criteria and costs of the county's post-retirement benefits. A Council-led committee will consider the following issues: current policies regarding access to post-retirement benefits; as well as funding and benefit options for early retirees (not yet eligible for Medicare coverage) and the Medicare supplement plan. To that end, information is required regarding how the county's benefits and associated costs compare to those of other public employers, the legal precedents that shape options to the current system, and any other relevant information including strategies to control costs and fund future benefits in a responsible manner.

Added November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### **18. Ordinance Review Process.**

It is the intent of the Council that the Mayor's Office shall bring all ordinance proposals scheduled to be reviewed by other public advisory or decision bodies (i.e. community councils, planning commissions as well as other bodies with similar oversight responsibilities) to a Council Work Study session. An overview of the proposal and anticipated timeline will be provided prior to going out for public review. The objective is to allow Council Members to be familiar with a proposed ordinance through all stages of development so that they may have a deeper understanding of public concerns and requests prior to formal adoption.

Added February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**19. Council Interns.**

It is the intent of the Council that interns working for the Council report to the Council Chair, and that the selection process affords preference to candidates attending higher education institutions located within Salt Lake County.

Added October 30th, 2012

**20. Utah Performing Arts Center (UPAC) Milestones.**

It is the intent of the Council to achieve the following milestones: that the Council receives updates and reviews any and all inter local agreement(s), including, but not limited to, the final operating agreement; that the City and County will continue to work collaboratively to coordinate programming within the cultural community, in an effort to reduce calendar conflicts; that with regard to the development of UPAC, the City and County actively engage with the community regarding priorities for common spaces and allocations for smaller performing and rehearsal spaces within UPAC (i.e. rehearsal studio, black box theater); and that the City and County collaborate to meet a broad range of community needs.

First discussed August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**21. Community Council Revolving Fund.**

It is the intent of the Council that when the community councils' revolving fund contributions are distributed, it be based on population.

**22. Sheriff's Pay-to-Stay Program.**

It is the intent of the Council that there continue to be an ongoing analysis with regard to the Sheriff's Pay-for-Stay program to ensure proper pricing and efficient collection rates.

## **Legislative Intent Items Carried Over From Prior Years**

### **Funds for Two Fire Stations.**

It is the intent of the Council to help the Fire District bond for two fire stations by providing an annual appropriation of \$250,000 for ten years through an inter-local agreement. The agreement should include a reversionary clause indicating that the County will assume ownership of the stations if the Fire District dissolves. It is the County's position that each member of the District is responsible for its own infrastructure.

### **Yearly Reports from UTA.**

It is the intent of the Council to receive annual reports from the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) regarding the amount of sales tax revenue generated to help fund the commuter rail line and the four additional light rail lines referred to in the December 2007 Inter-local Cooperating Agreement. The annual reports will commence in 2015, and will identify the annual amount of the Part 17 sales tax (one-quarter of one percent) generated and the annual expenditures financed by that tax.

### **Electronic Copies of All Studies.**

It is the intent of the Council that the public have timely access to an electronic version of all studies completed for or on the behalf of the county. In those cases where legal or proprietary considerations preclude public access to a study, the relevant elected official or department head should provide a brief explanation to the Mayor and the Council that justifies the exception prior to initiating the study.