

STAFF REPORT

Date: August 10, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential direction to staff regarding bill draft requests for the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

From: Calli Wilsey

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

The City is authorized to submit to up to two bill draft requests (BDR) for the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature, which is scheduled to start on February 6, 2023. Staff solicited BDR ideas from Council Members, City staff, and the Reno City Charter Committee and narrowed down the BDR list following preliminary analysis, research, and conversation. Staff is seeking Council direction on which BDR topics, if any, to move forward and submit by the September 1, 2022 deadline.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing

Economic and Community Development

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

No previous Council action related to this item.

Background:

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218D.205 specifies that the City is allocated two BDRs. BDRs are requests to change state law, and City-sponsored BDRs typically seek to allow for more efficient and effective service delivery to citizens and benefit the City of Reno and its citizens. The subjects of the City's BDRs must be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) on or before September 1, 2022.

Discussion:

Members of the City’s legislative team sought BDR ideas from Council Members and City staff. Staff completed a preliminary analysis of the submitted concepts and reviewed the ideas based on the following factors:

- Alignment with the City of Reno Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- Impact (i.e. expected positive impact to Reno citizens or City operations and service delivery);
- Need (i.e. urgency for a solution, a change to state law is needed to effectuate the change/other solutions have been explored, Reno-specific need);
- Concept Readiness (i.e. clear problem and solution identified, initial stakeholder conversations occurred); and
- Political Capacity (i.e. controversial nature of the topic, potential legislative procedural rules).

Based on this analysis, staff identified one potential topic on affordable housing to move forward for discussion. However, other entities and/or legislators are considering sponsoring the same legislation.

Additionally, the Reno City Charter Committee completed their biennial review of the Reno City Charter. The committee recommended four amendments to the City’s governing document, which were presented to Council on August 4, 2022.

The table below summarizes the two potential BDRs:

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL BDRs FOR THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION	
Ref. #	Description
BDR22-1	Changes to the Reno City Charter. Four amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendment 2022-001: Elimination of gendered language throughout the Charter;• Amendment 2022-002: Repeal of changes scheduled to take effect January 2024 related to the number of wards, makeup of elected offices and other related provisions;• Amendment 2022-003: Requirements for a Chief Equity Officer appointment and inclusive community engagement processes; and/or• Amendment 2022-004: Addition of green infrastructure projects to the list of project types that could be authorized under local improvement law.
BDR22-2	Expand existing property tax exemption program to include affordable housing projects with certain regulatory agreements in an effort to remove barriers for

	affordable housing development and ensure federal HOME funds are fully optimized to build and preserve affordable housing units.
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Council may select up to two BDRs and may select or amend the ideas above to submit to the state for drafting. Council is not limited to discussing or selecting from these options. BDRs must be submitted by September 1, 2022.

Council is not required to submit any BDRs. In lieu of a specific request, the body may also opt for the City's legislative team to spend time focusing on other priority issues, such as housing, that are anticipated to be addressed through various bills sponsored by others.

In addition to BDRs, Council will adopt a policy platform to give guidance to staff as to the City's interest in potential legislation on various topics and policy issues. The platform will be drafted in the coming months and will be scheduled for adoption prior to the start of the legislative session.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this item.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council identify which Reno City Charter amendments, if any, to submit for one of the City's BDRs. In lieu of a second BDR, staff recommends Council direct staff to prioritize efforts to advance affordable housing legislation that will align with the City's legislative policy platform, which will be adopted prior to the legislative session.

Proposed Motion:

I move to direct staff to submit BDR22-1 with the following amendments: 2022-XXX, etc. (*identify amendment number(s) from description in table*) to the Legislative Counsel and, in lieu of a second BDR, to prioritize efforts to advance affordable housing legislation that align with City's final legislative policy platform.