



# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

## City Council Interoffice Communication

**To:** Honorable City Council Members

**From:** Mike Posey, Mayor   
Erik Peterson, Mayor Pro Tem 

**Date:** June 5, 2018

**Subject:** CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEM FOR THE JUNE 18, 2018, CITY COUNCIL MEETING – COUNCIL MEMBER TRAVEL/STATE AND FEDERAL ADVOCACY TRAVEL

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### **STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

The Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IRC) is a City Council sub-committee that currently consists of the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Council Member Lyn Semeta. The IRC was established to allow for a more comprehensive focus on pending legislation, both State and Federal that could impact the City. All position decisions on pending legislation are brought forth to the entire City Council for a vote on a formal City position. Additionally, the members of the IRC represent the City on regional agencies that often discuss pending legislation that could impact said organization and the City's interests. Advocacy efforts usually do not end with these discussions and often involve travel and meetings with legislators, both locally and in Sacramento and Washington D.C.

There are regional organizations that frequently organize travel to Sacramento and Washington D.C. to advocate on behalf of local governments and our specific needs. There is no specific policy that says who from the City can attend these advocacy trips. Without such a policy in place, and because of the Brown Act, no more than three City Council Members can attend a particular advocacy trip. This has led to a "first come, first served" approach to determining who can attend such trips.

We believe that a better approach to deciding who should attend advocacy trips would be to coordinate all such requests through the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Direct the City Manager and the City Attorney to revise the Council travel policies to require that all City Council Members coordinate their advocacy travel requests through the IRC.

**Cc:** Fred Wilson, City Manager  
Lori Ann Farrell, Assistant City Manager  
Robin Estanislau, City Clerk  
Michael Gates, City Attorney