

2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

Community Project Funding Requests

CPD Mental Health Co-Responder Program - \$150,000

Partner with Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to provide enhanced response to calls for service involving mental illness and more efficiently connect persons needing assistance to available programs.

Imagine Clearwater – \$1.5 million

Transform the City's waterfront Downtown park into additional greenspace featuring a garden, trail, and gateway plaza.

Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management System - \$250,000

Design a single Computer Aided Dispatch System and Records Management System.

Issues to Support

COVID-19 Legislation, Federal Emergency Programs, and Federal Funding

1. Support Federal COVID relief funding for Municipalities with flexibility for communities to prepare for and respond to this and any future public health emergencies.
2. Support Federal policies that maximizes eligibility for FEMA reimbursement to municipalities during the pandemic response and recovery, natural disasters, and other declared emergencies and that streamline the review and approval process of requests for reimbursement.

Infrastructure Investment

1. Identify opportunities for the City in any infrastructure legislation and appropriations bills Congress may consider to reauthorize Federal transportation and transit programs as well as new programs that address climate resiliency and energy efficiency.
2. Support Federal funding opportunities to replace the Clearwater Transit Center.

Opportunity Zones

1. Support legislation to provide greater opportunities for the City to take advantage of designated Opportunity Zones, which are economically distressed areas within a community where private investments, under certain conditions, may be eligible for capital gain tax incentives. The realignment of Opportunity Zone boundaries and additional flexibilities could stimulate economic development and job creation in the City by incentivizing long-term investments in low-income neighborhoods.

National Flood Insurance Program

1. Support efforts to improve the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the benefit of all participants during the on-going 2021 reauthorization and reform process. Oppose recommendations that would raise rates or reduce access for property owners. The current authorization for NFIP expires on September 30, 2021.

Cybersecurity Legislation and Federal Policy

1. Support Federal funding and agency support for local governments to enhance cybersecurity preparedness and training, share critical intelligence, and prevent “ransomware” attacks.

Energy

1. Monitor Federal legislation and policies that may impact Clearwater Gas customers and operations.