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2021 GUIDING PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES

APPROVED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Chamber has many interests in common with the City of Raytown, the Raytown Quality Schools, the Raytown Fire Protection District, the Metropolitan Community College and the Missouri business community and is supportive of many of the positions adopted by those organizations. By recognizing these common interests, the Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism seeks to promote our businesses and organizations. Our goal is to advocate for our members and the business community in the Raytown area, with our public policy makers on all levels of government accordingly, we adopt the following principles.

Raytown Community

The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and its community partners supports:

Main Priorities

- ✓ The City in efforts to maintain and increase funding for the purpose of providing basic city services.
- ✓ Monitoring opportunities that enable fourth class cities to be consistent with other communities in the area.

Secondary Priorities

- ✓ Continuing to provide input in the decisions affecting the Rock Island Trail and related amenities.

Transportation

The State of Missouri and Raytown need a long-term, sustainable transportation funding strategy focused on improving safety and encouraging economic development. The Chamber supports:

Main Priority

- ✓ Funding a fuel tax increase as recommended by the 21st Century Missouri Transportation Systems Task Force.

Secondary Priorities

- ✓ Continued funding to support construction of a Rock Island Trail connection to Kansas City through the cities of Pleasant Hill, Greenwood, Lee's Summit and Raytown, along with Jackson and Cass Counties.
- ✓ Creating and expanding development of transportation corridors throughout Raytown to support business growth and development, tourism and improving the quality of for its citizens.

Business and Economic Development

The State of Missouri and the City of Raytown need a strong package of economic development programs and incentives to increase their competitiveness in today's markets and economy. The Chamber supports:

Main Priority

- ✓ Strengthening Raytown's economic development resources and ability to retain existing businesses, encouraging redevelopment within our community, and continuing the effective and responsible use of tax incentive programs.

Secondary Priorities

- ✓ Promoting financial discipline within laws approved at state and federal levels and limiting unfunded mandates to local entities.
- ✓ Support the Balance Energy Resolution, which recognizes the importance of natural gas in helping the City of Raytown achieve its environmental goals and objectives, keeping energy costs down, maintaining freedom of energy choice, and contributing to a strong economy.
- ✓ Support policies that encourage expansion and further development of renewable energy to deliver affordable and reliable energy to the Kansas City region and other high demand areas.

Education

A high-quality educational system is vital to the economic health of the Raytown area community. The Chamber supports:

Main Priorities

- ✓ Local control through elected Boards of Education
- ✓ Providing adequate, equitable funding to support all public schools operating budgets, including a capital investment plan that will provide on-going support for public facilities and transportation.
- ✓ Investing in high-quality early learning and expanding all Early Childhood Education opportunities.

Secondary Priority

- ✓ Legislative efforts which continue to meet previous commitments to students and allow access to a college education at post-secondary institutions in Missouri, through programs such as A+, Access Missouri, etc.

Health Care and Social Awareness

A healthy workforce and a healthy community are critical to the economic vitality of the Raytown community. The Chamber supports:

Main Priority

- ✓ Improving access to healthcare by supporting permanent adoption of recent changes in regulations, at both the Federal and State level, regarding provision of telehealth services. Additionally, working to reform regulations regarding eligible provider credentials and licensure reciprocity practices at both the state and federal levels to maximize availability of health care providers.

Secondary Priorities

- ✓ Advocating for sufficient funding to meet the increased need for behavioral health services brought about by implementation of the 988 National Suicide Prevention Hotline.
- ✓ Strengthening local services that improve workforce wellbeing, including mental health, social services, senior services, prevention of violence and domestic violence, drug abuse and others