

SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Salt Lake City Council Policy Statement on Constructive Relationships With Neighboring Communities

January 18, 2005

As a result of the controversy that has arisen from certain comments by Mayor Ross Anderson in his "State of the City Address" on January 11, 2005 and similar public comments in the days that followed, the Salt Lake City Council, acting as the policy-making branch¹ of city government, finds it necessary to issue this statement to make clear Salt Lake City's policy toward those who, while they may not live in Salt Lake City, add to Salt Lake City's vitality and sustainability by their contributions to our city's employment, recreational, educational and cultural environment. Simply put, it is Salt Lake City's long-standing policy to be inclusive of a diverse population. We WELCOME all people here.

Salt Lake City is the capital city of Utah, the county seat, the major business and commercial, cultural, religious and tourism center of the State of Utah, and home to a major research university, and medical facilities that serve the state and region. In the previous decade (1990-2001) downtown's workforce grew 25 percent.² The city's population doubles every weekday, to approximately 371,000, and 20 percent of the state's entire workforce commutes to jobs located within the city's boundaries.³

Salt Lake City encourages residents from throughout the region to come downtown to participate in a variety of festivals including Living Traditions, the Utah Arts Festival, the Utah State Fair, the Salt Lake City International Jazz Festival, the Salt Lake City Marathon, Days of 47 Parade and related activities, the Twilight and Brown Bag Concert series, First Night and Farmers Market. Salt Lake City had the honor of hosting the 2002 Winter Olympics, but that would not have been possible without the support of our neighbors in every community throughout the state.

The tax base provided by the commercial and industrial uses in our city is significant and directly benefits city residents. For example in property tax—the largest source of city general revenue⁴—60 percent is paid by commercial property owners. As a result, through the property tax, commercial property owners provide 60 percent of the revenue for:

¹ See *Utah Code Annotated 1953*, 10-3-101(2), and 10-3-1219(2)(a), also *Salt Lake City Attorney Opinion Regarding Separation of Powers, June 2000*,—No. 7 on page 4.

² Salt Lake City Council Policy Statement on the Future Economic Development of Downtown, adopted January 2003, pages 2 and 3.

³ Salt Lake City Corporation Budget Book 2004-2005, p 3

⁴ Property Tax accounts for 38% of SLC general revenue. Property, Sales, and Franchise Taxes combined provide 76% of total General Fund operating revenue. See Salt Lake City Corp. Budget Book 2004-2005, page 49.

- The Salt Lake City Public Library System
- The local support for Salt Lake City public schools (benefiting 24,000 city school children)
- The cost of city bonds for open space, to construct new facilities at Hogle Zoo and Tracy Aviary, and even for the 1980's renovation of the City and County Building.

Likewise, businesses and other enterprises that bring significant numbers of people into Salt Lake City also pay a significant portion of the sales tax and franchise tax - revenues - that help fund vital city services including the Police and Fire departments. Salt Lake City and our residents also benefit from the contributions of many dedicated city employees who commute into the city to perform vital services. The same is true of many businesses, professional offices, and government and non-profit institutions. All should feel wanted and welcome, because they are.

Salt Lake City is successful because of the support of not only city residents, but the support of Utahns throughout the state and particularly many who live along the Wasatch Front. We believe that Salt Lake City is a great benefit to the State of Utah, but the surrounding communities are a great benefit to Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake City Council recognizes that with population growth comes new challenges for urban and transportation planning, and increases the imperative of preserving open spaces, and protecting our environment. We are proud that the city's efforts resulted in Salt Lake City being named one of the first "Quality Growth Communities" by the State Quality Growth Commission. We are also supportive of national efforts to continue to encourage cleaner-burning vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicles, and support the City Administration in adding more such vehicles to city fleets. We strongly encourage Salt Lake City residents as well as residents throughout communities along the Wasatch Front, to car-pool when possible, and better utilize mass-transit where available and feasible. We look forward to working with others to bring about greater mass transit options. And yet we also recognize that these options are not always available or practical, even within our own city, given the wide variety of individual circumstances and needs.

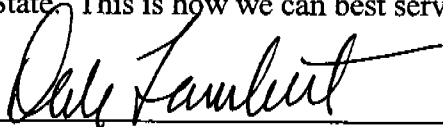
Salt Lake City benefits directly from Utah's first light-rail system operated by the Utah Transit Authority. Elected officials and residents of Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties supported and voted for a sales tax increase to fund these projects. Davis County elected officials in particular have been at the forefront in advocating for commuter rail and other forms of mass-transit. We express our appreciation for their efforts and for the voters in these three counties who supported tax increases for mass-transit. We wish to work cooperatively with the communities along the Wasatch Front in confronting our mutual problems resulting from growth, congestion, and automobile emissions.

The Salt Lake City Council also reiterates its support for housing of all types, including family-friendly single family homes, to make it possible for more people, if they choose, to become city residents.

Salt Lake City is our city—it is where we live, and we take seriously the public trust we have been given to protect its interests and build a better future. We recognize however, that because of its history and the role it plays in our state and region's economy, government, culture, education, recreation—this city is unique in our state because it also belongs to all Utahns. We welcome and encourage everyone to visit our city often—whether to work, to view professional sports or enjoy the arts and entertainment of all kinds, to shop, to worship, or for recreation, health care and education. Specifically, we reiterate the policy included in the City Council's 2003 *Statement on Downtown*:

The City Council encourages greater efforts to market downtown to people where downtown is geographically the closest shopping area... [including] the suburban population, particularly residents of South Davis County... Emphasis should be on helping Davis County residents feel welcomed to and appreciated by Salt Lake City.⁵

Salt Lake City is friendly and welcoming, and open for business. We extend our appreciation to our neighbors who live in communities up and down the Wasatch Front, Tooele County, Summit County, Wasatch County and throughout the State of Utah, for their many contributions to the greatness of Salt Lake City. Where differences arise, we pledge to work in good faith and constructively with elected officials throughout the region and across the State. This is how we can best serve those who have honored us with their trust.



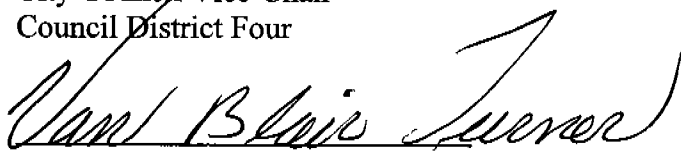
Dale Lambert
City Council Chair
Council District Seven



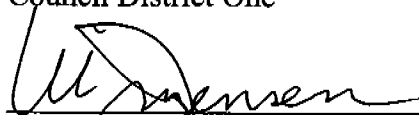
Nancy Saxton
City Council Vice-Chair
Council District Four



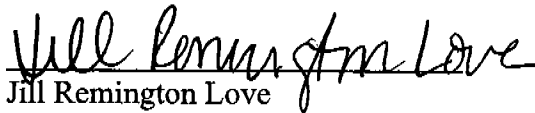
Carlton J. Christensen
City Council Member
Council District One




Van Blair Turner
City Council Member
Council District Two



K. Eric Jergensen
City Council Member
Council District Three



Jill Remington Love
City Council Member
Council District Five



David L. Buhler
City Council Member
Council District Six

⁵ Salt Lake City Council Policy Statement on Downtown, January 2003, pages 7 and 13.