

## **Attachment 1**

### **ITEMS RECOMMENDED AS THE CITY'S 2014 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

#### **A—MAJOR FISCAL ISSUES**

1. State Budget and Local Revenues. The City asks its delegation not to further restrict local revenue authority or sources, such as BPOL, without providing alternative revenue authority and sustainable revenue sources; not to impose unfunded mandates on local governments; and not to shift state funding responsibilities onto local governments.

2. Transit Funding. The City asks its General Assembly delegation to ensure that any transit funding formula which is considered, and ultimately approved by the 2014 General Assembly, treats the City and Northern Virginia fairly.

3. Transportation Funding. The City commends the 2013 General Assembly for passage of major new transportation funding legislation (HB 2313), and asks its delegation to oppose any proposals in 2014 that would lessen funds coming to Alexandria, or result in the City not receiving its fair share of any transportation revenues.

4. Cost of competing. The City asks its delegation to support full funding of Northern Virginia's K-12 cost of competing needs in the upcoming biennial budget.

#### **B—REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATIVE OR BUDGET PROPOSALS TO BE INTRODUCED**

1. Revisions to the City Charter. The City recommends two revisions to the City Charter:

- a. Eliminate a provision that prohibits the City Attorney from being the “legal advisor” to the School Board
- b. “Clean up” the Charter provisions that refer to May Council and School Board elections.

2. Pedestrian Safety. The City asks its delegation to introduce and support legislation to require drivers to stop (not just yield) for pedestrians in marked crosswalks where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

3. CSO Funding. The City asks its delegation to seek State assistance for Alexandria to address water quality problems resulting from its combined sewer system.

4. ABC Laws and Wine Tastings. The City asks its delegation to introduce legislation to amend the alcoholic beverage control laws so that wine wholesalers can participate in wine tastings.

5. Opportunity Educational Institution. The City ask its delegation to introduce legislation to eliminate the Opportunity Educational Institution (OEI), or to significantly modify its enabling legislation so that there is considerably greater local input and control over any Alexandria schools placed in OEI.

6. Condo Conversions. Current law allows a disabled or elderly tenant to assign purchase rights to his unit to a government agency, housing authority, or nonprofit housing corporation in the

case of a condominium conversion. The City asks its delegation to introduce legislation to broaden this so that purchase rights could be assigned by any tenant, not just the elderly or disabled (although they should get first priority to make such an assignment). If an incremental step is needed that is not as broad, assignment rights should be extended to families with minor children living at home.

7. Flood Insurance. The City asks its delegation to introduce budget amendments to establish a grant program whereby the State could partner with localities to assist them in lowering their rating class in the Community Rating System for FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

8. Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI). The City asks its delegation to seek:

- a. to have the eligibility level for the Virginia Preschool Initiative raised to 185 of poverty; and
- b. to require the Virginia Department of Education to use the number of free lunch-eligible kindergarten students only (not the number for all K-12 students), to project the number of VPI-eligible 4-year olds in a locality.

9. Community Net Metering. The City asks its delegation to introduce legislation to allow condominiums to implement community net metering programs so that they can sell any excess energy (e.g., solar) they produce to their electric provider at a rate set by the State Corporation Commission.

#### C— REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION TO BE SUPPORTED OR INTRODUCED

1. Workers' Compensation Medical Costs in Virginia. The City asks its delegation to support legislation that will require Virginia to adopt Medicare-based fee schedules for setting medical provider fees in workers' compensation cases.

2. WMATA Fare Enforcement Inspectors. The City asks its delegation to introduce or support legislation to authorize WMATA to use inspectors to ensure that riders on bus rapid transit pay their fares.

3. Affordable Care Act & Medicaid Expansion. The City asks its delegation to support expansion of the Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010.

4. Prohibit Housing Discrimination Based on the Source of Income. The City asks its delegation to support any legislation that is introduced to prohibit housing discrimination that is based on the source of a renter's funds used to make his rental or related payments.

5. Constitutional and Statutory Provisions Prohibiting Same Sex Marriages. The City asks its delegation to support any legislation to repeal either the constitutional provision prohibiting same sex marriage, or the Affirmation of Marriage Act.

6. Provide Funding Statewide for Peer Model Recovery Support Services. The City, as well as other Northern Virginia jurisdictions, asks its delegation to support budget amendments to provide the region with \$130,000 annually to continue its Peer Model Recovery program for adults with Substance Abuse issues.

7. Expand Housing Options for Persons with Serious Mental Illness. The City, as well as other Northern Virginia jurisdictions, asks its delegation to support budget amendments to provide the region with \$3.2 million in biennial funding for a pilot program to provide housing and support services for persons with serious mental illness.

8. Comprehensive Services for Youths with Serious Emotional Disturbances and their Families. The City, as well as other Northern Virginia jurisdictions, asks its delegation to support budget amendments to provide the region with \$1.1 million for a regional pilot program to provide comprehensive services for youths with serious emotional disturbances who do not require placement in a residential or inpatient (e.g., hospital) setting.

9. Protect Employees of All Firms with Five or More Employees from Age Discrimination. The City asks its delegation to support legislation to prohibit all firms with 5 or more employees from wrongfully terminating employees on the basis of age (this would treat age discrimination like other forms of discrimination, such as racial or religious).

10. Early Voting. The City asks its delegation to support legislation to allow unrestricted early voting (i.e., early voting for any reason).

11. Restoration of Voting Rights for Felons. The City asks that its delegation support legislation that would institutionalize a streamlined process for the restoration of voting rights to ex-felons by statute, or begin the process for a Constitutional amendment that automatically restores voting rights upon completion of a felon's sentence.

12. Cap Interest on Payday and Auto Title Loans. The City asks its delegation to support legislation to cap interest on payday and auto title loans at 36 percent annually, inclusive of all fees.

13. Renewable Portfolio Standard. Investor-owned electric utilities can receive financial rewards for providing a portion of their power from renewable energy sources. The City asks its delegation to support legislation to require that this power be produced in Virginia or by Virginia businesses, thereby providing cleaner air in the State. This would also give a boost to the State's renewable energy industry.

14. Energy Conservation. The City asks its delegation to support legislation to clarify the intent of SB 493 (2012), which directed the State Corporation to evaluate energy conservation projects based on the total energy savings and return on investment they create for the entire state. The proposed legislation is intended to make clear that the SCC cannot rely on one test alone to determine savings and return on investment; and to require the SCC to consider both direct value to ratepayers as well as the cost savings that utilities will see as a result of a conservation project.

15. National Criminal Background Checks for Those Who Provide Child Day Care. The City asks its delegation to support any legislation that will speed up the process for background checks on child workers.

16. Child Day Care Subsidies. The City asks its delegation to seek a meaningful increase in State funds provided for child day care, so that the State can adopt more realistic payment rates.

17. Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) Platform. The City asks that its delegation support the legislative platform of the Northern Virginia Aging Network.

18. State Funding for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). The City asks its delegation to support budget amendments to restore State funding for the ICPRB.

19. Tax on Plastic Bags. The City supports legislation to impose a fee on non-reusable paper and plastic bags used by grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies.

#### D— REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATION TO BE OPPOSED

1. Obstacles to voting. The City asks its delegation to oppose any legislation that would create additional obstacles or barriers to voting.

2. Immigration/Law Enforcement. The City asks its delegation to oppose any legislation that would require local law enforcement officials to enforce federal immigration laws.

3. Immigration/Higher Education. The City asks its delegation to oppose legislation that restricts access to higher education by undocumented persons, unless it includes safeguards such as those proposed by Governor Warner in 2003.