

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA'S
PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE
PROPOSED 2018 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

A—FISCAL ISSUES

14. Flood Insurance -- (Vice Mayor Wilson) Alexandria believes that it would be helpful for the State to partner with localities to assist them in lowering their rating class in the Community Rating System for FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Lowering the class provides residents with additional discounts in this program. The City recommends that the State create a grant program to match local funding for efforts designed to lower rating classes. Request that the delegation introduce a budget amendment to create a grant program to match local funding for efforts designed to lower rating classes.

D—ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

5. Prohibiting Housing Discrimination Based on Source of Income – (Vice Mayor Wilson) Support any legislation that would make it illegal to discriminate in housing based on source of income.

E—ISSUES RELATING TO VOTING

4. Redistricting Reform – (Vice Mayor Wilson) In recent years, there have been a number of proposals to reform the redistricting process in Virginia, so that the process is less partisan. Bills that have been introduced were defeated. The City continues to support such legislative proposals.

F—OTHER ISSUES

6. Distracted Driving Penalty -- (Mayor Silberberg) The City supports cutting down on traffic injuries and fatalities by increasing penalties for the use of handheld devices by drivers. The City recommends that its delegation support legislation expanding prohibitions on the use of handheld devices to include any typing or reading that does not involve the use of a GPS for the purpose of navigation. Virginia's penalty for distracted driving is among the lowest nationwide, and the City asks that the penalty be raised to \$200 to be more consistent with the national average.
7. Proposed Changes to ABC Annual Permit for Museums – (Councilman John Chapman) Currently, the Office of Historic Alexandria (and others like them across the State) are required to obtain individual event permits (about 50 per year) in order to serve mixed beverages at its many fundraising events. The State ABC organization has an annual permit program for special events but, museums are not listed as eligible entities for this single annual permit.

The proposed legislative language change would be: “Annual mixed beverage special events licenses to (i) a duly organized nonprofit corporation or association operating either a performing arts facility or an art education and exhibition facility, (ii) **a museum or facility primarily used for historic interpretation operated by a locality or** a nonprofit corporation or association chartered by Congress for the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture, or (iii) persons operating an agricultural event and entertainment park or similar facility that has a minimum of 50,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space and equine and other livestock show areas, which includes barns, pavilions, or other structures equipped with roofs, exterior walls, and open or closed-door access. The operation in all cases shall be upon premises owned by such licensee or occupied under a bona fide lease the original term of which was for more than one year's duration. Such license shall authorize the licensee to sell alcoholic beverages during scheduled events and performances for on-premises consumption in areas upon the licensed premises approved by the Board.”

8. Pedestrian Safety – (Vice Mayor Justin Wilson) Pedestrians, especially in densely populated communities, need assurance that when they use crosswalks to get across the street, oncoming drivers will not hit them. Unfortunately, Virginia law does not provide that assurance. Drivers are required to yield, but not necessarily stop, for pedestrians in crosswalks. This often leaves a pedestrian guessing whether the oncoming traffic actually will stop so that the pedestrian can safely cross where he/she has right-of-way (in the crosswalk). Previously, the City, together with other Northern Virginia localities and others throughout Virginia, had been seeking a change in state law to require drivers to stop (not just yield) for pedestrians in crosswalks.