

COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION 2007

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH



BUILDING "A COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME"

MUNICIPAL CENTER BUILDING ONE
2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE, SUITE 234
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23456

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Provided to City Council
for Public Comment

**2007 COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH
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2007 COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH PREFACE

The 2007 General Assembly Session will be a very important Session for local governments and the Commonwealth at large. Although the General Assembly was able, after much consternation, to adopt a budget for the biennium, there still remains much to be done on the budget and other issues during the 2007 Session. Recently, for instance, localities were made aware of the miscalculation in the amount money that would be available for school systems due to an error in accounting of sales tax revenue to local governments and the Commonwealth. Although the General Assembly has pledged to make localities “whole” for the first year of the biennium (including the \$6 million loss that would have accrued to the school system in Virginia Beach) they have not been as forthcoming about making the school systems whole in the second year of the biennium where the City estimates it would cost the City \$8 million. This should be priority number one for the Commonwealth when the 2007 Session begins.

Although the sky rocketing real estate assessments in the past several years have certainly moderated, especially in Northern Virginia where according to newspaper accounts the next increases will be less than 3%, there will still likely be pressure on the General Assembly to limit local government taxation powers. The City of Virginia Beach, as well as most local governments throughout Hampton Roads, remains ardently opposed to such a limitation. The City reduced the real estate tax rate by \$1.22 to \$0.99 since 2005, thereby reducing the yield of the real estate tax by \$103 million. As was stated in the 2006 Community Legislative Agenda, “City Council does not need the assistance of the General Assembly to set property tax rates, to allow homestead exemptions or to cap assessment increases. City Council responds to its citizens and their concerns.”

As has been stated in the Community Legislative Agenda many times, if the General Assembly fully funded the true cost of state mandated government functions, such as education, courts, corrections, mental health and social services, then local governments could reduce the real estate burden markedly. For instance, in the City of Virginia Beach we currently put over \$161.4 million into education above and beyond what is required by the Standards of Quality. This equals approximately \$0.29 on our real estate tax rate. Although the General Assembly calls this local aspirations, our citizens and the parents of children in our school system demand a quality educational experience with high-standardized test scores to meet the Standards of Learning (SOL).

If the General Assembly fully funded the true cost of education for instance, this would allow the City the option to reduce the real estate tax rate by \$0.29 in FY 2008. Another example is that City Council is required to match the salaries of every deputy in the Sheriff’s department and pay the total salaries of 55 deputies. This is so that our Sheriff,

a state official, can successfully recruit and reclaim deputies who provide a much-needed public safety service. Again as mentioned in last year's Community Legislative Agenda, the State should fully fund State services before it considers limiting the localities ability to provide the necessary funding to keep State services in satisfactory operation.

The General Assembly also failed during the 2006 Session to address the under funding of the car tax relief program. When the car tax was capped during the 2004 General Assembly session there was approximately \$270 million of under funding in car tax reimbursements to localities. This means that localities like Virginia Beach, who are so-called "spring billers", are reimbursed from the following fiscal year, instead of the year in which the year the car tax relief is provided. The General Assembly should fix this budget inaccuracy immediately. Localities would not be allowed to pay for current fiscal year liabilities with future fiscal years revenue.

Finally, the General Assembly has not addressed the transportation issue, although a Special Session of the General Assembly may happen before the start of the 2007 Regular Session – it still remains highly likely that this action will leave transportation woefully under funded. As the City has repeatedly expressed, a statewide transportation revenue shortfall of close to \$1 billion per year exists. Unless this is addressed soon the City will see even more pronounced cutbacks in the amount of urban allocation funds available to the City, for roads such as Nimmo Pkwy, Princess Anne Road, Witchduck Road Interchange, Witchduck Road improvements, Lynnhaven Parkway improvements, Shore Drive improvements, etc. Furthermore, the General Assembly will likely inadequately address the needs identified by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

There is still \$275 million in long-term revenues needed in the region as well as the ability to toll both new and existing parallel facilities. The General Assembly also needs not to interpose its will in the Federal mandated MPO process. Prioritizing Route 460 for instance, as a higher priority than I-64 on the Southside, makes little sense. Allowing travelers to utilize an improved Route 460 to then be stuck on four lanes of a very congested highway along I-64 in Chesapeake is counter intuitive and makes little sense. This is also true if a new Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt was constructed and then to be hamstrung by an unimproved I-64 in Chesapeake.

Finally, transportation funding should not be done at the cost of funding other State services. New revenues need to be found for transportation rather than stealing from under funded services as mentioned above, such as, education, public health, corrections, etc.

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH 2007 CHARTER CHANGES

1. SCREENING ABANDONED ESTABLISHMENTS – CHARTER CHANGE

*Andy Friedman
Department Director
Housing and Neighborhood Preservation*

Background Information:

There are numerous abandoned retail and commercial properties on main intersections in Virginia Beach. These abandoned structures become blighted and require continuous attention from Code Enforcement for Code violations. The utilization of "spot blight" procedures against these properties is too limited, requiring acquisition as the final, expensive and time consuming, option.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend the charter to authorize the City to require the addition of landscape screening for retail and commercial properties that have been abandoned for three (3) years or more in certain designated areas of the city.

2. CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS – CHARTER CHANGE

*Les Lilley
City Attorney
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

On June 27, 2006, City Council adopted an ordinance that amended City Code § 2-15 to provide that City Council and School Board elections shall take place during the general election in November 2008 and during the November general election in even years thereafter. This ordinance was adopted pursuant to Virginia Code § 24.2-222.1. Pursuant to that section, Council Members whose term of office expires on June 30 shall continue in office until their successors take office on January 1.

Request:

Although the City Code has been amended to provide for November elections, the City Charter references May elections. The General Assembly should amend the City's Charter as follows:

Sec. 3.02:1. Election of Council Members.

~~There shall be a general election on the first Tuesday in May in even-numbered years for the election of councilmembers to replace those whose terms expire at the end of June of that year. Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by City Council on June 27, 2006, City Council elections shall take place during the general election in November 2008, and during the November general election in even years thereafter, for councilmembers whose terms expire at the end of December of that year. Councilmembers, including the mayor, whose terms expire as of June 30, 2008 or June 30, 2010 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November election and take office on January 1. The term of office for each councilmember shall commence on July January 1 next following the date of election and shall continue until his successor has been duly elected and qualified. Each candidate shall state, at the time of filing, whether he is running at-large, from the district of his residence or for mayor. Candidates for council shall be nominated only by petition in the manner prescribed by general law.~~

Sec. 3.02:2. Election of mayor.

~~The mayor shall be elected at the general election on the first Tuesday in May 1988 in November 2008, and each fourth year thereafter, to serve for a term of four years. Candidates for mayor shall run for one of the at-large seats. A candidate running for mayor shall not run for any other seat.~~

~~In the event any councilman, including the mayor, shall decide during his term of office to be a candidate for mayor, he shall tender his resignation as a councilman not less than ten days prior to the date for the filing of petitions as required by general law. Such resignation shall be effective on June 30 December 31, shall constitute the councilman's intention to run for mayor, shall require no formal acceptance by the remaining councilmen councilmembers and shall be final and irrevocable when tendered.~~

~~The unexpired portion of the term of any councilman councilmember who has resigned to run for mayor shall be filled at the same general election.~~

Sec. 16.04. Election of the board.

A. ~~At the general election held in May of 1994, the qualified voters of the city shall elect one board member from each of the boroughs of Bayside, Kempsville, Lynnhaven, and Pungo for terms of four years, and two at-large members for terms of four years. At the general election held in May of 1996, the qualified voters of the city shall elect one board member from each of the boroughs of Blackwater, Princess Anne, and Virginia Beach for terms of two years, and two at large members for terms of four years. Beginning with the general election held in May of 1998, a All board members shall be elected in the same manner and according to the same schedule that councilmembers are elected. Thereafter, all board members shall be elected, for terms of four years. Beginning in 1998, and~~

~~every two years thereafter, there shall be a general election in May for the election of board members to replace those whose terms expire at the end of June of a given election year. The term of office for each elected board member shall commence on the first day of July January next following the date of election and shall continue until a successor has been duly elected and qualified. Pursuant to an ordinance adopted by City Council on June 27, 2006, board members whose terms expire as of June 30, 2008 or June 30, 2010 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November election and take office on January 1.~~ Each candidate shall state at the time of filing whether he is running at large or from the borough of his residence.

B. Each of the eleven elected board members shall be elected by the voters of the city at large.

3. PHOTO RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT – CHARTER CHANGE

Virginia Beach Police Department

Background Information:

Red light running, which is defined as the act of a motorist entering an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red, caused almost 5,000 crashes in Virginia in 2003, resulting in at least 18 deaths and more than 3,800 injuries. (VDOT, 2004)

Annually, the costs incurred by the City of Virginia Beach are over 2.5 million dollars in societal damages.

Red light cameras can reduce crashes. Fairfax, VA had a 41% reduction of red light related violations and crashes after the first year of implementation (*National Cooperative Highway Research Program*). The City of Virginia Beach's photo enforcement program titled **PHOTOSafe Virginia Beach** showed similar results.

Over 80% of the City of Virginia Beach's residents indicated that they were in favor of the Photo Red Light Enforcement Program as indicated in a statically valid poll.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend the charter of Virginia Beach to allow a Photo Red Light Enforcement Program in the City. This program would include all the safe guards built into the enabling legislation proposed in the 2006 Session.

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH 2007 NON-FUNDING ITEMS

1. BIFURCATED TAX RATE

*Rosemary Wilson
City Council Member
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

Under current Virginia law, localities must tax business, commercial and residential property under the same rate structure. Residential property in Virginia Beach carries a disproportionate burden of the taxes paid; however, any relief on the tax burden given through a rate reduction means the same rate reduction is given to business and commercial property. In order to moderate tax assessments, the City Council desires to have bifurcated rates for business/commercial and residential.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to adopt legislation allowing localities to have a bifurcated rate, i.e. charge one rate for business/commercial and a separate rate for residential properties. If a Constitutional Amendment is necessary to effectuate this change, the General Assembly is requested to commence that process during this Session.

2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE RECORDS – GANG ACTIVITY

*Police Department
Human Services Department*

Background Information:

Virginia Code § 16.1-300.A.6 requires law enforcement officers, school officials, and probation officers that have a legitimate interest in a juvenile case to obtain a court order before being allowed access to the social, medical, psychiatric and psychological reports and records of children who are or have been: before a court, under court supervision, receiving services from a court service unit, or committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. A court order is not required for several other officials and agencies that have legitimate interests in a juvenile case. Instead, the law provides strict parameters around the circumstances under which such information may be released to those individuals.

Law enforcement officers, school officials, probation officers, and juvenile courts need to be able to immediately share information during the investigation of criminal gang

activity. Obtaining court orders every time information is needed is cumbersome and time-consuming and could impair time-sensitive gang-related investigations.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend the State Code to allow law enforcement officers, probation officers, and school officials' access to juvenile court records when such officials are conducting an investigation into gang activity involving a specific juvenile.

3. CIVIL PENALTIES FOR FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS

*Chief Greg Cade
Fire Department*

Background Information:

The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) provides for the use of summonses for fire code violations when the Fire Official is trained in accordance with the Code of Virginia (§ 27-34.2). Violations of the SFPC are Class I misdemeanors (§ 27-100).

Many businesses that become repeat offenders of the Fire Code rotate managers or responsible parties so that when a violation is caught the summons goes to a different person each time. When a magistrate summons is issued to a legal officer of the business the resulting defense is one of denial of responsibility because they were not on site. Summoning the manager or responsible person who is on site results in a defense that they were acting as directed or that they had no knowledge of the occurrence of the violation or the ability to control the violation. This results in the Fire Official having to issue multiple summonses and or subpoenas to get all of the parties before the judge to sort out responsibility. In many cases since the responsible party is not brought into court they see this as a cost of doing business. This is a burden on the court system and on municipal resources. These cases usually result in multiple continuances with adjudication for a single offense sometimes exceeding eight to twelve months.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide for civil penalties within the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC). The proposal would provide the option for localities that enforce the SFPC to establish a civil penalty process and fee schedule if they elect to use civil penalties. The maximum penalty per violation should be capped at \$2500, the maximum fine for a Class I misdemeanor.

Civil penalties that could be levied against the business would provide for a greater incentive for the business to comply with the Fire Code. The defendant would be provided due process using the appeals process provided within the Fire Code. The civil penalty, when levied against a business, results in bringing the responsible party forward

to either defend the business or pay the penalty. The civil penalty unveils the true responsible party.

SAMPLE CIVIL PENALTY SCHEDULE

| | |
|---|--------|
| 1 st violation | \$500 |
| 2 nd violation within 12 calendar months | \$1000 |
| 3 rd violation within 12 calendar months | \$2000 |
| 4 th and subsequent violations within 12 calendar months | \$2500 |

- A jurisdiction would be required to adopt a fee schedule using the ordinance process
- All collections of fees would be within the existing framework of tax collection within the jurisdiction
- No business or individual could be subjected to a civil penalty and a summons for the same offense
- Fees collected would go to the local Fire Official to support enforcement activities

Civil penalties provides for an alternative method to address violations of the SFPC and in many instances will eliminate salaried workers from being either charged with a violation of the SFPC or being subpoenaed to court for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Civil penalties reduce the burden on an already overwhelmed judicial system. A civil penalty would provide for a more timely resolve to violations making it less attractive to violate the Code and then manipulate the system while continuing to do business in the same unlawful manner. Civil penalties would, hopefully, result in a safer Commonwealth for our citizens and visitors.

4. CHILD ENDANGERMENT FROM ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

*Chief Greg Cade
Fire Department*

Background Information:

Fireworks are strictly regulated in the Code of Virginia and the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City of Virginia Beach strengthens the Code, declaring all fireworks illegal for use, sale or storage. Fireworks have become an increasing problem in the city on major holidays, such as Memorial Day and Independence Day. The quantity and quality of fireworks has continued to increase with professional quality fireworks being made available to consumers through out-of-state purchases and over the Internet. These fireworks pose a considerable hazard to both life and property. In many instances adults and fall into the hands of children obtain these fireworks. The fireworks problem out paces all enforcement efforts and the problem continues to increase every year. This year there were a number of children treated in emergency facilities across the city as a result of fireworks injuries.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to enact mandatory reporting by all emergency medical facilities and Emergency Medical Technicians for all juvenile fireworks injuries. Reports should be filed with Child Protective Services (CPS) with the requirement that CPS forward the information to the local Fire and Police Official for further investigation. The investigation findings would be shared with CPS, and as a joint effort between Law Enforcement, Fire and CPS, each incident would be addresses. The intent of the investigation is to seek out parents who knowingly allow a child to utilize fireworks. The investigation would also help reveal where some of these more dangerous fireworks are coming from with the hope that additional enforcement actions could limit the influx of illegal fireworks into Virginia or may support increasing the penalty to a felony for selling fireworks. The felony charge would allow offenders to be brought to justice when out of state.

5. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY FOR LASKIN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

*James K. Spore
City Manager
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

In the course of designing the Laskin Road Improvement Project east of Birdneck Rd, the City has identified several parcels of land that seem to be owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Under existing State law, the State can transfer property through sale or otherwise to localities without General Assembly (GA) approval. The exception to the law is if the property is sub aqueous bottom (basically land below the high water mark) specific legislation needs to be adopted by the GA. There is some doubt as to whether the property needed for the Laskin Road project is indeed sub aqueous bottom.

Request:

This item is a placed holder for a request for the GA to authorize the sale of sub aqueous bottom needed for the Laskin Road Improvement Project. Such legislation will only be necessary if continued investigation, by both the Commonwealth and the City, determines that the property in question is indeed sub aqueous bottom. Otherwise, the State may transfer the property through sale or otherwise to the City without GA action.

6. LOSS OF MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR TEENS IN FOSTER CARE WITH EARNED INCOME

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services*

Background information:

Under current Virginia law, the local Department of Social Services must discontinue Medicaid to a foster care child between the ages of 19 and 21, if the foster child earns more than \$193.74 in gross income per month. These foster children need to have the benefit of Medicaid to cover the cost of their medical expenses, and they also need to have the opportunity to earn income beyond the current limitations. This law appears to be in direct conflict with the independent living program for foster children. The independent living program was designed to assist children in foster care aged 16-21 in becoming self-sufficient. Achieving the goal of self-sufficiency must include the opportunity for youth to earn income that will prepare them for survival in an independent living situation.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to adopt regulations amending title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia to allow foster children between the ages of 19-21 to be exempt from the income limitation, thus allowing them to remain eligible for Medicaid. This would give older foster children the opportunity to earn the income necessary to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency.

7. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR OUT OF STATE RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services*

Background Information:

Due to the severity of illness and level of need for many CSA youth needing out of home placement, we are forced to seek residential treatment outside of the state of Virginia. While these children have Medicaid coverage, it is quite difficult to access coverage for these out of state services. Costs for out of state placement frequently exceed \$130,000 per year. Medicaid policy states "If a child requires this level of service that is not available in Virginia, an out of state provider may enroll for a specific child for the duration of that admission." The time it takes to go through this child specific enrollment process does not take into account the need for emergency placement, and can take several weeks to authorize. If the locality, in the best interest of the child, proceeds with

the placement without preauthorization, they run the risk of having to cover the cost of this stay, despite the fact that the child has Medicaid since there is no guarantee that Medicaid will authorize temporary provider status. This past fiscal year, Medicaid had a freeze on approving out of state providers which further complicated placement issues.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to direct the Department of Medical Assistance Services to utilize the same authorization process as is currently used for in -state residential placements for out- of- state placements, provided the locality can assure that there are no willing in-state providers for needed services.

**8. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDS OR SERVICES USED
IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS**

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services
and Community Groups*

Background Information:

In 37.2-311 of the Code of Virginia, states that no state agency that is authorized to issue final approval or disapproval of, or to make a final review and comment on any application for state or federal funds that are to be used in a substance abuse program shall take final action on an application until it is reviewed and commended on by the Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS). It further states that every applicant for any federal or state funds to be used in connection with any substance abuse program shall submit a copy of the application for review and comment.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend 37.2-311 of the Code of Virginia to indicate that this provision does not apply to federal government applications made by local governments.

9. WORKFORCE HOUSING - AMENDMENT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 15.2-2304

*Andy Friedman
Department Director
Housing and Neighborhood Preservation
and Community Groups*

Background Information:

The Virginia Code currently contains two enabling statutes regarding workforce housing. One statute, Va. Code §15.2-2304, confers upon the localities to which it applies (those with the urban county executive form of government, Albemarle and Loudoun Counties and the City of Alexandria), very general authority to adopt zoning ordinances that provide for an affordable dwelling unit (i.e., workforce housing) program. The other statute, Va. Code §15.2-2305, applies to all other localities including Virginia Beach. It contains numerous limitations upon local workforce housing programs, thereby limiting the City's flexibility in designing and implementing such a program in Virginia beach.

Based on work currently underway by the Workforce Housing Subcommittee of the Planning Commission, the ideas being discussed would not be feasible under §15.2-2305. Although there is no guarantee that these ideas will be adopted by City Council, it is important to have the option available if Council wishes to adopt them.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to Amend Virginia Code §15.2-2304 to add Virginia Beach to the localities that are included within the statute. In addressing the City's workforce housing concerns, the City would greatly benefit from having broader latitude in adopting a workforce-housing program than is allowed under existing law.

10. RECOMMENDATION FOR JLARC TO DO A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF VRS BENEFITS

*Patti Phillips
Department Director
Finance*

Background Information:

The Virginia Retirement System has been in place since the 1950s and may not fit the needs of today's workforce. Therefore, we recommend that a thorough examination of retirement benefits be conducted.

Request:

JLARC is directed to conduct a comprehensive study of VRS benefits to include a review of law enforcement benefits, disability provisions, return-to-work, and defined contribution retirement plans, especially as they relate to attracting and retaining a quality workforce.

11. BETTER REPORTING OF VRS ACTUARIAL DATA TO LOCALITIES

*Patti Phillips
Department Director
Finance*

Background Information:

Each locality in VRS receives an annual actuarial evaluation in a standard format. The actuarial evaluation is based on locality specific data, but much of it is not included in the report. This makes it very difficult for a locality to understand the retirement cost of the different classes of covered employees (such as general employees and public safety employees) and the specific assumptions for a locality that are driving its costs (such as job-related disability retirements). A recent study by JLARC concluded that is essential that VRS provide more information to localities and the City of Chesapeake is expressing the same concern.

Request:

The City of Virginia Beach supports a legislative directive to the Virginia Retirement System to provide local governments with expanded information on VRS costs.

12. UNCLAIMED PROPERTY PROGRAM

*Patti Phillips
Department Director
Finance*

Background Information:

Currently all property presumed abandoned must be reported and remitted to the State Treasurer. This includes all outstanding checks and refunds. The City desires to establish a minimum threshold for reporting escheat and for remitting escheat funds to the State. We are proposing that accounts equal to or less than \$15 would not be reported or remitted to the State. This change would save Virginia Beach from reporting over 70% of our escheat accounts, yet only represents about 13% or \$8500 of the total dollars remitted.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend the Code of Virginia to exempt from the requirement to report and remit to the State Treasurer escheat funds of \$15 or less.

13. PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL SAFETY AND RESTRICTED ZONES

Police Department

Background Information:

The U.S. Coast Guard, under the authority granted in 46 U.S.C. §70119, has expressed a desire for the Virginia Beach Police Department Marine Patrol to have the ability to enforce safety and restricted security zones. However, state law grants that authority only to the Virginia Marine Police. The Virginia Beach Police Department has a full-time Marine Patrol. In order to better assist the U.S. Coast Guard as vessels pass through the local jurisdiction, the authority to enforce maritime laws and regulations should be extended to the Virginia Beach Police Department Marine Patrol

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to extend enforcement powers to members of local marine patrol units within their jurisdictional boundaries.

14. CARRYING A CONCEALED WEAPON

Police Department

Background Information:

There is no law prohibiting a person from carrying an otherwise legal concealed weapon when that person is in the possession of an illegal drug. In the interest of public safety and that of law enforcement, a law should be enacted that would prohibit such possession.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to prohibit the possession of a concealed weapon while in the possession of an illegal drug.

15. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT APPLICANTS

Police Department

Background Information:

Applicants for law enforcement positions are subject to stringent background investigations prior to employment. Due to the nature of law enforcement and the responsibilities that are associated with it, the public must know that law enforcement administrators have done everything possible to screen potential employees. Unfortunately, current state law prevents the examination of criminal records that were adjudicated when the applicant was a minor.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to authorize access of juvenile criminal records to law enforcement officers conducting background checks on law enforcement officer candidates.

16. REQUIRED CRASH REPORTS

Police Department

Background Information:

State law requires that an accident report be filed if the total damage to all involved vehicles exceeds \$1000. That trigger amount was set approximately 10 years ago and is much too low based on current cost to repair vehicles. Raising the amount to \$2500 would greatly reduce the amount of paperwork necessary at minor accident scenes, reduce the burden on the courts in their attempt to determine fault, and reduce the time officers spend investigating minor accidents.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend Virginia Code § 46.2-373 by increasing the dollar amount that triggers the filing of a mandatory accident report from \$1000 to \$2500.

17. PAWN SHOP, RECORDS AND PROPERTY

Police Department

Background Information:

All pawnbrokers are required to keep records of each loan or transaction made in the course of business. Although state law requires that specific types of information be

collected, it does not currently require the seller to provide a thumbprint. Additionally, the code does not currently authorize the law enforcement agency that provides oversight of the pawn establishment to mandate the format of such reports.

A law requiring a person pawning an item to a pawnshop to provide a legible right thumb print at the time of the transaction will enable law enforcement officers to better identify persons selling or trading stolen merchandise. Additionally, authorizing a local law enforcement agency charged with oversight of pawn shops to designate the format of the required reports will reduce the time and effort expended updating this information in the agency's computer system.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend Virginia Code § 54.1-4009 to authorize local law enforcement agencies to mandate the format of the required reports and to require persons pawning items to provide a legible right thumbprint.

18. DEFINITIONS OF “CRIMINAL STREET GANG” AND “PREDICATE CRIMINAL ACT”
Police Department

Background Information:

A. The current state law definition of “criminal street gang” requires the identification of at least one act of felony violence be attributed to the group. Once a group can be classified as a “criminal street gang,” law enforcement can gain access to otherwise confidential information on the gang's members.

Gang members are younger and younger. While many informally organized groups of young people have not yet committed a felony act of violence, their destructive and unlawful conduct warrants the on-going attention of law enforcement. Amending the definition of “criminal street gang” by removing the act of felony violence requirement will allow law enforcement access to otherwise confidential juvenile records that will enhance their efforts to thwart the escalating gang activities of these younger groups.

B. State law provides that a member of a gang who commits a “predicate criminal act” is guilty of a felony separate and in addition to the underlying predicate act. The current definition of “predicate criminal act” lists the limited offenses that constitute such an act. The definition of “predicate criminal act” needs to include any and all felony offenses involving a firearm or other weapon.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to:

- Amend the definition of “criminal street gang” found at Virginia Code § 18.2-46.1 to remove the requirement that the group’s members must have committed a felony act of violence in order for the group to be classified as a “criminal street gang.”
- Amend the definition of “predicate criminal act” found at Virginia Code § 18.2-46.2 to include all felony acts involving the use of a firearm or weapon.

19. ENDORSEMENT OF GOVERNOR KAINE’S ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL, WOMEN AND MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES

*Council Member Villanueva
Virginia Beach City Council*

Background Information:

Governor Kaine has stated that it is “imperative that the Commonwealth of Virginia maximize the participation of its citizens in the vast array of commercial opportunities in state government. The Commonwealth historical record in buying goods and services from small, women and minority owned businesses must be improved.” City Council is fully in support of this initiative.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to support Governor Kaine’s effort to increase the participation of small, women and minority owned businesses in the State’s contracting and purchasing processes. The goal is that 40% of the purchase be made from small

20. DOWNSIZING OF STATE FACILITIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

*Terry Jenkins
Director of Human Services*

Background Information:

Two facilities in HPR V are slated to be replaced with smaller facilities over the next two biennia. Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg will be replaced with a 150 bed Adult Facility (a loss of approximately 110 beds), and Southeastern Virginia Training Center in Chesapeake will be replaced with a 100-bed facility (a loss of 100 beds). While there are plans to provide funds to localities to develop additional services to serve individuals

who will be coming out of these facilities, it is not clear whether the funds will be sufficient to develop the level of services needed to meet their needs. Addressing existing community waiting lists must also be a priority in the expansion of community services. Senator Stolle and his staff convened a meeting in Virginia Beach on August 14, 2006 to address several concerns about the downsizing of these facilities and the impact this may have on other systems such as public safety and local and regional jails. It was determined, in part as a result of this meeting that a number of issues must be considered in determining the correct number of state psychiatric and state training center beds needed for the region.

Request:

The Virginia Beach City Council is requested to propose that a study resolution be completed General Assembly to determine the appropriate number of state psychiatric and state training center beds needed before state facilities are rebuilt at a smaller capacity.

21. TAX RELIEF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

*Council Member Ron Villanueva
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

The Virginia Beach City Council established a task force to examine the possibility of providing additional tax relief to elderly Virginia Beach residents. The task force published a report, in late 2003. The task force made three recommendations to change the existing state code as well as an amendment to the Virginia Constitution.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend the state constitution to allow for a local option non-means tested tax freeze for all senior citizens. The General Assembly would need to enact legislation during the 2007 Session. There would be an intervening election in 2007 and the same legislation would need to be passed in 2008. The voters would then vote on the referendum for the constitutional amendment in the November 2008 election. The constitution would then be amended effective January 1, 2009.

22. CREATION OF STATE INSURANCE “WIND POOL”

*Council Member John Uhrin
City of Virginia Beach*

Background:

Property owners in Virginia Beach, particularly at the oceanfront, are able to purchase insurance for wind damage from the secondary insurance market at high rates and high deductibles. Many other coastal states have established a “wind pool” insurance program that is available in specific geographic areas. Policies have been provided at more reasonable rates and deductibles. Wind has become, to most insurance carriers, the biggest risk in the Virginia Beach area. A \$25 million piece of property could have a two percent wind deductible making the deductible payment \$500,000. This is in great contrast to the more reasonable \$5,000 deductible that was available just a few years ago. The wind insurance premium increases must also be considered as many Virginia Beach businesses are being forced to pay 300 percent increases.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to pass enabling legislation required for the creation of a state insurance “wind pool” so that wind damage insurance can be provided at a more reasonable cost with lower deductibles.

CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH 2007 FUNDING ITEMS

**1. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL GROUP-HOME BEDS IN THE LOCALITY FOR YOUTH
NEEDING OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT**

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services*

Background Information:

Efforts have been underway for the last several years to develop a 12-bed Group Home adjacent to the Juvenile Detention Center for teens needing out of home placement. This site has been approved previously and a conditional use permit was issued, however, funding for construction remains a need. The proposed facility would become a city-owned building, for the Tidewater Regional Group Home Commission to operate, setting up a fee structure with the Comprehensive Services Act to cover the operational costs using child specific billing for services. The adolescents served would be CSA-mandated older adolescents in foster care with some capacity to accept court-involved youth utilizing Juvenile Court Services and other funding sources for non-mandated youth. HB 577 now requires CSA to justify out of jurisdiction placements. In FY 2005, Virginia Beach youth were served in thirteen (13) Group Homes outside the city limits at a cost of \$1,036,542. Development of this site would better enable us to serve youth within the city limits. We would also build in mental health services provided by Human Services as needed. Funding was requested in the amount of \$1,000,000 several years ago for this project. Due to rising construction costs, this estimate has nearly doubled.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to approve an appropriation of \$1.9 million dollars for the construction of a 12-bed facility to be used as a group home for CSA-mandated and non-mandated youth needing out of home placement. Operational costs would be paid with CSA funds and Juvenile Court Services funds, and other fee revenue.

2. CSA ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services*

Background Information:

The funding formula to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Services Act defines the formula for local administrative costs based upon pool allocations from 1997. The maximum allocation any locality can receive for administrative costs is \$50,000. This amount has not increased in the past 8 years, despite continuing increases in the oversight responsibilities of CSA. FY 05 expenditures for CSA in Virginia Beach were \$8,460,206 million dollars, which required a supplemental request of additional state and local dollars. For FY 06, the CSA Budget is \$5,479,949, which means a supplemental request will likely be needed again this year as well. Covering additional administrative costs on top of the local share of any supplemental request for child-specific services is an undue hardship.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to amend Title 2.2, Chapter 52 of the Code of Virginia to increase the maximum administrative allocation to \$100,000 in order to improve localities ability to meet the administrative requirements of the CSA.

3. SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL STATE GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

*Terry Jenkins
Department Director
Human Services
and Community Groups*

Background Information:

There continues to be substantial need in the community for mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services, as evidenced by growing waiting lists for community-based care. There also continues to be substantial needs in child- care, housing, employment, health care, and transportation for low income and disabled families.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to fully fund the mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse system to meet the needs of children and adults on waiting lists for services. Additionally, the City requests that funds be made available to meet the needs

of low- income families to include childcare, affordable housing, employment, health care, and transportation.

4. FUNDING FOR THE VIRGINIA BEACH JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

*James K. Spore
City Manager
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

The state code allows for the Commonwealth to reimburse construction costs for Juvenile Detention Centers, like the completed center in Virginia Beach for 50% of the cost. The State Board of Juvenile Justice approved a full reimbursement of 50% for our Detention Center; however, the amount we received equals only 48% of the cost. This has produced a shortfall to Virginia Beach of \$297,684.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide the full funding of 50% reimbursement to our Juvenile Detention Center as approved by the State Board of Juvenile Justice. This additional appropriation would be \$297,684.

5. STATE AID TO VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

*Marcy Sims
Department Director
Public Libraries*

Background Information:

The Code of Virginia (Chapter 3 of Title 42. 1) establishes Virginia's policy of granting financial aid for the development of local public libraries and provides a formula, which specifies how much each public library system should receive. This formula has not been fully funded since 2001. It is currently estimated that full funding of State Aid will require a **\$6,505,803** increase **in FY 2008 over FY 2007** funding levels.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to fully fund State Aid to Virginia Public Libraries in the amount of \$24,500,000.

6. INFO-POWERING THE COMMONWEALTH

*Marcy Sims
Department Director
Public Libraries*

Background Information:

The objectives of Infopowering the Commonwealth: Find It Virginia are to provide appropriate computer hardware, obtain adequate connections to the Internet, and resolve issues and costs associated with providing adequate access to all citizens to current, authoritative sources of information. Infopowering has assisted public libraries in obtaining hardware, Internet access, training labs, and some electronic databases. In addition, Infopowering funds were used in partnership with grant funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to extend activities to libraries that were not fully eligible for funding through the Gates Library initiative. Info-powering funds for FY 2002 had been reduced to \$ 1.6 million. No funding was received in FY 2003 – 07.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide \$6 million in funding for FY 2008 and in each year of the biennium to support *Infopowering the Commonwealth: Find It Virginia*, to expand the core collection of full text reference, magazine and newspaper articles that are provided to all citizens of Virginia via their public library card or through the K-12 and community college programs.

7. VIRGINIA BEACH LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER (JOINT USE LIBRARY: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH AND TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE- VIRGINIA BEACH CAMPUS)

*Marcy Sims
Department Director
Public Libraries*

Background Information:

The City of Virginia Beach and Tidewater Community College are considering constructing and operating a single facility to house the proposed TCC/ Virginia Beach Campus Learning Resources Center and what is presently called the South Rosemont Area Library (CIP Project 3-175). The College is planning to build a 150,000 square foot Learning Resource Center (LRC) at the corner of Rosemont Road and Faculty Drive, The LRC is planned to be built in two phases: a 100,000 square foot project in the 2006-08 biennium and the remaining 50,000 square feet is planned for the 2008-2010 biennium. The South Rosemont Area Library (18,000 square feet) is scheduled for construction in

FY 2005-2006 on City owned property at the corner of Rosemont Road and Buckner Boulevard and adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Virginia.

A Joint Use Library Planning Committee was appointed in March 2004, to explore the possibility of creating an integrated joint use library. The same consultants who were part of the successful San Jose State University and San Jose City Public Library project, Anderson Brule Architects, have assisted the City and TCC in facilitating further strategic feasibility and operational planning.

Other partners have been invited to take part in the planning. The Old Dominion University/Norfolk State University Higher Education Center is located adjacent to the TCC-Virginia Beach Campus. Its 85,000 square foot facility serves approximately 16,000 students in undergraduate, graduate, continuing education and workforce development programs.

A strategic operational planning process is underway to further identify and refine the description of all service, operational, organizational and facility issues to be resolved and outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding between the partners. The work will also provide a conceptual building program to guide the architectural design. In the 2007/2009 budgets the General Assembly allotted the two agencies the authorization to use \$3 million in City funding to complete the engineering on the property.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide \$38,037,975 as the state's share of the Joint Use Library.

8. SHERIFF'S WORK RELEASE FACILITY

*Paul Lanteigne
Sheriff
Sheriff's Office
City Manager's Office*

Background Information:

Currently the City of Virginia Beach Sheriff's Work Release Facility is housed in a leased space and the Sheriff's Workforce is housed in a landscape services building. While the City in cooperation with the Commonwealth completed a major jail expansion, there is still a need for additional bed space for prisoners. Co-locating both the Sheriff's Work Release and Workforce programs in a new facility would allow these programs the space necessary to operate at greater efficiencies.

Request:

The total estimated cost for design, site selection and construction of a facility is \$6.7 million. While total project costs are subject to change pending the completion of the design work and bid of the project. In 2005-2006, \$600,000 in City dollars was allocated to fund preliminary design work and site selection of the facility. State funding for this project was recently eliminated from the State's Biennial budget and the City is requesting that in the interest of public safety the General Assembly restore funding of at least 25% of the total project.

9. TRANSPORTATION

*James K. Spore
City Manager
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

Local governments under federal law are required to engage in a long-range transportation planning process. The long-range transportation plan must be both fiscally constrained and comply with air quality conformity requirements. The Hampton Roads region has been engaged for several years in the 2030 Long Range Plan and has identified a number of projects for funding.

In addition to the six major projects that are part of the MPO package, which include, I-64 Improvements in the Peninsula and Chesapeake, the Third Crossing, the Mid-town Tunnel Improvements, Route 460 and the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt – including Route 17 improvements; there are also projects in the primary, secondary and urban system that need funding.

It is predicted that by 2012 that the State will be unable to build any new transportation projects and will only have funds for maintenance of existing projects. The cost for maintaining Virginia's existing roads is increasing by \$50 million per year. Unless substantial funds are made available on a statewide basis, the City will continue to see a decrease in urban funds, which fund projects like Nimmo Parkway, Princess Anne Road, Shore Drive, Northampton Boulevard, Witchduck Road, Indian River Road, etc.

Furthermore, Virginia Beach is at the end of the cul-de-sac that begins along interstate I-64 in the Richmond area and the entire region is beginning to lose its edge in economic development because of transportation issues. For instance, the City of Virginia Beach has seen a decrease of over 300,000 overnight visitors per year for the last several years because of traffic congestion issues – according to the Old Dominion University Annual Survey at the oceanfront. Furthermore, there is quantifiable data that businesses have made decisions not to increase their presence in Hampton Roads or to institute a presence in Hampton Roads because of transportation issues. Suffice to say that the timely movement of people, goods and services is vital to the economic wellbeing of our

citizens, as well as traffic congestion becoming a very severe quality of life issue. Under federal law the region, through the MPO, is responsible for identifying projects and establishing priorities, as it is the General Assembly's responsibility to fund those projects.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to fully fund the six major projects as identified in the MPO package, which includes the ability to toll new projects and existing parallel facilities. There is also \$275 million of revenue needed on a yearly basis to make up the shortfall in funding that tolls will provide for these very expensive projects.

The General Assembly is also requested to increase transportation funding on a statewide basis by \$1 billion. This will provide funding for primary, secondary and urban road projects such as those mentioned above. Also as mentioned this has become more than a quality of life issue but also very much maintenance of our economic wellbeing. The General Assembly must act in order for the region to have an approved 2030 Long Range Plan by late Winter 2007.

10. VIRGINIA AQUARIUM & MARINE SCIENCE CENTER MARINE ANIMAL RESEARCH & CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

*Russell Turner
Director of Development
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center*

Background Information:

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center requests funding in the amount of \$2 million that will help improve its marine animal research and conservation support facilities in order to better serve its mission of "Conservation through Education." Since the Aquarium first opened to the public in 1986, more than 10 million people have experienced the thrill of seeing Virginia's marine life in unique and educational exhibits and programs. As the Aquarium has grown, so has its reputation for expertise and contributions in marine animal husbandry, research and conservation. As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, it is important that the Aquarium continue to be recognized for its animal care and conservation science practices. The Aquarium is currently undertaking an exciting project that will add a major new exhibits gallery and introduce exotic species from across the planet to inspire our next generation of visitors. The new exhibits and programs will utilize the latest science and technology to inform over 600,000 annual visitors about marine life and habitats linked to Virginia's past. In addition, the Aquarium is constructing a new animal care center and research vessel to continue to strive for significant achievements in the areas of marine animal research, conservation and education.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide \$2 million to be spent on the Aquarium's marine animal research and conservation resources. A modest investment can be leveraged to significantly impact research and education in Virginia's economically and ecologically important coastal communities and waters, and positions the Commonwealth for an international role in conservation initiatives. With advanced marine animal care facilities, Aquarium staff and research partners can study and develop innovative research practices, thereby increasing scientific understanding and the ultimate conservation of vital ocean resources. The Aquarium is in a unique position to bring the results of scientific research and conservation to a wide range of general audiences, from regional residents and school children to international visitors. The Aquarium's new exhibits will expand the scope of its collection to include species from other parts of the world. These unusual animals will illustrate adaptations to special environments and how these exotic habitats relate to Virginia and global conservation issues. Aquarium staff and research partners will have hands-on experience with these and other marine species and contribute directly to research and conservation efforts in Virginia and across the globe. The Aquarium will use this investment from the Commonwealth to provide equipment and technology to support these efforts. Funds will be used to equip advanced animal husbandry systems, research laboratories, and an exhibits and equipment shop in the new 16,000 square foot animal care center scheduled for completion in 2008. Sophisticated equipment for marine animal observations and oceanographic studies will enhance a new 46-foot research/education vessel being constructed for delivery in 2007. These resources will support research and conservation efforts of Aquarium staff and their partners from universities and industry. Equally important, the Aquarium's expertise with education and outreach will bring these efforts and the world of ocean science directly to students of all ages.

11. VIRGINIA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER FUNDING

*James Ricketts
Department Director
Convention & Visitors Bureau*

Background Information:

In 2005, the City of Virginia Beach opened the first phase of the new Virginia Beach Convention Center. The new facility replaces the Pavilion Convention Center. Designed by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) the complete facility is scheduled to open in early 2007.

The old center had a total of 188,000 square feet and lacked the amenities essential for today's meeting planners. Even with only approximately half of the new facility opened, the new center is larger than the old facility and has amenities and technology that exceed meeting planners expectations. When completed, the new facility will have a total of 516,000 square feet. This includes 150,000 square feet of exhibition space, over 31,000

sq. ft. of ballroom space and approximately 29,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. The total cost of the facility is \$202.571 million.

The new convention center will help put Virginia on the map as a viable convention state. According to the Feasibility Study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Commonwealth will realize the following economic benefits: Incremental tax revenues (in 2002 dollars) \$1.2 to \$2 million annually, between 900 - 1,500 additional jobs and between \$27.7 million – \$44.8 million in incremental direct expenditures new to the Commonwealth (not a transfer from other localities in the Commonwealth).

The economic impact for Hampton Roads will be \$50.5 million to \$79.3 million in incremental direct expenditures and between 1,700 and 2,700 new jobs. This is in addition to the \$2.1 million incremental tax revenue to the City of Virginia Beach, \$97 million in Sales and 1,900 additional jobs.

Already sales projects for 2006, with only half of the facility opened, are ahead of the Feasibility Study projections for 2009 when the entire facility would have been opened and fully operational for 1-2 years.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide \$10 million in funding for the new Convention Center. This is in keeping with the benefits to the Commonwealth based on the amount of state tax revenue that will be generated from the new facility over a ten-year period.

12. CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER OF VIRGINIA FUNDING

*Cameron Kitchen
Executive Director
Contemporary Art Center of Virginia*

Background Information:

The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC) is seeking funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia for completion of renovations and upgrades to Virginia's leading contemporary art institution to support new and innovative educational programs and exhibits. As a major cultural amenity in Hampton Roads and a significant tourist attraction, the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia reaches over 560,000 people annually. The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia is a model of financial and artistic management and operates on a balanced budget. CAC completed Phase One of its capital improvement and endowment campaign in 2003 and opened the Rodriguez Pavilion, Butler Galleries, and new art storage areas with the support of the City of Virginia Beach, private donors, and corporations.

Now in Phase Two of its capital improvement and endowment campaign, CAC is seeking the Commonwealth of Virginia to complete its match of the City of Virginia Beach's Phase One appropriation. This investment by the Commonwealth will enable CAC to meet increasing demands for on-site educational programs, outreach, world-class exhibitions, performances, and corporate and private functions at CAC's museum and studio school in Virginia Beach. The Commonwealth of Virginia funds requested are a direct match for the funds appropriated in Phase One from the City of Virginia Beach. The grant will be used solely for the capital improvement and endowment campaign and will fund much-needed modernization of CAC's security systems, grounds, technical capabilities, galleries and classrooms.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to provide \$750,000 to the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia.

13. THE SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS FUNDING

*Emily Spruill
Director of Cultural Affairs
City of Virginia Beach*

Background Information:

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, a 1200-seat, 84,000 square-foot facility, will be the cultural centerpiece of Virginia Beach, located at the core of the City's emerging Town Center. When it opens in Fall 2007, the Center will have spaces for performances, public and performer support and it will give the opportunity to expand the type and diversity of the performing arts programs in Hampton Roads and the State of Virginia.

The \$47 million facility, built under Virginia's PPEA process, will have a full range of amenities, meeting the needs of today and tomorrow. As a tangible demonstration of their commitment, the Virginia Beach City Council dedicated \$35 million of City funds to the project. The Virginia Beach Performing Arts Center Foundation, a non-profit organization spearheaded by some of the City's top civic and business leaders, is leading a \$12.5 million capital fundraising campaign. Over 70% of the goal has been raised to date. This includes \$1,460,000 from the Commonwealth.

The Sandler Center for the Performing Arts will have a dramatic impact to the State of Virginia's tax base, generating over \$2.2 million for the construction phase and \$35,500 in annual State tax revenue. We ask the State to strengthen its commitment and investment to the future of this cultural landmark and to the City as a whole, by appropriating \$500,000 for the operations of the Center.

The new location opening in Fall 2007 at the exciting Town Center development will become a defining asset for social development for the City and Hampton Roads. It will

become a focal point for social activities from education to the arts and entertainment and will illustrate the State's dedication to furthering the cultural life of its citizens.

Request:

The General Assembly is requested to appropriate \$500,000 for the operations of the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts.

COMMUNITY GROUP INPUT

- 1. CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF A REFERENDUM ON INCREASES TO THE MEALS TAX**
 - A General Assembly mandated Meals Tax Task Force at work.

- 2. INCREASE IN MEDICAID FUNDING**
 - Also requested by Terry Jenkins.

- 3. PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF ANY NEW TAXES**
 - If sales or other taxes were increased that Virginia Beach should get a proportionate share.

- 4. PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY LEGISLATION**
 - Requires motorists to stop whenever pedestrians are in a crosswalk.

- 5. 211 SERVICE**
 - Regional database that individuals could dial 211 and access on information on myriad public service activities such as social services, mental health, etc.

- 6. PHOTO RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT**
 - Also requested by Police Department.

- 7. FIRE PROTECTION FOR HAMPTON ROADS HARBOR**
 - The City supporting increases in funding for a Fire Boat and operational costs for the Hampton Roads Harbor areas.

- 8. PROPOSAL FOR DENSITY CREDITS TO BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE TO GET WORK FORCE HOUSING**
 - Also submitted by Andy Friedman

- 9. ADEQUATE/ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO INCREASE ABC INSPECTORS**

10. ADEQUATE PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING, INCLUDING THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR SHERIFFS

- Also requested by the City of Virginia Beach

11. WASTE WATER-FUNDING AID TO LOCALITIES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

12. SEXUAL PREDATORS LEGISLATION

13. ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

- Also requested by the City of Virginia Beach