

General Assembly Update

City of Richmond City Council

Monday, January 23, 2023

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Overview

- 2023 Session is a Short-session 45 days
- Governor - Promising further tax cuts
- General Assembly Ds - Focused on one-time spending
- Republicans are proposing a 15 week ban on abortion
- Democrats are suggesting additional gun safety measures
- Major focus on mental health crisis
- Fall 2023 Election – 140 Seats up for reelection in new districts

Focus on RVA Priorities

- Focused on core RVA legislative agenda
- Priorities

Preserve and defend Richmond's authority to hold a casino referendum in 2023 - *The City opposes any efforts to remove the ability for the City to hold a referendum for the One Casino and Resort in November 2023 Bills introduced: **SB 780** (Morrissey); **HB 1373** (Del Taylor)*

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)

The City opposes any attempt to accelerate the current statutory Richmond CSO project completion timeline ahead of 2035.

Affordable Housing & Tax Relief

- **Constitutional amendment** to provide real estate tax relief - *Long-Term Owner Occupant Program (Del Carr; Sen Hashmi) **HJ 498 SJ 247***
- **Inclusionary Zoning** – *Providing affordable housing with accessible amenities (Del Carr; Sen McClellan/Hashmi) **HB 2047 SB 1331***

- **Redemption Period on Delinquent Homes** – *Extend the installment period for payment of taxes in order to lower monthly payments; Extend by 12 months ability to reclaim home lost to nonpayment of taxes (Del Bourne) **HB 2110***
- **Tackling Blight** – *Raising fees on vacant, derelict buildings. Get them back into taxpaying reuse. (Sen Hashmi) **SB 1111***
- **Affordable housing properties tax assessment process for rent-restricted communities** – *With difficulty in the drafting process and honing in on necessary Code changes, this bill did not get filed this year.*

Public Safety

- **Aid to Localities with Police Department Funding aka HB 599** – *(Del McQuinn) **Budget Amendment** - Funding local police was an obligation delineated in the annexation moratorium of the 1980s. The City values our highly trained and competent local police, but we need sustained funding to improve police salaries, reduce police vacancies, and enable us to recruit, train and retain our valued police persons.*
- **Use of Radar Enabled Cameras** – *The City requests that the authority to use radar-enabled speeding and red-light cameras be expanded to include business and residential districts, parks, and bridges*

EcoTourism/James River Park System

- **Budget Amendment (Del Adams)** - \$15 million FY 24 in the state budget for four eco-labs and two immersive historical sites located at Ancarrow's Landing and along the Richmond Slave Trail to seed these projects and contribute toward the ongoing maintenance.

In the interest of time, there are several bills, budget amendments that touch on items in the City's legislative program that I'll not detail now. However, know we are keeping up with them, supporting them and look forward to updating you on them

Highlight – Bills of interest

- Del Bourne's bill to extend the historic rehabilitation tax credit to include improvements to or reconstruction of a historic school building.
- Extending the moratorium on annexation for 15 years
- Increasing the amount of money for the historic rehabilitation tax credit program
- Short term Rentals/Va Assn of Realtors bill – Loc gov may not restrict by ordinance any STR property managed by a Va realtor.
- Skill/Gray Machines– A bill to make them legal, taxable (15% to localities), auditable and prosecutable.