

INTRODUCED: December 14, 2015

Expedited Consideration

A RESOLUTION No. 2015-R67-72

To endorse, for the City of Richmond, legislative proposals set forth within the document entitled “City of Richmond 2016 Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly;” to request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia to take legislative action consistent with and in vigorous support of such recommendations; to support other legislative action recommendations and to encourage other organizations and individuals to support such recommendations.

Patrons – All Members of Council

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: DEC 14 2015 AT 6 P.M.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That this Council hereby endorses as priorities for the City of Richmond the legislative proposals set forth in the document entitled “City of Richmond 2016 Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly,” a copy of which is attached to this resolution. The Council respectfully requests that the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia take legislative action consistent with and in vigorous support of such proposals and encourages other organizations and individuals to support these proposals.

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: DEC 14 2015 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Lou Brown Ali
Council Chief of Staff

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Allen L. Jackson, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff *UBA*

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff *JLD*

COPY All Members of Richmond City Council
Dwight C. Jones, Mayor
Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer
Grant Neely, Mayor's Chief of Staff
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *V. Jones*

DATE November 24, 2015

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TITLE: CITY OF RICHMOND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2016 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RECEIVED

NOV 25 2015

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

All Members of Council

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Request Committee Waiver, Expedited Consideration

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

A Resolution is requested to endorse, the City of Richmond's legislative proposals set forth within the document entitled, "2016 City of Richmond Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly," to request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia take legislative action consistent and in vigorous support of such recommendations to support other legislative recommendations and to encourage other organizations and individuals to support such recommendations.

BACKGROUND

City of Richmond
City of Richmond
2016 Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly

Requests for Appropriations to:

1. *SOQ Re-benchmarking* - Provide full funding for the biennial Standards of Quality funding re-benchmarking as adopted by the State Board of Education. Every two years the State Board of Education reviews and updates the prevailing (statewide average based on the previous two years) costs of state recognized and required expenditures for public education.
2. *SOQ Basic Aid Funding* - Restore Standards of Quality basic aid funding in all categories to Fiscal Year 2009 levels. Since 2009, the Commonwealth has reduced its share of funding for public education by approximately \$1 billion, and state per pupil inflation adjusted funding for K-12 has decreased from \$4,275 per pupil in 2009 to \$3,655 per pupil in 2015. In FY 2009, the City of Richmond received \$60,671,325 in state basic aid funding. In FY 2015 the payment was \$51,299,291. These funds are in addition to the SOQ re-benchmarking funding.
3. *Community Wealth Building* - Provide \$10 million each year for a Virginia/State Community Wealth Building Fund to incentivize localities to develop and begin implementing comprehensive plans aimed at reducing poverty and extending more and higher quality opportunities to residents of high-poverty communities.
4. *Carillon Funding* - Provide funding for the Virginia World War I Centennial Committee request to support renovations to the Carillon and funds to commemorate World War I statewide.
5. *Affordable Housing Trust Fund* - Provide increased funding for the Virginia/State Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
6. *Mental Health Services* - Increase funding to address the statewide growing unmet need for mental health and substance abuse treatment services including:
 - Waiver slots and family support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
 - Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT), medical detoxification, psychiatric services and reintegration services for behavioral health;
 - Early intervention services for early childhood disabilities, and suicide prevention; and,
 - Recruitment and retention of Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHP) and license eligible staff and increased peer support.
7. *Food Deserts* - Provide continued funding for the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide to implement the

7. *Food Deserts* - Provide continued funding for the Commonwealth Council on Bridging the Nutritional Divide to implement the recommendations of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services report on food deserts including establishing incentives for:
 - Production, distribution and procurement of foods from local farms;
 - Public-private partnerships to open and sustain full-service end the Code of Virginia to provide that payments to cities and towns for urban street maintenance shall be based upon total-width of pavement in calculating lane miles rather than moving-lane-miles;
 - Encouraging food retailers to locate in and/or provide food and beverage choices in underserved areas.
8. *Prisoner Re-Entry* - Provide increased resources to support re-entry services for individuals scheduled for release from state prisons.
9. *Payment in Lieu of Taxes* – Provide full funding for payment of service charges imposed by localities pursuant to §58.1-3403 for real property owned by the Commonwealth.

Requests for Legislation to:

1. *Redevelopment or Conservation Areas or Rehabilitation Districts* - Authorize local governments to allow a second application for a partial tax exemption period of up to 15 years beyond the initial exemption period.
2. *Assessment of Real Property; Affordable Housing* - Authorize local governments to establish a local affordable housing initiative under Virginia Code §58.1-3295 (B) by allowing local governments to provide some level of exemption for incentivizing developers to include affordable housing units in their new projects.
3. *Involuntary Mental Health Commitments* - Amend the commitment hearing process for anyone subject to a temporary detention order to have their gun rights suspended for five days. If a person is committed and appeals to the Circuit Court, the Circuit Court shall review whether or not the commitment was appropriate as of the time of the original hearing. The Circuit Court shall then determine whether or not further commitment is necessary at the time of the Circuit Court hearing and whether or not the conditions still met Virginia Code §37.2-800 et seq. Under the judicial authorization of treatment statutes there shall be a requirement that only a neutral judicial decision maker shall determine whether or not the person shall have medications forced upon them, as per Virginia Code §37.2-1100 et seq.
4. *High Speed Rail* - Ensure the extension of high-speed rail from Washington, D.C. to Richmond includes Main Street Station.
5. *Urban Streets Maintenance Formula* - Change the "State Maintenance Funds" formula for urban localities from, "Peak hour moving Lane Miles" to "Total Pavement Width" based on an 11' lane.
6. *License Plate Readers and Body Worn Cameras* - Allow law enforcement agencies to maintain electronic information secured through these devices for an extended period of time; regardless of

whether or not the data/information/footage pertains to an identified investigation.

7. *School Funding Formulas* - Review existing school funding formulas and identify more equitable school funding formulas that better consider levels of poverty in a community.
8. *Voting Machines* - Amend the Code of Virginia to remove the requirement for sealing of voting equipment after an election if the vote count is not housed on the voting machine. This change would save the City more than \$150,000 in the event of a runoff election.
9. *Contested Elections* - Amend the Code of Virginia to require that contestees in local elections be served with a notice of contest within 30 days of the filing of an election contest. The proposed legislation would implement the same 30-day timeline for filing notices of contests on the contestee that currently exists for Virginia General Assembly and statewide offices.
10. *Assault and Battery* - Under Virginia Code §18.2-57.2 &3, assault as well as assault and battery shall be eligible for first offender treatment.
11. *Permitted Salaries* - Adjust the statewide caps on the permitted annual salaries of city council members in the Commonwealth to reflect increases in the cost-of-living since the last year the cap was adjusted (1998).

Position Statements

Support Legislation to:

Taxation

12. *State Earned Income Credits* - Change the State income tax credit for low-income taxpayers from a credit against income tax owed to a refund credit.
13. *Income Tax Standard Deduction* - Index for inflation the standard deduction of \$3,000 for single and \$6,000 for married tax filers.

Housing and Community Development

14. *Land Banks* - Authorize local governments to establish land banks. The Virginia Housing Commission is currently studying this issue and recommendations are expected prior to the 2016 session.
15. *Public Housing Transformation* - Provide state funding to assist in the planning, construction and development of affordable and mixed-income housing to replace existing, concentrated public housing.
16. *"Go Virginia" Initiative* - Support funding for the "Go Virginia" initiative which would provide state financial incentives for localities to collaborate on specific issues.
17. *Park Funding* - Provide state funding to develop and fund, park and recreation facilities in localities where there are no state park facilities.

Health and Human Services

18. *Affordable Care Act* - Implement the U.S. Affordable Care Act by expanding Medicaid coverage to all individuals who earn less than

133% poverty (or \$14,404 for an individual/\$29,327 for a family of four); are under the age of 65; are not enrolled or eligible for Medicare benefits; and, are not qualified for another mandatory Medicaid category.

19. *Healthy Lifestyles* - Efforts by the First Lady to promote healthier lifestyles policies and activities by urging communities to include healthy diet and exercise in their strategic planning principles with the goal of creating safer and healthier communities.

Public Safety/Criminal Justice

20. *Community Diversion/Day Reporting Funding* – Restore funding for non-violent adult and juvenile offender community diversion sentencing programs that were eliminated during the recession.
21. *Study of Public Education Impact on Reducing Inmate Populations* – Provide funding for a study of the impact of public education on reducing the offender population and the establishment of incentives for local governments to reduce inmate populations by improving public education. This study would include a cost benefit analysis of any such incentives, a cost benefit policy analysis of potential cost saving supports for public education, and draft legislation.

Firearms

22. *Background Checks* - Require background checks on all firearms purchases. This includes, closing the gun show loophole and requiring that mental health status be checked.
23. *Military Assault Weapons* - Institute a ban on military assault weapons and a limit on the size of ammunition magazines.
24. *Firearms in Government Buildings* – Authorize local governments to ban firearms in local government buildings to ensure public safety and reduce risk to citizens. The Governor has issued an executive order banning firearms in certain State government buildings.
25. *Gun Violence Prevention* - Make state funds available for conflict resolution programs for communities and schools.

Local Government Authority

26. *Insurance to Other Qualified Adults* - Give localities the authority to extend employee health insurance and related benefits coverage to include other qualified adults.
27. *Sexual Orientation* - Include sexual orientation as a protected class with regard to employment discrimination.
28. *Ban the Box (Procurement)* - Amend the procurement laws of the state to allow local governments to prohibit private businesses that engage in contracts for work with the local government from asking questions about criminal convictions on initial employment applications.

29. *Ban the Box* (Criminal History) - Direct the Virginia State Crime Commission to study the routine use of criminal history information in employee hiring, including the need for such information in relation to job requirements, and its impact on offenders. – The Governor issued an executive order to "Ban the Box" in state employment. City has done the same for its employment.

Election Law

30. *Redistricting Reform* – Enact redistricting reforms that include the use of a non-partisan independent commission to draw state legislative and congressional districts that promote compactness by preserving the integrity of existing local government political boundaries and precincts.

Opposition Legislation:

31. We oppose any legislative action that would:

1. Reduce or eliminate local taxing authority without a comparable means of revenue replacement;
2. Reduce funding for public education;
3. Reduce or diminish local autonomy;
4. Reduce state financial assistance to localities.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/rs

City of Richmond 2016 Legislative Requests

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City of Richmond 2016 Legislative Requests

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City of Richmond 2016 Legislative Requests

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