



## RESOLUTION #15-18

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly will convene in early 2016 to consider important legislative matters of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate for the City Council to adopt a legislative program to present to its representatives in the General Assembly; and


**WHEREAS**, the Council has carefully considered a legislative program, and believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Williamsburg.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Williamsburg, Virginia hereby endorses the attached 2016 Legislative Priorities List and urges consideration and passage as appropriate.

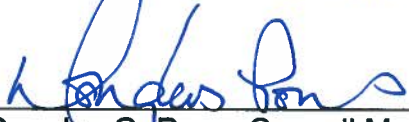
Adopted: November 12, 2015

  
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Clyde A. Haulman, Mayor

  
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Paul T. Frelling, Vice-Mayor

  
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Judith N. Knudson, Council Member

  
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D. Scott Foster, Council Member

  
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Douglas G. Pons, Council Member



## 2016 Legislative Priorities City of Williamsburg

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

- ★ **Redistricting Reform:** Williamsburg supports transparent and non-partisan redistricting reform in Virginia for state legislative and congressional districts to promote more competitive elections and a healthier democracy; and requests that action take place during the 2016 session to ensure the constitutional process is complete by the next redistricting occurring in 2021. (See *Resolution #14-11*)
- ★ **Tax Policy Reform:** The City urges tax reform in two critical areas: 1). Internet sale of hotel rooms making clear that transient occupancy taxes and sales taxes are applied on the cost of the room paid by the consumer, regardless of the means used to reserve the rooms; and 2). Business, Professional and Occupational License taxes (BPOL), Williamsburg supports revenue neutral reform of BPOL taxation.
- ★ **FOIA Exemptions:** Williamsburg opposes any changes in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which eliminates or limits existing exemptions for local government or provides any additional sanctions for violations, other than those currently provided by law.

### TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

- ★ **Interstate 64:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to continue to make the widening of I-64 from Newport News to Richmond a top priority. The widening should be done with aesthetic sensitivity and effective signage should be installed that indicates that Greater Williamsburg is open for business. Legislative leadership and influence is needed to convince the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) that the Williamsburg to Richmond segment should be chosen as a statewide priority using the House Bill 2 (HB2) prioritization process.
- ★ **Passenger Rail on the Virginia Peninsula:** The City supports protecting the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund (IPROC) and funding source, and strongly encourages the advancement of the Tier II Federal Richmond to Hampton Roads Higher Speed Rail Study which focuses on service along the Peninsula and the Southside Hampton Roads.

### STATE/LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

- ★ **Virginia Employment Commission Services:** Williamsburg believes that maintaining convenient access to employment services in the region is critically important to City businesses and citizens and requests that the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) look for affordable opportunities to maintain an office in Greater Williamsburg.

- ★ **Tourism Promotion:** Williamsburg urges the General Assembly to use a greater portion of state revenues derived from tourism to promote Virginia and Greater Williamsburg as a premier visitor destination. Expanded state investment in regional cooperative marketing initiatives should be used to leverage spending on tourism marketing statewide.
- ★ **Regulating Internet-Based Services:** The City strongly believes that the General Assembly should take action to ensure that private enterprises employing a business model that emphasizes the use of the Internet, to either provide retail or facilitate lodging or ride-sharing services, do not have an unfair advantage over similar business.
- ★ **Financial Impact on City Government:** Williamsburg advises the General Assembly that the following areas of state spending are of greatest financial importance to the City of Williamsburg.
  - **Education:** Williamsburg/James City County Schools and for Williamsburg Regional Library
  - **Transportation:** Annual street maintenance allocation
  - **Public Safety:** Police support through 599 funds
  - **Regional Jail:** Support for correction officer compensation through the Compensation Board
  - **Human Service:** State Health Department and Behavioral Health programs, and Williamsburg Human Services Department
  - **Mandated Officials:** State support for mandated City and joint City/County Constitutional Officers

Further, state-initiated services and programs, such as Line of Duty Disability benefits, should be supported by state funds and local funds should not be used to cover short falls in state revenues.

- ★ **Funding for Public Education:** Williamsburg strongly believes in the importance of public education and requests that the Commonwealth ensure adequate and appropriate state K-12 funding that reflects the true costs of providing high quality public education.
- ★ **Cost of Water Quality:** The City supports state funding from dedicated revenues for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) to assist localities in implementing costs associated with permit requirements tied to federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and new EPA regulations.
- ★ **College of William and Mary:** Williamsburg supports and applauds the College's efforts to make higher education more affordable and accessible to Virginians through the William and Mary Promise. The City also urges the General Assembly to provide funding for the first phase of the Fine Arts Quarter music building which will directly benefit the region by providing additional cultural amenities and economic resources.

- ★ **Thomas Nelson Community College:** The City supports Thomas Nelson Community College's capital requests to replace the Diggs, Harrison and Moore Halls on the Hampton Campus and to build the Advanced Integrated Manufacturing (AIM) Center on the Virginia Peninsula. Both capital projects will benefit students, business and industry, and the larger Virginia Peninsula community.