

APPROVED by City Council on January 12, 2010

To: The Honorable City Council, and Legislative Committee, City of Hopewell

Thru: Dr. Edwin C. Daley, City Manager

From: _____
Herbert H. Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs

Copy: Ann Romano, City Clerk, Clerk of Council
Debbie Pershing, Senior Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Date: January 7, 2010

RE: City of Hopewell 2010 General Assembly Legislative Priorities

Please find attached a summary listing of the 2010 General Assembly Legislative Priorities for the City of Hopewell.

- (1) Downtown Historic District. The City of Hopewell, the Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Inc. (A Virginia Main Street Affiliate), and Hopewell Preservation Inc. are committed to the revitalization of Hopewell's Downtown Historic District.
 - (a) A vibrant downtown historic district will play a key role in Hopewell's on-going community development and provide a family-friendly urban center for both Hopewell natives and new military families brought in due to BRAC.
 - (b) Hopewell is requesting \$1 million dollars in this year's budget to assist with economic development and revitalization initiatives for its Downtown Historic District, promotion of tourism in the District, and other related restoration projects. Hopewell has shown local commitment to these projects through its involvement in the Virginia Main Street Program and its \$1.3 million investment in the restoration of the Beacon Theatre.

- (2) Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The City of Hopewell requests continued funding support for the City's Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion/Nitrogen Reduction Efforts. The City supports legislation that provides continued funding of the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) and financial assistance with Nitrogen Reduction Efforts at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- (3) The City of Hopewell requests funding support for a Shuttle Transportation Service from Fort Lee Kenner Army Medical Clinic and Troop Clinic in concert with John Randolph Medical Center Family Urgent Care Facility and the City of Hopewell on an annual basis in the amount of \$150,000.00 to assist with shuttle transportation services as a result of (BRAC) Base realignment and Closure Expansion Project.
- (4) Emergency Operation Center/New Fire Station # 1. The City of Hopewell requests \$250,000 to conduct a feasibility and design studies for a new EOC and Fire Station and purchase of property for the proposed facility.
- (5) HB 599 Funding/ Crime Prevention. The City of Hopewell supports legislation to preserve law and order and promote the safety, quality of life, and administration of justice within our communities. The Commonwealth should enhance its efforts to prevent juvenile crime, minimize violence in the schools, and reduce the formation and operation of gangs by providing funding for programs that prepares our youth to be productive, responsible, self-reliant members of society. The City of Hopewell opposes any legislation that would reduce, redirect, or restrict the utilization of HB 599 funds.
- (6) K-12 Education (At-Risk Funding). The City of Hopewell supports additional new state education funding to (1) fully fund the revisions to the Standards of Quality adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia State Board of Education.
- (7) Homeland Security/Harbor Master/BRAC Expansion. The City is requesting funding assistance to support our Harbor Master in the amount of \$300,000.00 to protect the water ways Pursuant to Sec. 29-3 of the Code of Virginia, including protection of several hazardous chemical plants, bridges, marinas and numerous Natural Historic treasures, and also in preparedness for the Fort Lee Army Base/ BRAC expansion and in aiding the global fight on terrorism.

- (8) Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) / Mental Health Services for Children. For the FY 08/09 Budget, the City of Hopewell spent \$800,443.00 on Comprehensive Services Act. The City of Hopewell ***does not support*** regulations to make CSA responsible for providing mental health services for children and increase funding for the mental health initiative fund. The MHI fund was established in 2000 to create a dedicated service of funding for mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances who do not meet the definition of CSA mandated population.
- (9) Dredging of the City Marina. The City of Hopewell request \$1,000,000.00 in funding for the hydraulic dredging on the site. Hydraulic dredging of the City Marina area will be dewatered using filter bags to retain not less than 90 percent of suspended sediments.
- (10) Amend State Code Section 58.12600 to repeal the use of Local Assessments Ratio to determine Public Service Corporations property assessments.
- (11) Park Acquisition and Development. The City of Hopewell supports continued funding by the Commonwealth of Virginia to insure the growth of health initiatives, both physical and economic for our growing senior population. In addition, the Commonwealth should enhance its efforts to prevent juvenile crime, minimize violence in schools and reduce the formation of gangs by providing funding for positive programs that improves the quality of life.
- (12) State Requirements and eligibility Criteria for CMPT Boards. The City of Hopewell recommends that the state curtail any new mandated categorical requirements as it relates to local governments. These new mandates increase cost and deplete local resources from its true intended purpose.

State and Federal Related Budget Legislative Priorities

- (1) Dredging of the City Marina. The City of Hopewell request \$1, 000,000.00 in funding for the hydraulic dredging on the site. Hydraulic dredging the Marina area will be dewatered using filter bags to retain not less than 90 percent of suspended sediments.
- (2) Public Transportation/Increased Rail Transportation. The City of Hopewell request funding in the amount of \$534,000.00 from the state/federal government on an annual basis to support an expanded public transportation system in support of Fort Lee (BRAC) expansion project. The City of Hopewell would partner with the City of Petersburg Transit Authority to provide this service.
- (3) Teen Center. The goal of the Teen Center is to assist young people to acquire organizational and leadership skills; strengthen their values; create a sense of community pride; promote cross cultural understanding; which will create a productive future in their lives and the community. The Teen serves youth on a daily basis and is open Monday through Saturday. Request funding to support the expansion of the Community Center for a Teen Center. The estimated cost of this project is \$690,000 with an annual staffing and operating cost of \$185,000.
- (4) Museum. Renovation of the Hunter House into a City Museum. The City of Hopewell request funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 for renovation of the Hunter House into a City Museum. The museum would provide a permanent residence of various historical articles and promote understanding of past history in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life. The Museum would house historical collections of maps photographic images, artifacts and exhibits to include interactive technologies.
- (5) I-295 Sound Barrier Wall Extension (BRAC Related). The City of Hopewell request federal funding to assist with the construction of I-295 Sound Barrier Wall Extension as a result of Fort Lee Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) expansion project. Cost estimates are being developed.
- (6) Visitor Center and Grants Headquarters Relocation Project. The City of Hopewell request funding support for the Visitor Center and Grants Headquarters Relocation Project. The estimated project cost is \$2.9 million dollars and is scheduled to be funded in FY 2013.

