

City of Hampton Draft Legislative Agenda Presented by: Ed Reed Vice President, Two Capitols Consulting

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#### **Presentation Goal**

1. Receive Council feedback on proposed legislative/budget requests and priority positions/statements

October 23rd Present draft legislative agenda with coordination from City Council, City Manager, and City Attorney <u>Mid-November/End of November</u> Finalize legislation for General Assembly members and have bills pre-filed (deadline for pre-filed drafting is November 25, 2024) We expect bill limits of 15 in the House and 20 in the Senate

August-October Gather ideas for the legislative package to present to City Council for discussion <u>Mid-November</u> Finalize legislative agenda and present for approval by City Council

Start sharing legislative package with members of the General Assembly <u>December</u> Finalize any budget amendments

Session starts January 8, 2025 at Noon (45 day session)

# Policy Positions

### Resiliency & Environment

- The City of Hampton continues to support legislation to provide local governments with greater authority in the reforestation, preservation, and management of urban forests in recognition of their ability to capture and store carbon, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, reduce energy use, and mitigate urban heat islands and their health effects.
- The City of Hampton requests the state to provide meaningful, ongoing grant funding to localities' and individuals' flood resilience and climate change adaptation efforts.

- The City of Hampton requests that the Commonwealth continue to fund efforts to restore and maintain historic African American cemeteries.
- The City of Hampton requests state-level coordination for coastal adaptation efforts.

### Community Development

- The City of Hampton supports maintaining and expanding local authority over land use/zoning issues and decisions (including accessory dwelling units and short term rentals)
- The City of Hampton supports increased state funding for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC).
- The City of Hampton requests the General Assembly adopt legislation that would allow the creation of local ordinances to eliminate or deter the continuation of nuisance and safety related offenses and violations.

# Education

- The City of Hampton continues to support pay equity for teachers and support staff. The City also supports continued state funding for At-Risk Add On, Transformational High Schools, and the Virginia Preschool Initiative.
- The City supports the General Assembly maintaining funding of the STEM 360 program as appropriated in the current budget for the Virginia Air and Space Science Center
- The City of Hampton supports regional efforts to further expand the inclusion of conflict resolution in Virginia's educational curriculum standards.

# Fiscal Responsibility

- The City of Hampton requests that the Governor and the General Assembly refrain from using local governments as a fiscal balance wheel in order to overcome revenue challenges.
- The City of Hampton recommends that state constitutional amendments with local government fiscal impacts require the cost burden to be allocated among all citizens of the Commonwealth so that the citizens of one or only a few localities are not unduly and inequitably burdened.
- The City of Hampton supports efforts to request that the Commonwealth offset local real estate and personal property tax revenue losses due to the tax exemptions for disabled veterans program.

- The City of Hampton supports amending the Communications Sales and Use Tax ("CSUT") to modernize that tax base to capture new technology that is being used to deliver traditional services subject to the tax.
- The City of Hampton opposes any attempt to mandate exemptions to the local option sales tax unless the General Assembly and/or Governor can establish a viable revenue-replacement for localities like Hampton.
- The City of Hampton supports efforts to establish a registry of short-term rental properties and require accommodation providers and intermediaries to register with the Department of Taxation.

# **Public Safety**

- The City of Hampton requests that the Code of Virginia be amended to require that jail per diem rates for all offenders held in a local or regional jail be regularly adjusted to reflect changes in cost.
- The City of Hampton calls for the state to honor its commitment to local governments specific to the local aid to police departments or "599" program.
- The City of Hampton supports continued efforts to regulate illicit liquid nicotine, cannabis, cannabis-derivatives, synthetic THC, and similar products being sold at local retail stores which put the health and safety of its residents, including juveniles, at risk.

- The City of Hampton supports ongoing work to review Virginia's barrier crimes laws and the impacts of the ability of local governments to engage credible messengers or violence interrupters.
- The City of Hampton supports efforts at the state level to provide local relief to the temporary detention order (TDO) and emergency custody order (ECO) processes including providing additional resources to alternative transport services

### Economic Development

- The City of Hampton supports the Hampton Roads Talent Retention and Attraction Initiative to overcome misperceptions about the region and reverse the current trend of talent outmigration.
- The City of Hampton supports legislation that would provide additional financing and bonding authority/ opportunity for the maintenance and construction of entertainment related venues and public facilities.

#### FOIA & COIA

• The City of Hampton supports transparent government operations but opposes any legislation that proposes to increase the financial or administrative burden on localities when responding to records requests.

#### Transportation & Transit

- The City of Hampton requests that the General Assembly appropriate additional funds toward sunken boat removals. The issue of abandoned, sunken, and/or derelict boats is a growing problem in Virginia waterways.
- The City of Hampton supports policies to create predictable, adequate, and equitable funding across varying transit modes and regions throughout the Commonwealth. Sustainable funding is critical for reliable transit services that reduce customer exposure to service cuts and fare increases.
- The City of Hampton supports expanded legalization of speed cameras if the area in which they are placed has been documented as an area of concern through speed studies, crash data, or engineering studies.

# Legislative & Budget Requests

# Stop Sign Photo Enforcement (Legislative)

 Amend the Code of Virginia to allow for the use of photo enforcement of stop sign infractions in high violation zones



#### Technical Amendment to Photo Enforcement Authority

 Request an amendment to the current photo enforcement authority specifically for stoplight and speed infractions to address an increase in business day review of violations.



# ABC Enforcement of Larcenies at Local Stores (Legislative)

 Request that the General Assembly grant authority to the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Authority Bureau of Law Enforcement the ability to act as the primary law enforcement entity for reporting purposes



#### Restore the Hampton Health District (Legislative)

Request the General Assembly grant authority to the City of Hampton to enter into a contract with the Department of Health for the local administration of local health services. Currently, the local department of health is operated as a joint venture between the state and local governments.



Hampton and Peninsula HEALTH DISTRICTS

#### Additions to the List of Enhanced Duty Pay Recipients (Legislative & Budget)

 Add municipal park rangers, 911 operators and animal control officers to the list of employees who can receive enhanced hazardous duty pay



## Fort Wool Restoration Efforts (Budget)

 Support the Coalition for Fort Wool's efforts seeking funding for the repair/replacement of the Fort's boat dock/tower and other historic resources. Additionally, the City is eager to partner with the relevant state entities to capitalize on the preservation of Fort Wool.



City Council Feedback & Discussion