

# 2023 General Assembly City of Hampton Legislative Agenda Prep

October 26, 2022

Presented by:

Ed Reed, Vice President, Two Capitols Consulting

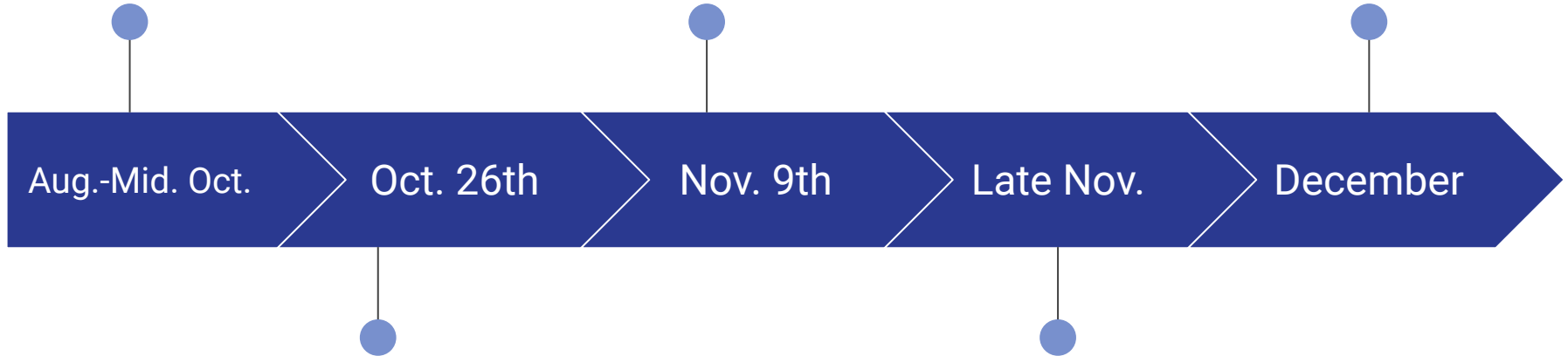
# Presentation Overview

- Legislative agenda timeline
  - Legislative requests
  - Priority policy positions
  - Coalition and community partners
  - Q/A
-

Work with city staff and leadership to assemble requests and priorities

Adopt final version of the legislative agenda

City Council and State delegation convening



Present draft legislative agenda to City Council

Work with State delegation to secure legislation sponsors

**Session Commences: January 11, 2023**

# Legislative Requests

# Provide Localities the Authority to Regulate Blight in Neighborhoods–Vacant Building Registry

- Prior to 2013 localities had the authority to require registration of any building that had been vacant for a period of 12 months or more. In 2013, the General Assembly amended the Virginia Code to allow registration of such buildings only if they also met the definition of "derelict"
- The City has encountered instances in which squatters were living in houses which the out-of-state owners believed to be vacant. Some of these houses have been involved in multiple shootings.
- However, these buildings would not meet the current definition of derelict. In order to avoid future situations of this nature, and so that the City knows which buildings should be vacant, we would like the General Assembly to "undo" the 2013 amendments of §15.2-1127, so that the Code reads as it did prior to 2013.

\*Senator Locke sponsored in 2021 and Delegate Ward sponsored in 2022

# Fund Rental Increase for the Hampton Health District

- The City of Hampton has hosted the Hampton Health District (the “District”) within its borders continuously since at least 1977. The District provides valuable services to the citizens of Hampton, and in cooperation with the Peninsula Health District, also to the citizens of Newport News, Poquoson, York County, James City County, and Williamsburg. It has been located at 3130 Victoria Boulevard since its inception.
- The City bears primary responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the building. Accordingly, the City requests that the General Assembly appropriate funding to the Virginia Department of Health (“VDH”) so that VDH may pay to the City rent on the full building square footage commensurate with the market.

# Create Broader Authority to Use Photo-Monitoring Systems to Enforce Traffic Light Signals

- Authorizes the localities in Planning District 23 to establish a traffic control device violation monitoring system imposing monetary liability on the operator of a motor vehicle for failure to comply with traffic control devices at any intersection deemed by the local governing body to be negatively impacted by traffic due to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project.
- The authority provided currently does not allow for anything more than red-light traffic violations to be subject to enforcement in this manner. The City of Hampton is directly impacted by the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project (“HRBT-P”) and is experiencing significant traffic jams.
- This would allow for photo-monitoring systems to be used for enforcement of infractions such as no right turn and blocking the intersection, not just a red-light violation

\*Delegate Ward sponsored in 2022

# Provide State Assistance to Decrease Law Enforcement Demands with Temporary Detention Orders (TDOs)

- Provide State assistance to decrease the time demands that Temporary Detention Order (TDO) responsibilities place on our locality police departments.
- Further, request State funding to provide needed mental health resources/staff to transition TDO responsibilities away from local police officers and provide flexibility for other qualified professionals to perform TDO duties
- Allow localities opportunity to contract for these services to reduce demands on local police forces





# Priority Policy Positions

# Hampton's Priority Positions

- Continue supporting the preservation and expansion of tree canopy
- Honor prior commitments to the state assistance to local police departments (599 Program)
- Refrain from passing unfunded mandates/constitutional inequity
- Continue supporting and enhancing localities' resiliency efforts
- Continue supporting and funding education initiatives
- Expand communications sales and use tax
- Support funding request for Jefferson Lab High Performance Data Facility
- Oppose any state mandated exemptions to the local option sales tax unless the General Assembly can establish a viable revenue-replacement for localities
- Support and increase staffing for the Hampton Roads Regional Jail
- Increase funding for the removal of derelict and sunken boats
- Continue funding through the Department of Historic Resources for African American cemeteries
- Continue supporting the Virginia Air & Space Science Center – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Program
- Support localities' ability to maintain control over land use and zoning decisions including the regulation of short-term rentals



# City of Hampton Legislative Partners

# Hampton Coalition and Community Partners

- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
- Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
- Transportation District of Hampton Roads (HRT)
- Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Hampton University
- Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
- Hampton Roads Regional Jail
- Fort Monroe Authority
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Virginia Seafood Agriculture Research and Extension Center
- Virginia Municipal League
- Virginia First Cities



Q/A