



## **Addendum to the 2014 City of Greensboro Legislative Agenda**

### *1. City of Greensboro Opposes Property Tax Cap Legislation*

The City of Greensboro is opposed to the proposed cap on city property tax revenues advanced as part of the Energy Modernization Act. Restricting revenue growth could significantly hamper our ability to provide critical services and could potentially harm economic development efforts of the City. Setting the tax rate and making a determination on the local property tax revenues should remain a function of local government. Each municipality has a statutory duty to maintain public safety and infrastructure. Arbitrary caps could endanger core functions of municipalities. The tax cap would also have a negative impact on Greensboro's ability to provide and structure economic development incentives in a traditional fashion. All Cities face climbing expenses and stagnant revenues; it is crucial to maintain all available revenue options and flexibility to help all Cities best meet current and future needs.

### *2. City of Greensboro Opposes Elimination of Tree Protection Ordinances*

The City opposes the proposal of the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission to remove the statutory authority of Cities and Counties to enact and enforce tree protection ordinances. North Carolina is a forested state and tree ordinances help to ensure when established trees are cleared to make way for development that adequate steps are taken to restore necessary plantings. Cities need authority to determine the appearance of their town to maintain its character and encourage economic development. Tree ordinances protect property values, screen adjacent properties from separate property uses, and lower surface temperatures in urban environments.