



DATE: Thursday, February 2, 2017

TO: Guilford Delegation, City Council

FROM: Tom Carruthers, City Attorney
Jennifer Schneier, Assistant City Attorney

SUBJECT: DRAFT: Greensboro 2017 Legislative Agenda

1. Environment/Jordan Lake: Greensboro is now completing a \$120M upgrade to its wastewater treatment facilities to meet its obligations to its downstream partners in the Jordan Lake basin. Section 15A NCAC 02B .270 (10) (h) of the rule for nutrient discharges requires the purchase of nutrient offsets in case of an exceedance, which is not a requirement for Greensboro's NPDES permit. Therefore, Greensboro requests the General Assembly remove the requirement to purchase nutrient offsets from the Jordan Lake rules.
2. Collection of Parking Fines Linked to Vehicle Registration. Greensboro seeks to collect unpaid parking tickets by linking fines to the annual vehicle registration software maintained by the DMV. Greensboro requests the authority to use such software for collection purposes.
3. Sales Tax Redistribution. Greensboro supports maintaining an equitable level of sales taxes and opposes a redistribution plan that reduces urban tax receipts.
4. State Tort Cap Reform. At the State level there is a limit of \$750,000 maximum for tort claims, but there is no cap for claims against local governments. Greensboro requests an expansion of this cap to include local governments.
5. Body Worn Cameras. Seek amendments to Session Law 2016-88: Law Enforcement Recordings. City Legal is now coordinating with other major cities in the state to identify common concerns and suggestions to amend this current legislation.
6. Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction. Request that the age of juvenile court jurisdiction be raised to 16 and 17 years olds for all crimes except for A-E felonies and traffic offenses. Request that juvenile courts receive more resources to handle the additional load. This request is aligned with the findings of N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin, who convened an independent commission to study this issue.
7. Repair of Nonresidential Buildings and Re-Write of Planning Statutes. A newly created Chapter 160D would reorganize city and county planning and development statutes. This re-write is spearheaded by the NC Bar Association, along with the NC League of Municipalities and the UNC School of Government, and it has support from local governments across the state. One of the modifications allows a municipality to order repairs of nonresidential buildings in designated zoning districts.



8. Water Resources Capacity User Fees. Greensboro joins its sister cities in requesting an amendment to 160A-314 to give municipalities the same rights as counties to charge fees in anticipation of future use, expansion, or upgrades of water-sewer infrastructure. Although Greensboro's fees are valid, this amendment will correct the loophole created by the recent *Quality Built Homes v. Town of Carthage* case which invalidated certain fees charged by cities.
9. Tuition Equity. Support legislation that allows in-state resident status for students who are undocumented and who have attended school in North Carolina for at least three consecutive years prior to graduation and received a diploma, or have obtained a GED from North Carolina.

Greensboro Chamber of Commerce:

The Legislative Agenda for the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce is not finalized, but the Chamber has identified priority items and support items. The highlights are as follows:

1. Workforce Development. Create a pipeline of skilled manufacturing workers by supporting apprenticeship programs and expanding recruiting efforts and training programs.
2. MegaSite Infrastructure. Request that the General Assembly activate and fund the Site Infrastructure Development Fund with \$50M to promote sites such as the Megasite as "site ready."
3. High Point Market. Request continued funding of \$1,200,000 for transportation and \$1,755,472 for marketing and for those funds to be included in the 2017-2019 budget as recurring funds.
4. Effective Water Quality Management: Request the continuation of two current studies and the overhaul of statewide Stormwater Basin Nutrient Management Rules. This would enable the building of multi-acre buildings in the Triad so the region can build the manufacturing sites that the 21st century requires.
5. Aviation. Seek continuation of planned funding and a commitment to the success of local and regional airports.
6. Transportation. Seek continued investment in transportation infrastructure to support job growth. Seek a continuation of planned funding for the Greensboro Urban Loop to ensure its completion in 2020.