

2019 Legislative Agenda

Friday, Feb. 15, 2019

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City of Greensboro

Legislative Agenda

1. **Body Worn Cameras**. Continue to work with Rep. John Faircloth to make favorable amendments to the law. Of particular concern is allowing Council to view recordings in closed sessions without being required to sign confidentiality agreements.
2. **Triad Connected Cities**. Greensboro requests \$1M in funding from the State to help Greensboro and its neighbors complete the fiber connection along the I-40/85 corridor from Winston-Salem through Greensboro and to finish the 11.8 mile gap to Burlington. The goal of Triad Connected Cities is to establish our region as a world-class broadband community which drives enhancements in economic development, education, healthcare, and other quality of life components of the region.



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City of Greensboro

Legislative Agenda

3. **Restore Transportation Funding.** In 2017, the General Assembly diverted state transit funding from local transportation budgets to highway construction needs. This has resulted in loss of approximately \$500,000 of state funding for Greensboro. Greensboro requests that this funding stream be restored because Greensboro is faced with increased contract costs, increased para-transit ridership costs, and decreased fixed-route ridership all while it pursues clean energy and fiscal responsibility by purchasing more electric buses.

4. **Small Business Enterprise.** Greensboro requests authority to establish a Small Business Enterprise program to promote small businesses in the Greensboro market area. During its 2013 session, the General Assembly considered HB 524 which was a local act to allow Greensboro to focus on small, local businesses in the granting of contracts. Greensboro requests a program similar to Durham (Durham Code Sec. 84-5).



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5. Repair of NonResidential Buildings and Re-write of Planning Statutes.

Ask support for the re-write of Chapter 160A which would create a new Chapter 160D to reorganize city and county planning and development statutes and allow a city to adopt a non-residential building code in a downtown or in a specified Municipal Service District. This matter was considered in the 2017 General Assembly session in SB 419.

6. Collection of Parking Fines Linked to DMV

Registration. Greensboro seeks to partner with Winston-Salem to drive this issue. This bill allows the collection of unpaid parking tickets by linking fines to the annual vehicle registration software maintained by the DMV. Greensboro and Winston request the authority to use such software for collection purposes. Our McGuire Woods lobbyists report they continue to meet with the DMV on this matter, and they have learned that several other cities are interested in this as well.



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7. **Presumptive Disability for Firefighters.** This bill would seek recognition that a disability can arise from a series of harmful exposures, not just a single event or accident. Presumptive disability allows for a disability claim to be made because of the cumulative effects of exposure to toxins or pollutants. This was a state-wide bill introduced as HB 666 in the 2015 session.

8. **Healthcare for Retired Councilmembers.** City Council requests the same benefit granted to County Commissioners in 2009 (S.L. 2009-564) which gave healthcare coverage to retired commissioners. Greensboro requests an appropriate amendment to NCGS 160A-163(e) to obtain this benefit. This matter was pursued in 2017 when Council passed a Resolution seeking legislative approval for this matter.



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9. **Body Fire Department Search and Rescue Funds.**

Greensboro Fire Department and the NC Coalition of Fire Chiefs request an appropriation of approx. \$2.3M in recurring funds to be used to support the search and rescue programs as provided in Article 6 of Chapter 166A.

These funds will be used by local governments to supplement the expenses to purchase and maintain equipment to ensure the viability of search and rescue services.

10. **Housing Recovery/Restore GSO.** Greensboro requests \$1M to support housing restoration needs in the aftermath of the April 2018 tornado. The City would use these funds to manage the repair or demolition of damaged homes in a timely manner. Greensboro currently has a Housing Rehabilitation Program in place, but not all units qualify for these special funds. A program such as Recovery GSO could fill this gap.



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- 11. Medical Detox Facility.** Greensboro has a particular need for a medical detox facility. Greensboro supports Guilford County receiving funding for a detox facility to provide this vital service to residents.

