

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2014

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE FOR THE 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of the proposed City Legislative Package for the 2015 General Assembly Session.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Receive the proposals for the City's 2015 Legislative Package, as recommended by Council's Legislative Subcommittee and included in Attachment 1;
- (2) Schedule the legislative package proposals for public hearing on Saturday, November 15;
- (3) Schedule the proposed City Charter amendments for public hearing on Saturday, November 15; and
- (4) Schedule adoption of the Legislative Package for Tuesday, November 25.

**DISCUSSION:** Council's Legislative Subcommittee met with the City's General Assembly delegation on October 2 to discuss the City's preliminary 2015 legislative package. For the past several months, staff has been working with Council members, City departments, and boards and commissions to develop legislative and funding proposals for the City's 2015 Legislative Package. Twenty-six such proposals are described in Attachment 1; all of them have been recommended by Council's Legislative Subcommittee for your consideration. Section A contains three major fiscal issues of concern to the City; Section B consists of five legislative or budget proposals recommended for introduction by the City's delegation, including a comprehensive "cleanup" bill for the City Charter (Attachment 2 lists the proposed Charter changes; Attachment 3 contains the actual proposed changes); Section C consists of sixteen proposals to support; and Section D includes two items which the Subcommittee recommends that the City's delegation oppose.

A Work Session with the City's Legislative Delegation will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Work Room on November 17.

The 2015 General Assembly Session will be a "short" 46-day Session, beginning January 14, and ending February 28.

On December 17, 2014, Governor McAuliffe will submit his proposed amendments to the FY 2015-16 biennial budget; depending on State revenue collections between now and the end of November, his proposals could contain additional budget cuts affecting local governments. Staff will report on the Governor's recommendations shortly after they are announced. The General Assembly is expected to focus once again on ethics reform (many people think the legislation passed in 2014 did not go far enough in addressing this issue).

Legislative Director Bernard Caton will represent the City in Richmond again this year, and will report to you regularly on the status of legislative and budget issues that arise during the 2015 General Assembly Session.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 - Proposed Positions for the 2015 Alexandria City Package

Attachment 2 – List of proposed 2015 "cleanup" changes to the City Charter

Attachment 3 – Actual Proposed "Cleanup" amendments to the City Charter

**STAFF:** Bernard Caton, Legislative Director