

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

SUBJECT: 2010 Legislative Agenda

DATE: June 11, 2009

Although the 2010 Session of the General Assembly is over six months away, the June 26 deadline for Legislative Action Requests for the Maryland Municipal League provides an early opportunity for Council to focus on legislative priorities. A year ago Council had submitted a Legislative Action Request for speed camera authorizations. That Bill has passed and staff is preparing for its implementation later this year. There are a number of legislative matters important to the Council, but at this point, it does not seem that any of them would fit the MML requirement of Statewide applicability.

Most of the issues are ongoing matters of concern that Council may want to restate its policy interest well in advance of the 2010 Session. Those issues include:

1. *City Land Use Authority*. Should the 2009 Bill that failed to get out of the Prince George's Delegation again be the approach that Council would want to take for 2010? If not, there is time to consider a different legislative strategy for this item.
2. *Tax Differential for M-NCPPC Parks Tax*. The January 2009 report from the Maryland Department of Legislative Services to the 23<sup>rd</sup> District's Senator and Delegates suggests: "In recognition of the financial commitment made by the City of Bowie in providing park and recreation services, the city may want to explore receiving a tax differential for a portion of the metropolitan district park tax imposed within the city limits. This approach is similar to the existing property tax set-off program that requires certain counties (including Prince George's County) to provide either a municipal tax differential or tax rebate in order to compensate municipalities for governmental services provided in lieu of similar county services."

3. *Bowie Health Center.* Council has a strong interest in assuring that regardless of the outcome of the Hospital Authority's work concerning the future of public hospitals that the Bowie Health Center remain a strong and ongoing component of the regional healthcare network.
4. *New High School.* Although this is primarily a County issue at this point, State assistance should be sought for funding the early stages of this project.
5. *Beer and Wine Sales in Grocery Stores.* City efforts to attract certain grocery stores are hampered by rules precluding the sale of beer and wine in those stores in this community. Council should support efforts to modify current restrictions which would then assist in Economic Development efforts.
6. *State Franchising Authority for Cable Firms.* Council should continue to oppose efforts to usurp the authority of local governments to contract directly with cable providers through local franchise agreements. This was an issue in the 2009 Session that was placed on the table by House Ways and Means Chairman Sheila Hixson. Delegate Hixson said that the Statewide franchising bill will be back in 2010.

Staff and the City's Lobbyist are prepared to facilitate Council's discussion of legislative priorities.

DJD/asf

Attachment