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MEMORANDUM

April 15, 2010

TO: David Deutsch
City Manager

FROM: Leonard Lucchi
City Lobbyist

RE: Report on 2010 General Assembly Session

The 2010 Session of the Maryland General Assembly adjourned *sine die* on Monday, April 12, 2010 at midnight. The following is a summary of legislative actions of interest to the City of Bowie:

1. OPERATING BUDGET – Funding from Highway User Revenues was flatlined from the funding levels of FY 2010 with only small increases in place for the next three fiscal years.
2. CAPITAL BUDGET – Although there was discussion about not entertaining bond bills in such a tight fiscal year, the decision was made to proceed nonetheless. Capital funding includes \$80,000 for improvements at Allen Pond Park and \$1,000,000 for new turf at Bowie State University.
3. SPEED CAMERAS – Legislation was passed against great odds to establish a protocol between Prince George's County and municipalities within to locate speed cameras at school zones on county roads within municipal boundaries. (HB 1477)
4. MUNICIPAL SHARING – A bill was enacted to allow municipalities to enter into cooperative agreements to share governmental functions or enter into joint ventures ((SB 394)
5. HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – A bill was passed to apply the homestead property tax credit to bicounty agencies in Prince George's County as it is already applied for such taxes in Montgomery County as well as municipal, county and state property taxes. This means that homeowners will only be taxed for the first 10 percent of the assessment increase for bicounty taxes. (SB 683)

6. MNCPPC – MUNICIPAL FISCAL RELATIONS – In lieu of legislation, the MNCPPC agreed to a joint work group between its staff and municipal staff designated by the Prince George’s County Municipal Association to examine and compare municipal and MNCPPC expenditures and investments in park and recreation programs.
7. PRINCE GEORGE’S HOSPITAL SYSTEM – The state budget contains \$15 million for the Prince George’s Hospital System. The Prince George’s Hospital Authority sunsets on May 22, 2010. An announcement is expected before then on the result of discussions with the University of Maryland Medical System.
8. BOWIE TRAINING CENTER – Despite the announcement of the new owner of the Bowie Training Center of an interest in developing the property, no effort was made by the track owners to amend the state law requiring it to continue to use the property as a training facility.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing the City of Bowie before the Maryland General Assembly.