

2009 General Assembly Legislative Priorities for the City of Norfolk

- 1) **Urban Allocation:** The City supports passage of legislation that would allow not more than two-thirds (instead of the present one-third) of the annual urban system highway funds apportioned to a city or town to be used to reimburse the locality for debt service for bonds or eligible project costs incurred on approved projects included in the Six-Year Improvement Program of the Commonwealth Transportation Board.
- 2) **Court Construction Fee:** The City requests authorization for an additional court construction fee of \$5 per case for each civil, criminal, or traffic cases in which a defendant is charged with a violation of any statute or ordinance.
- 3) **Derelict Buildings and Structures:** The City supports passage of the Virginia Housing Commission's package of legislation developed collaboratively with the Virginia Municipal League and affected private property groups to provide additional tools for dealing with blight.
- 4) **Smoking Prohibition in Restaurants:** The City supports passage of legislation that prohibits smoking in restaurants either statewide or by local authority.

2009 General Assembly Funding Priorities for the City of Norfolk

- 1) **State Support of Localities:** The City of Norfolk is one of the most fiscally stressed cities in the commonwealth and depends on the state for 41% of its operating revenue to fund programs in education, human services, law enforcement, etc. With the slowing economy, demands for services and assistance continue to increase, while costs of providing these services are also increasing. Given these factors, the City opposes any additional cuts in State support of Localities.
- 2) **Transportation Funding:** The City of Norfolk's annual Urban Allocation funding has decreased from a maximum estimate of about \$15 million in 1996 to just under \$7 million currently. A significant increase in transportation funding is needed to address the transportation maintenance shortfall, support federally approved projects, increase mass transit, and support economic development initiatives.
- 3) **Housing Trust Fund:** The City requests that the Commonwealth establish a State Housing Trust Fund. This fund should provide matching funds to localities that already have, or will establish within one fiscal year, housing trust funds that help finance affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for the homeless.
- 4) **Virginia Zoo Funding:** The City requests \$1 million in the non-state agency fund for the next phase of Virginia Zoo master plan "Trail of the Tiger." Completion of this phase will enhance our region's ability to advance our regional economic development initiatives and attract additional visitors.