

## **JAMES CITY COUNTY**

### **2004 Legislative Program**

#### **PART I. Legislation to be Introduced on Behalf of the County.**

##### **1-1. ADDITIONS AND MODIFICATIONS (to the Official Map)**

Amend Section 15.2-2235 of the State Code to provide that any addition to, or modification of, the official map that is identified in a localities approved Capital Improvement Program shall be added to the official map without the necessity of a public hearing before the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors.

##### **1-2 LIGHTING LEVEL REGULATION IN JAMES CITY COUNTY**

Grant James City County the same authority extended Augusta County in 2003 to regulate the maximum upward exterior illumination levels of buildings and property zoned or used for commercial or business purposes.

##### **1-3. LOCAL WATER-SAVING ORDINANCE**

Amend Section 15.2-923 of the State Code to permit localities to restrict the nonessential use of groundwater during a declared water shortage or water emergency. Currently, only a city with a population of 350,000 or more has the authority.

##### **1-4. PURCHASE, SALE, ETC., OF REAL PROPERTY**

Amend Section 15.2-1800 to permit localities to convey without holding a public hearing an easement for ingress, egress, utilities, cable, telecommunications, stormwater management, open space, environmental protection, and other such conveyances involving matters of public interest.

##### **1-5. TRAFFIC CONTROL**

Amend Section 46.2-833.01 of the Code of Virginia by adding James City County to those localities permitted to establish a program involving cameras at traffic intersections to monitor the running of red lights.

**PART II.**     Position/Legislation to be Supported by the County.

2-1.     FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Amend Section 2.2-3705(A)(22) to delete "the Department, the Partnership, the Authority, or" in the 5th and 6th lines and to substitute "such entities" for "the Partnership" in the 8th line. This change is needed to ensure the confidentiality of proprietary information provided to and used by certain government entities assisting business prospects interested in expanding in or relocating to Virginia.

2-2.     INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLES - CIVIL PENALTIES

Amend Section 15.2-904(c) to make the civil penalty provisions added by the 2003 General Assembly consistent with the civil penalties provisions for zoning violations under Section 15.2-2209. Many jurisdictions, including James City County, have been enforcing the inoperative vehicle restrictions under the zoning ordinance.

2-3.     JAMES CITY COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY-  
CHANGE OF NAME

Section 15.2-4903(C) of the Code of Virginia permits certain localities to name their authorities "Economic Development Authority." James City County requests that it be added to 15.2-4903(C).

2-4.     JUVENILE DETENTION BLOCK GRANTS

James City County urges the General Assembly to address the reduction in funding in the area of Juvenile Detention. In 2003, localities receiving block grants for such facilities incurred specific block grant reductions (11%) and then a percentage of the Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ") cut of 29% for a total reduction of 40%. The County urges the General Assembly to appropriate the grant fund separately from the rest of the DJJ fund to avoid the unintended "double whammy."

2-5.     LAND USE ISSUES

James City County urges the General Assembly to leave local land use decisions to localities. The County strongly objects to further interference by the General Assembly via legislation such as mandatory clustering or mandated permitting of manufactured housing.

2-6. SUPPORT FOR ENABLING LEGISLATION GRANTING ALL COUNTIES THE AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE A CIGARETTE TAX

James City County urges the General Assembly to grant all counties the authority to impose a tax on cigarettes. In these times of financial difficulty for the State and a resulting cutting of support to localities, it is appropriate to extend the same authority to tax cigarettes to counties as is afforded cities and towns.

2-7. SUPPORT OF HIGH GROWTH COALITION PROGRAM

As a member of the Coalition, the County supports the 2004 Legislative Program requesting the General Assembly to extend to high growth localities, the authority to adopt Ordinances implementing adequate public facilities and impact fees.

2-8. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION - SHARED WORK PROGRAM

James City County urges the General Assembly to establish a shared work program that would provide employers with the option of reducing the hours worked by employees, while permitting the employees whose hours are reduced to receive partial compensation for lost wages. Such a program was offered in the 2003 session of the General Assembly via House Bill 2559.