

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 25, 2003  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Frank M. Morton, III, County Attorney  
SUBJECT: 2004 Legislative Program

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Attached is the proposed 2004 Legislative Program. The Program consists of two parts, items to be introduced and items to be supported by the County as follows:

Part I Legislation to be Introduced on Behalf of the County

- 1-1. Additions and Modifications (to the Official Map): This is a carry-over from 2003 and would negate the need for a public hearing for the addition of an improvement to the Official Map if the improvement is included in the approved Capital Improvements Project.
- 1-2. Lighting Level Regulation in James City County: This is a new proposal to allow the County to regulate certain lighting levels for commercial and business purposes. Augusta County received this authority last year.
- 1-3. Local Water-Saving Ordinance: This is a carry-over from 2003 and would ensure that the County would have the flexibility to impose restrictions on nonessential use of groundwater during declared emergencies.
- 1-4. Purchase, Sale, etc., of Real Property: This is a carry-over from 2003 and would negate the need for a public hearing when localities are conveying easements.
- 1-5. Traffic Control: This item is a carry-over from past years and requests that the County be added to those localities permitted to place cameras at intersections to monitor traffic.

Part II Position/Legislation to be Supported by the County

- 2-1. Freedom of Information Act: Currently there is a very narrow exemption for proprietary information provided for business prospects. This amendment would protect all legitimate proprietary information.
- 2-2. Inoperable Motor Vehicles - Civil Penalties: This amendment would result in standardized civil penalties for violation of the zoning ordinance.
- 2-3. James City County Industrial Development Authority - Change of Name: This proposal would change the name of the Authority to the James City County Economic Development Authority. This request is made by our Industrial Development Authority.
- 2-4. Juvenile Detention Block Grants: Juvenile Detention Block Grants incurred cuts of 11 percent in 2003, Department of Juvenile Justice cuts of 29 percent resulted in a total reduction of 40 percent. This request asks the General Assembly to appropriate the grant fund separately from the rest of the Department of Juvenile Justice fund to avoid the double cut.

- 2-5. Land Use Issues: Urges the General Assembly to refrain from any additional usurping of local government control in the area of land use.
- 2-6. Support for Enabling Legislation Granting all Counties the Authority to Impose a Cigarette Tax: Urges the General Assembly to grant counties the same authority cities and towns have to tax cigarettes.
- 2-7. Support of the High Growth Coalition Program: Requests the General Assembly to support the Legislative Program of the HGC, which would allow localities to adopt ordinances requiring adequate public facilities and impact fees.
- 2-8. Unemployment Compensation - Shared Work Program: This is a new item that appears at the request of one of our corporate citizens. It would enable employers to reduce the hours worked by employees and permit those employees to receive partial compensation for lost wages. Keith Taylor is prepared to speak on the issue.

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Frank M. Morton, III

FMM/gb

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Attachment