



City of Virginia Beach

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April 8, 2011

The Honorable William D. Sessoms, Jr.
Members of City Council

Subject: General Assembly Reconvened Session

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The General Assembly met for its reconvened session on Wednesday, April 6. They attended to 86 amendments made to the budget by the Governor, and numerous amendments proposed by the Governor for bills passed during the regular session.

The City was fortunate to have the entire \$7.5 million in the BRAC money restored by the House and Senate. This was an involved effort by many people over the last month. I want to recognize Ira Agricola, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, for the behind the scenes work that he did with several special groups of legislators.

The General Assembly treated local governments well in the budget recommendations that would have otherwise had detrimental effects. This included restoring \$7.5 million to the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Program for foster children. One notable defeat was the Governor's proposal to allow local governments, including school boards, to have current employees pay 5% toward their retirement under the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). This amendment would have undoubtedly failed in the Senate, but the House acted first. Although, one can speculate why this issue was unsuccessful, it is thought the primary reason is due to the lack of a requirement for local governments or school boards to provide an offsetting pay increase to negate the employee contribution to VRS.

Again, thanks to our entire team, which this year included Admiral Harvey, Fleet Forces Commander, whose name was invoked several times on the floor of both the House and Senate on Wednesday.

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If you have questions or concerns, or need further information, please contact Bob Matthias at (757) 385-8267.

With Pride in Our City,



James K. Spore
City Manager

JKS/RRM/tdr

cc: Management Leadership Team
Robert Matthias, Assistant to the City Manager
Ira Agricola, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce