

November 16, 2011

The Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review
c/o Ms. Susan Williams
Local Government Policy Manager
Department of Housing and Community Development
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Ms. Williams:

Albemarle County appreciates the efforts of the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review and is eager to provide input regarding the elimination of mandates. It is critically important during these difficult economic times that the state does not underfund state mandates nor make resource decisions that would diminish the ability of local governments to provide core governmental services to our citizens. In that regard, Albemarle County agrees with the statements regarding mandates submitted to the Task Force by other jurisdictions to date such as the Line of Duty Act, the Comprehensive Services Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, and not shifting responsibility for secondary roads onto counties.

We understand, however, that the input the Task Force desires at this time is only in regard to those mandates that can be eliminated without cost to the state. Given the quick turnaround of this request and the level of specificity required, below are the items we were able to identify on short notice. We recommend the Taskforce consider reducing and/or eliminating administrative burdens imposed on localities such as the following:

- Comprehensive Services Act - §§ 2.2-2648, 2.2-2649, 2.2-5201 - The state should revise its data collection and reporting requirements to reduce the administrative burden on local governments.
- Constitutional Officers funding - §§ 15.2-1600, 15.2-1636.7, 15.2-1636.18 – The State should simplify the complexity of Compensation Board funding formula for constitutional officers and reduce localities' reporting requirements.
- Comprehensive Animal Care Laws - §3.2-6529 - Repeal localities' administrative requirements instituted in 2007 or allow localities to increase animal license fees to support these additional costs.
- Taxing Authority – Equalize county and city taxing authority.
- Virginia Public Record Act - Record Management/Retention Requirements §§ 42.1-76 et seq– State Library Board requirements for localities regarding public records should be simplified and more consistent across departments.
- Annual Financial Report –§ 15.2-2510 – change deadline from November 30 to December 31

- Annual Report of Guardians - § 37.2-1021 – Reduce the requirements on the local Department of Social Services to file or to review and file the annual report

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and hope that the statements provided by Albemarle and other jurisdictions across the Commonwealth will receive thoughtful consideration by the Task Force. Please contact us if we can be of additional assistance and let us know if there will be opportunities for further input.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Foley
County Executive

cc: Larry Davis, County Attorney, Members of the Board of Supervisors