



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

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November 16, 2011

Ms. Susan Williams  
Local Government Policy Manager  
Commission on Local Government  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
600 East Main St., #300  
Richmond, Va. 23210

Dear Ms. Williams:

At the Governor's request in his October 4, 2011 letter, Arlington County has identified the following mandates for elimination or modification. Arlington concurs in the recommendations of VACo, VML, and other localities which have sent detailed lists to the Task Force, but we will list here only mandates that have not yet been identified by others at this time:

- The Virginia State Police (VSP) Sex Offender Registry (SPS.VSP009) should streamline the fingerprint process by allowing for electronic transmission of digital fingerprints rather than only accepting faxed ink prints.
- Eliminate Department of Corrections (DOC) annual inspections (SPS.DOC001) for those local and regional jails that are accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). Currently, local and regional jails that are ACA accredited are required to pass thirty-three (33) VA DOC standards annually (this takes 2 days). Of these 33 standards, all are covered by ACA for their certification. This is a duplication of effort by ACA local and regional local and regional jails.
- Allow greater efficiency and a more cost effective VDOT project delivery process by eliminating redundant plan review and permitting processes, and implementing statewide VDOT urban design standards.
- Eliminate duplicate data entry for Virginia Medicaid applicants. The Virginia Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) is used by local agencies to add newly eligible persons to the Medicaid system, but it cannot track whether Medicaid applications are being processed in a timely fashion. So localities are required to enter duplicate information into a separate State system known as Medicaid Pending (Medpend). Staff must reenter much of the applicant data and remember to go back to enter the disposition date. Medpend will not take an entry if another Virginia locality has entered the person previously so staff must contact the other locality for them to delete the previous entry. Medpend entries are included in calculating local Medicaid funding. This duplicate entry requirement was a temporary 6-month "fix" starting 15 years ago.
- Permit localities to devise their own employee benefit packages if self-funded. See Chapter 15 of Va. Title 15.2.

- Permit electronic rather than newspaper notice of local government meetings.
- Only mandate staffing for constitutional offices, and health and social services to the extent the state provides full funding for the positions. Otherwise the State should provide block grants for these offices and allow the localities to use the funds for the offices as they determine best.
- Except for taxes, make reporting to the State biennial rather than annual, i.e. fire program funds, emergency medical service funds, regional competitiveness grants, derelict structure grants, cash proffers received & expenditures, and always allow electronic filing rather than paper/fax filing.
- Modify the Line of Duty program so that it remains an obligation of the State, or if the obligation remains local, the localities should be able to define who is covered and how.

Thank you for your work on this important task.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara M. Donnellan".

Barbara M. Donnellan  
County Manager