



Town Of Victoria

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Tuesday, November 8, 2011

Susan Williams
Commission on Local Government
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Mandate Relief

Dear Ms. Williams:

As requested in Governor McDonnell's October 4, 2011 letter, please consider the following mandates in which relief would be requested:

Aid to Localities:

The Victoria Town Council requests that all reductions to localities be reinstated by the state.

IND.VRS002 Line of Duty Act Benefits and 599 Funding:

This state created benefit was established by the state with the intention for it to be funded by the state. The state shifted this funding responsibility to the local governments while at the same time decreasing the 599 funding to local law enforcement. While these cuts have a direct impact on the Town of Victoria additionally our regional police academy had a reduction of \$692,425 from FY 2002-2012 which equals a 58.23% reduction. As we all know most of these reductions are passed down to its members by fee increases. Typically during hard economic times it is well documented that crimes will increase and as such these programs should not be cut. The Victoria Town Council request that LODA and 599 Funding be reinstated by the state.

SNR.DCR005 Virginia Impounding Structure Regulations:

The state lowered the dam height requirements for permitted dams. This one change had an \$80,000 price tag for a town with a population of 1,700. The town does acknowledge the need for dam safety, but as the regulations stand, the town will need to renew our permits every 6 years and every 3 years re-inspection by a dam engineer. The Town Council requested that the state consider the cost and burden this requirement has bestowed on municipalities and to either remove the new permit requirement for dams, lower the permit fees or extend the renewal longer than 6 years.

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SNR.DCR006 Stormwater Management Programs by Localities:

This mandate would require local governments that own separate storm sewer systems to adopt a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program that incorporates both structural and nonstructural measures to control the discharge of pollutants. This mandate appears to have stemmed from the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, of which the Town of Victoria does not fall under. This mandate is by all purposes to place pretreatment controls prior to discharge into the environment. It is amazing that the Town of Victoria requested for bio-solids not be placed upstream from our town water supply and was directed it would still be applied. The Victoria Town Council believes that anything being discharged from stormwater is by far cleaner than bio-solids. The Victoria Town Council would request that this mandate not be required for those not in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area and if mandated municipalities be given the right to deny any upstream placement of bios-solids from local water supplies.

Submitted as directed by the Victoria Town Council on November 8, 2011

Kenneth D. Patterson

Kenneth D. Patterson
Victoria Town Manager

Attachments: Resolution (See on following pages)



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, state financial assistance for mandated and high priority programs, including public education, health and human service, public safety and constitutional officers, is \$800 million less in FY12 than in FY09; and

WHEREAS, counties cities and towns must balance their budgets during a time in which future state assistance is unreliable, federal stimulus dollars are dwindling, and real estate assessments are declining; and

WHEREAS, the Appropriation Act contains \$60 million in across-the-board cuts to towns, cities and counties for both FY11 and FY12, under which localities are required to either elect to take reductions in particular state aid programs, or to send the State a check for the amounts determined by the Department of Planning and Budget (“Local Aid to the State”); and

WHEREAS, the reductions are applied to essential services, including law enforcement, jail administration, foster care and child protection services, election administration and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Victoria does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to discontinue providing service such as election administration or to refuse to house and care for State prisoners in local and regional jails; and

WHEREAS, the state budget cuts are not accompanied by any reductions in state-imposed mandates, standards and service requirements, nor do they provide any administrative flexibility for local agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Victoria experienced a reduction in state aid totaling \$35,000 annually, an amount equivalent to over three cents on the town tax rate; and

WHEREAS, counties, cities and towns will have to provide the State with \$220 million by the close of FY12 for this “Local Aid to the State” program; and

WHEREAS, these reductions shift State costs to local taxpayers and artificially increase the amount of state surplus revenue; and

WHEREAS, State revenues have begun to recover and the State is expecting to have a revenue surplus for the second year in a row, and

WHEREAS, revenue collections for the Town of Victoria continues to reflect the struggling housing market; and

WHEREAS, the State should not shift its share of the costs for mandates and responsibilities to local governments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Victoria Town Council requests Governor Bob McDonnell to submit a budget amendment to the 2012 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$60 million-a-year reduction for the current year and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in the budget to be submitted for FY13 and FY14; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the General Assembly support a budget amendment to the 2012 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$60 million-a-year reduction for the current year, and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in the budget submitted for FY 13 and 14; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Victoria Town Council is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the Commonwealth and to the Town's representatives in the General Assembly.

Adopted by the Victoria Town Council, November 8, 2011.

Diane Harding

Diane Harding, Victoria Town Clerk