

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW A GOVERNOR TO SERVE TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS

ISSUE: Resolution in support of an amendment to the Virginia Constitution to allow a governor to serve two consecutive terms.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council consider the attached Resolution.

DISCUSSION: In every General Assembly session since 1991 (and in many sessions before that) legislation has been introduced to amend the Virginia Constitution so that Virginia governors can serve two or more consecutive terms. Thus far, all such attempts have failed.

At the 2004 Session, the General Assembly agreed to study this issue. A joint legislative Subcommittee has met several times, and is expected to recommend to the 2005 Session whether a Constitutional amendment should be pursued. Governor Warner has expressed his support for such a constitutional amendment, although it would have no impact on his term of office. His support of the amendment is related to his concern that the current term limitation affects the ability of the governor to work on and implement long term policy and program issues that go beyond the current four year term.

Mayor Euille has recommended that Council support such an amendment.

STAFF:
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Resolution

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Virginia Constitution prohibits any governor from succeeding himself, and limits a governor to no more than one consecutive, four-year term; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is the only state that does not allow governors to serve two or more consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, all previous attempts by the General Assembly to amend the Virginia Constitution and permit a governor to serve two consecutive terms have been defeated; and

WHEREAS, a joint subcommittee of the General Assembly is studying whether the Virginia Constitution should be amended to allow governors to serve two consecutive terms;

WHEREAS, both current Governor Mark Warner and his predecessor, Jim Gilmore, have said that being prohibited from running for a second term prevents a governor from making many meaningful government reforms; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the State's leading economic development agency, has stated that "a one-term Governor simply places Virginia at a disadvantage as we go about the long process of building the economic future of the Commonwealth"; and

WHEREAS, it is to the advantage of all levels of government for governors to be able to take the time that is needed to carefully develop policies and programs that will benefit local governments in the Commonwealth and all Virginians;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria City Council supports an amendment to the Virginia Constitution to allow Virginia governors to serve two consecutive terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the members of the City's General Assembly delegation, and the chair of the Joint Subcommittee studying whether to support a Constitutional amendment allowing the Virginia Governor to serve two consecutive terms.

Adopted:

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

Attest:

Jackie M. Henderson City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2130

WHEREAS, the Virginia Constitution prohibits any governor from succeeding himself, and limits a governor to no more than one consecutive, four-year term; and

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WHEREAS, all previous attempts by the General Assembly to amend the Virginia Constitution and permit a governor to serve two consecutive terms have been defeated;

WHEREAS, a joint subcommittee of the General Assembly is studying whether the Virginia Constitution should be amended to allow governors to serve two consecutive terms;

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WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the State's leading economic development agency, has stated that "a one-term Governor simply places Virginia at a disadvantage as we go about the long process of building the economic future of the Commonwealth";

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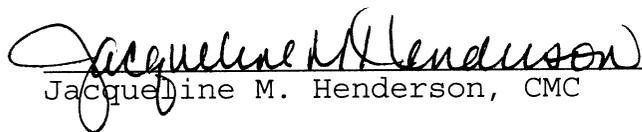
ADOPTED: December 14, 2004



WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk