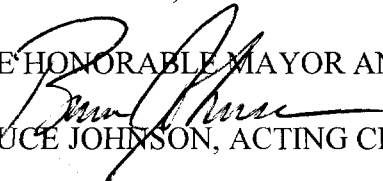


## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF CITY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE FOR THE 2012 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

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**ISSUE:** Adoption of City Legislative Package for the 2012 General Assembly Session.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council adopt items A.1 through A.6, B.1 through B.10, and C.1 through C.11, all listed on Attachment 1, as positions in the City's Legislative Package for the 2012 General Assembly Session.

**DISCUSSION:** On October 25, staff presented to Council the City's 2012 Legislative Package proposals. A public hearing on the Package was held on November 12. No additional items were requested for the Package at the public hearing. The following proposed item has been eliminated from the final Package:

- Tools for Energy Conservation (Krupicka). Staff advised Councilman Krupicka that it believes existing statutes can be used to accomplish the purpose of this proposal (allowing localities to use tax incentives to encourage property owners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their buildings), so Councilman Krupicka is no longer recommending this legislation.

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1 - Items Recommended as the City's 2012 Legislative Package

**STAFF:**

Bernard Caton, Legislative Director

Attachment 1

ITEMS RECOMMENDED AS THE CITY'S 2012 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE

*Note: Items with a [V] are supported by the Virginia Municipal League, and those with an [N] are supported by Northern Virginia localities.*

A. MAJOR FISCAL ISSUES

1. [V,N] Discontinue the Local Aid to the State Program. Eliminate this program, which costs the City approximately \$2.5 million for aid to the State in the current biennium.
2. [V,N] Funding the State-Local Partnership. Seek full funding by the State for its share of state-local programs. In addition, reject any proposals that would reduce the ability of localities to raise local revenues (such as the BPOL tax).
3. [V,N] Transportation Funding—General Position. Seek additional funding for transportation, but do not take this funding from traditional core service programs, such as education and public safety.
4. Transportation Funding—Maintenance Payments. Do not shift the responsibility for city and town (and possibly county) highway maintenance costs to localities.
5. [V,N] Line of Duty Benefits. Return funding responsibility for the Line of Duty program to the State, which created Line of Duty as a State program; if this is not possible, give localities the authority to establish and administer these benefits as they deem appropriate.
6. [V] Eminent Domain. Oppose the proposed constitutional amendment on eminent domain as written.

B. LEGISLATION TO INTRODUCE

1. HIV/AIDS Funding. Fund the Virginia AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) or another appropriate program at a level sufficient to meet the needs of those eligible for the ADAP program.
2. Funding for High Capacity Transit Corridors. Introduce legislation to provide localities with new sources of revenue to pay for high capacity transit, including:
  - a. **New Motor Fuels Tax:** Allow a local government to raise the gasoline tax in its jurisdiction by up to 2 percent to pay for the development and operation of a high capacity transit system;
  - b. **New Retail Sales Tax Revenues:** Allow a jurisdiction to increase the retail sales tax by up to 0.5 percent in order to pay for the development and operation of a high capacity transit system; and .
  - c. **State Grant Funding:** Request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to give high priority to funding for high capacity transit corridor projects.

3. Increased Flexibility for Unused Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) Funds. Introduce budget amendments directing the Administration to create a competitive grant process that allows local communities to apply for unused VPI funds for purposes such as improved preschool teacher training, the expansion of preschool space, the implementation of the Virginia Quality Rating System, or the creation of innovative early childhood programs for rural communities where access to services is limited.
4. Local Option for Setting the Opening Day of School. Allow each school board to set the beginning of the school year on whatever day it deems appropriate.
5. Equality in Adoption. Introduce legislation to allow any adult couple who want to share in the adoption and commitment to care for a child, to be eligible to do so.
6. Virginia Human Rights Act - Discrimination in Employment. Introduce legislation to amend the Virginia Human Rights Act to:
  - Prohibit discriminatory actions with respect to hiring or the terms and conditions of employment; and
  - Prohibit the various types of employment discrimination (hiring, termination, age, and terms and conditions of employment) for any employer with five or more employees.
7. Statutory Protection Against Employment Discrimination for State Employees. Introduce legislation to prohibit workplace discrimination against State employees.
8. Restore 19 Adult Beds at Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI). Introduce or support budget language that will restore State funding for the 19 beds that were eliminated at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute in the spring of 2010; these beds are used as psychiatric beds during mental health emergencies. The cost of keeping the 19 beds open is estimated by NVMHI at \$1.8 million annually.
9. Implement Regional Crisis Intervention & Stabilization for Individuals with Mental Health and Mental Health with Co-occurring Substance Abuse Issues--Children. Support funding for up to 5 regional CSB pilot programs (including one in this region) that will offer a full array of Crisis Stabilization services for children undergoing acute crises (they are a danger to themselves or others).
10. Veterans Support Study. The City recommends that the General Assembly or the executive branch, in partnership with local governments, formally study the needs of veterans and their families in Virginia and the impact of those needs on state and local government. The outcome of the study should be a plan for the provision of support for veterans.

#### C. LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT

1. Supplier Diversity in Contracting (Councilwoman Hughes). Support legislation that will make supplier diversity in State government contracting a priority.

2. Anti-bullying legislation (Human Rights Commission). Support legislation, if introduced, which would amend the existing anti-bullying statute to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and the perception thereof, in the definition of bullying.
3. Stop for Pedestrians. Support legislation, if introduced, to revise the State's crosswalk laws so that drivers will be required to stop—not just yield—to pedestrians in crosswalks where the speed limit is 35 mph or less.
4. NVAN Platform. Support the legislative platform of the Northern Virginia Aging Network, which includes a number of requests for appropriations as State revenues rebound in the future.
5. Help for low-income Virginians. Support legislation, if introduced, that would assist low income Virginians. Such legislation could include proposals such as:
  - A tax incentive for businesses in Virginia that hire low-income Virginia residents;
  - Tax incentives and State funding for Virginia businesses to promote on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for low-income or unemployed Virginians;
  - Re-establishment, with funding, of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund; and
  - The restoration of State funding to Community Action Agencies.
6. Geriatric Psychiatric System. Support creation of a Regional Crisis Intervention & Stabilization program for older adults with Mental Health and Co-occurring Substance Abuse Issues.
7. Support for individuals leaving State training centers to live in the community. Support additional services for individuals who need them in order to be discharged from (or avoid being sent to) State training centers, so that they can live within the community.
8. Intellectual Disability Medicaid Waiver and Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support Medicaid Waiver. Support efforts to merge these two waivers and expand services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
9. Peer Model Recovery Support Services. Support funding for these programs, which provide peer addiction recovery support before, during, and after a substance abuser's participation in a formal treatment system.
10. Children's Psychiatry Services. Support additional funding for these services.
11. Energy Conservation. Support legislation to require the State Corporation Commission to evaluate potential energy saving and conservation projects based on the total energy savings and return on investment they create for the entire state.

17  
11-22-11

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** John Horejsi <jhorejsi@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2011 3:42 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria Legislative Package for the Virginia General Assembly  
**Attachments:** ef4e4a846b6c766a87e112fd739648d1.doc; ATT00001.txt

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**

**Time: [Mon Nov 21, 2011 15:42:05] Message ID: [34856]**

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** John  
**Last Name:** Horejsi  
**Street Address:** 9610 Counsellor Dr.  
**City:** Vienna  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22181  
**Phone:** 703.255-7074  
**Email Address:** [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net)  
**Subject:** Alexandria Legislative Package for the Virginia General Assembly  
Dear Mayor & Council Members:

Social Action Linking Together  
(SALT), now exceeds 1,000 advocates for faith based social justice. On behalf of SALT, I am writing again to request that the Alexandria City Council consider including our SALT priorities in its 2012 legislative package. We appreciate and thank you for your past support and request your

**Comments:** support again this year. We are sorry to be late with our request for consideration due to computer crash problems. SALT's 2012 General Assembly legislative priorities are:

First, Virginia families on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families TANF have received only one increase in their benefits over the past 26 years, a 10% increase in 2000. Meanwhile,

inflation over that same period has exceeds 100%. A family of three receives only \$320 per month in TANF benefits, less than a fifth of the federal poverty level. SALT urges an increase in benefits for TANF recipients to be funded primarily from the TANF federal block grant, including the indexing of future benefits to go into effect each time state employees' wages are raised to be patroned by Sen. Janet Howell & Delegate Jim Scott. This budget amendment bill is intended to make TANF consistent with Foster Care indexing.

Two, SALT believes it is critical to lift this lifetime TANF ban for ex-drug felons, since it has the effect of punishing the ex-offender's family and hindering the person's successful re-entry into society upon release. In fairness to those affected, the ban on TANF benefits needs to be removed, as it has in 34 other States, including North and South Carolina, Maryland, Delaware., Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida. For ex-drug felons who return to and take responsibility for their families, TANF provides meaningful transitional support services such as job seeking, job keeping, child day care as well as temporary financial support, all of which, are proven re-entry strategies that reduce recidivism and promote family reintegration.

Three, SALT & CURE propose legislation to authorize the State Corporation Commission to determine that the rates for debit or prepaid telephone systems at state correctional facilities are at the lowest available rates for the service in accordance with filed schedules. SALT understands that Virginia is receiving a 40% commission on prisoner phone call, contributing \$6-\$8 million annually to the Commonwealth's general fund. Preventing the over charges encourages family friendly re-entry and community support for prisoners returning to the community as we all know today's prisoner is tomorrow's neighbor.

SALT has another

proposal--Work Sharing--that we will be submitting to you shortly for your consideration. See fact sheet attached for a summary description.  
Delegate

Patrick Hope

will patron and we are discussing with possible Senate patrons.

Taken together these initiatives provide a support for and strengthen low-income City of Alexandria & Virginia families

We urge the Alexandria to support our TANF proposals, so that TANF funds can be used for their intended purpose: to provide a safety net for poor children and to move families from welfare to economic self-sufficiency.

Your support again this year of our 2012 SALT legislative priorities and inclusion in your County's legislative package will be good not only for Virginia, but for our local community and especially for our most vulnerable citizens. We have been in contact with state legislators who are willing to patron our bills.

Please let

us know your decision and if you have any questions, feel free to call me at (703) 255-7074 or e-mail to [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net).

Sincerely,

John

Horejsi

Coordinator, SALT

9610 Counsellor Dr.

Vienna, VA

22181

Attachment

(This was transmitted by David E. Balducci

(email: [balducci.david@comcast.net](mailto:balducci.david@comcast.net)) on behalf of Mr. Horejsi.)

**Attachment:** ef4e4a846b6c766a87e112fd739648d1.doc



# **SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)**

## **Fact Sheet (October 20011)**

### **Work Sharing: An Employer Tool that Helps Saves Jobs and Communities**

In some states, American businesses experiencing hard times use compensated work sharing, a type of unemployment insurance, to prevent the sacking of many skilled workers. The Commonwealth of Virginia is not among the states that enable companies to participate in the program. President Obama included a provision in the proposed *American Jobs Act* to expand work sharing, but states like Virginia do not have to wait. They can enact state work sharing programs now. Earlier this year, Republican-led Maine and Pennsylvania enacted work sharing programs with bipartisan support. At the same time, Virginia's jobless rate has hovered around an unacceptable 6 percent since the peak rate of 7.2 percent in early 2010. It is time for Governor Bob McDonnell and the General Assembly to modernize the Commonwealth's unemployment insurance program to allow employers a work sharing option - so that businesses can keep their skilled workforce on-the-job in their local communities.

### **Work Sharing Cuts Hours and Not People**

During the Great Recession rather than laying off some workers due to poor sales, employers in 23 states<sup>i(i)</sup>, including Maryland and Pennsylvania, turned to work sharing, a special unemployment insurance program that enables businesses to keep workers on the job by reducing their work hours and providing them with partial unemployment benefits. Work sharing (also referred to as "shared work" or "short-time compensation" in the United States) has been used broadly during the recent world-wide downturn by Canada, France, and Germany and credited with keeping unemployment rates lower than they would have been without it. Work share employers reduce the hours of some or all employees rather than lay off workers. Employees work shorter work weeks and receive a portion of their unemployment benefits. Federal law permits states to enact work sharing laws as part of their unemployment insurance programs, but individual employer participation is at all times voluntary.

Under state work sharing laws, an employer reduces the number of hours of work for all employees or for a work unit. An employer must develop a work sharing plan that workers or their designated union agree to. The employer submits the plan for approval to the state workforce agency. Workers receive both wages for the days they work and a percentage of unemployment benefits equal to the percentage of the reduction in their work week.<sup>ii(ii)</sup>

For example, an employer with 50 employees facing a 20 percent reduction in production normally would lay off 20 percent of his workers – 10 employees. Instead of shedding 10 employees, under work sharing the employer places all employees on a four-day work week. A reduction from 40 hours to 32 hours cuts production by the same 20 percent. Employees receive 80 percent of their wages and 20 percent of their weekly unemployment benefits. In this example, an employee who works five days a week and earns \$500 would now work four days per week and earn \$400. If the employee is normally eligible for \$240 a week in unemployment benefits, the person would receive \$400 in wages and \$48 in work sharing benefits for the week (20 percent of the \$240 weekly benefit). Workers who receive work sharing benefits are not required to look for new work while they are employed.

## Saves Jobs

In states with work sharing programs, it is estimated that the programs saved approximately 165,000 jobs in 2009 and another 100,000 jobs in 2010.<sup>iii[iii]</sup> Last year, the program in Rhode Island saved 13,000 jobs,<sup>iv[iv]</sup> and in Washington, a state similar in population to Virginia, it saved 30,000 jobs.<sup>v[v]</sup> Skill-based manufacturers are the largest users of work sharing, though recently other types of businesses are using it: finance and health care, service industries, travel agents, and other companies.<sup>vi[vi]</sup>

According to economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics, work sharing is particularly helpful to companies that expect workforce reductions to be temporary, allowing them to avoid the cost of severance, rehiring and training. He says that it also helps maintain employee morale and allows workers to keep health insurance and retirement benefits. Notably, Zandi estimates that every dollar devoted to finance work sharing results in a \$1.69 increase in the gross domestic product.<sup>vii[vii]</sup> Economists across the political landscape support work sharing, including Kevin Hassett of the American Enterprise Institute and President Obama's chief economist, Alan Krueger.

Work sharing benefits are paid from the state's unemployment trust fund, which is financed by a tax paid by employers. Employers are charged for work sharing benefits in the same manner as for regular unemployment benefits. According to a 1997 study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, work sharing was as well financed as regular unemployment claims and did not provide an added threat to the solvency of state unemployment trust funds. Similarly, a 2009 study by Washington State's work sharing program found no negative impact on its unemployment trust fund. Other employer costs may vary under work sharing. For example, the average hourly wage paid by employers is likely to be lower under work sharing than under layoffs; this is because higher paid workers, along with those earning less, will encounter wage cuts when they are sharing work.<sup>viii[viii]</sup> Overall, the program benefits businesses, employees and local economies: businesses retain skilled workers, employees retain their jobs, and communities minimize the number of layoffs during economic downturns.<sup>ix[ix]</sup>

Work sharing is a way to keep more Virginians working, supporting their families, paying taxes, preserving their dignity, keeping their skills sharp, and maintaining their valued contributions to America's economic system. For additional information, please contact SALT: John Horejsi ([jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net)) or David E. Balducchi ([balducchi.david@comcast.net](mailto:balducchi.david@comcast.net)).

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<sup>i[i]</sup> Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. Colorado, District of Columbia, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma enacted work sharing in 2010, and Maine and Pennsylvania enacted work sharing in the spring of 2011.

<sup>ii[ii]</sup> David E. Balducchi and Stephen A. Wandner. "Work Sharing Policy: Power Sharing and Stalemate in American Federalism," *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Winter 2008, 5).

<sup>iii[iii]</sup> U.S. Senator Jack Reed. *Reed Calls for New National Plan to Help Save American Jobs*, July 6, 2011: <http://reed.senate.gov/press/release/reed-calls-for-new-national-plan-to-help-save-american-jobs>.

<sup>iv[iv]</sup> Seth Harris, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, *Work Sharing: A Success Story*, September 14, 2011: <http://social.dol.gov/blog/work-sharing-a-success-story/>.

<sup>v[v]</sup> Washington Employment Security Department. Email to David E. Balducchi, September 23, 2011

<sup>vi[vi]</sup> Diane Cadrain. "Sharing Work Saves Jobs," *AARP Bulletin*, April 5, 2011: <http://www.aarp.org/work/job-hunting/info-04-2011/work-sharing-saves-jobs.html>.

<sup>vii[vii]</sup> Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody's Analytics. *Using Unemployment Insurance to Help Americans Get Back to Work: Creating Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges*, Senate Finance Committee, April 14, 2010: <http://www.economy.com/mark-zandi/documents/Senate-Finance-Committee-Unemployment%20Insurance-041410.pdf>

<sup>viii[viii]</sup> Sara E. Rix, AARP Public Policy Institute. *Saving Jobs Through Work Sharing*, *Insight on the Issues* 45, September 2010, 10: [http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/econ-sec/insight45\\_worksharing.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/econ-sec/insight45_worksharing.pdf).

<sup>ix[ix]</sup> Neil Ridley, Center for Law and Social Policy. *More States Adopt Work Sharing Programs*, June 30, 2011: [http://www.clasp.org/issues/in\\_focus?type=employment\\_strategies&id=0024](http://www.clasp.org/issues/in_focus?type=employment_strategies&id=0024).