

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Chris Pike, Finance Director

Date: October 13, 2014

Subject: **Discussion of 2015 State Legislative Priorities**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

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To select and adopt the Dunwoody 2015 legislative priorities for presentation to the DeKalb County legislative delegation.

BACKGROUND

As the City did in 2014, staff has compiled the following draft list of legislative priorities for 2014.

1. Enhance and Improve K-12 Educational Opportunities

During 2014, the City suggested our legislators begin to explore potential legislative solutions to enhance and improve K-12 educational opportunities in Dunwoody. As the Council discussed, one such solution may be working towards a constitutional amendment that would allow for the creation of a separate school district. Several preliminary meetings and hearings took place to evaluate the current environment and to start exploring solutions that would provide the best alternatives for K-12 education. For 2015, staff recommends a continued effort towards that same goal.

2. Monitoring Items

As a City, we have faced numerous attempts at legislation that would have negative consequences to the citizens of Dunwoody. Examples include discussions to change the HOST calculation to provide less to the cities in DeKalb, requiring Dunwoody to pay for DeKalb government employees' retirement, and alter the billing requirements for the tax and special assessment statements issued by the tax commissioner for the City. Staff recommends a conscious effort to evaluate and continue to oppose legislation that would limit our effectiveness as an organization and/or negatively impact the citizens of Dunwoody.

ALTERNATIVES

Council may choose to add or remove items from the list of priorities.

BACKGROUND

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Council discuss and officially adopt 2015 legislative priorities and then staff will work to coordinate a meeting in which the Mayor and Council can formally present and discuss the adopted priorities to the entire DeKalb County legislative delegation.

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF DUNWOODY

RESOLUTION 2014-10-XX

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GEORGIA
STATE LEGISLATURE DURING THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION**

WHEREAS, the 2015 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Session begins on January 12, 2015 to consider important legislative matters of the state; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunwoody is concerned with legislative matters at the state level which have an impact on the governmental operations of the City of Dunwoody; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City of Dunwoody to adopt legislative priorities to present to its representatives in the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunwoody has identified a number of important legislative items that may be considered by the state legislature in the upcoming year including opportunities to Enhance and Improve K-12 Educational Opportunities; and

WHEREAS, adoption of legislative priorities will empower City officials, staff, and representatives to advocate on the City's behalf, before and to members of the state legislature on such values and goals which are most feasible, urgent and/or of the highest importance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE by the Mayor and Council of the City of Dunwoody while in regular session on October 27 at 7:00 pm, that the legislative priorities of the 2015 Georgia General Assembly are hereby adopted.

Approved:

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

(SEAL)