

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Chris Pike, Finance Director

Date: October 26, 2015

Subject: **2016 Legislative Priorities**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

To approve the Dunwoody 2016 legislative priorities

BACKGROUND

1. Enhance and Improve K-12 Educational Opportunities

During 2014, the City commenced exploration of potential legislative solutions for enhanced 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. This continued through 2015 and, for 2016 staff recommends a continued effort towards that same goal.

2. Monitoring Items

As a City, we face numerous attempts at legislation that have negative consequences to the citizens of Dunwoody. Examples in the past 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 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. One item discussed by one Council member was to modify charter language giving Council the ability to adjust the homestead exemption. This was not included due to a lack of consensus, but may need further discussion.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Council discuss and officially adopt 2016 legislative priorities.

**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 2016 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Session begins on January 11, 2016 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 26 at 6:00 pm, that the legislative priorities of the 2016 Georgia General Assembly are hereby adopted.

Approved:

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

(SEAL)