

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Christopher Pike, Finance Director

Date: October 28, 2013

Subject: **Adoption of 2014 Legislative Priorities**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

To select and adopt the Dunwoody 2014 legislative priorities for presentation to the DeKalb County legislative delegation.

BACKGROUND

Staff has compiled the following draft list of legislative priorities for 2014.

1. Enhance and Improve K-12 Educational Opportunities

During 2013, 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 2014, 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, drastically reduce the successes of the multi-family code compliance program, 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.

Staff will attempt to identify an effective date and time to present our adopted priorities to the DeKalb delegation.

ALTERNATIVES

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

#J.1.



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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Council officially adopt 2014 legislative priorities and then staff will work to coordinate an effective meeting in which the Mayor and Council can present and discuss the adopted priorities to the entire DeKalb County legislative delegation.

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
OF THE CITY OF DUNWOODY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GEORGIA
STATE LEGISLATURE DURING THE 2014 REGULAR SESSION**

- WHEREAS, the 2014 Georgia General Assembly Legislative Session begins on January 13, 2014 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 28 at 7:00 pm, that the legislative priorities of the 2014 Georgia General Assembly are hereby adopted.

Approved:

Michael G. Davis, Mayor

Attest:

Sharon Lowery, City Clerk

(SEAL)