



WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL/LEGISLATIVE DINNER
held Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the Greenbelt Marriott, for the purpose of discussing the City's legislative priorities for 2010.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: State Senator Paul Pinsky, State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Justin Ross; and County Councilmembers Ingrid M. Turner and Thomas E. Dernoga.

Mayor Davis welcomed the legislators and thanked them for attending. She reviewed the City's priorities in the order in which they appeared in the Legislative Program booklet.

State Issues

Middle School Funding: Council requested full funding be secured for construction of the new Greenbelt Middle School and the renovations of the historic portion of the old school. Delegates Gaines and Ross said they expect funding to be in place for construction of the new school to proceed on schedule.

Protect Municipal Funding Sources: Council requested protection of municipal funding sources including: Highway User revenues, Police Aid, Youth Service Bureau funding, Program Open Space allocations and Income Tax revenue. Senator Pinsky and Delegate Gaines commented on the tough economic condition of the State but said they hoped additional funding cuts to municipalities would not be necessary.

Public Safety Funding – Radio Upgrade: Council requested funds to help with the estimated municipal costs of \$500,000 for new radios and related equipment associated with the County upgrade to a new radio system. Delegate Ross indicated additional State funds may be available to assist with this purchase.

Encourage/Require Gas Stations to Offer Alternative Fuels: Council requested service stations be required to offer alternative fuel options. Senator Pinsky indicated it would be difficult to obtain support for this issue. He suggested it may have more support if the requirement was

placed on new stations only and not on existing stations. Delegate Ross suggested the City request support on this issue through the Maryland Municipal League.

County Issues

Greenbelt Middle School: Council requested the construction of the new Greenbelt Middle School to proceed and for the development of plans for the renovation and use of the historic portion of the old school. Councilmembers Turner and Dernoga said they were monitoring this issue closely, and expected construction of the school to continue as planned.

Protect Municipal Funding Sources: Council requested protection of municipal funding sources including: M-NCPPC grants, School Resource Officer contribution, CDBG funding and Landfill Disposal rebate.

Enable Additional Planning Authority: Council requested support of CB 41-2009 to enable additional planning authority granted to municipalities via HB 657 in 2005. Councilmember Dernoga said there was majority opposition to the bill. Councilmember Turner said she would be meeting with Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development, to obtain a better understanding of the issue.

New Greenbelt Fire Station: Council requested the County continue to pursue funding for land acquisition and construction of a new Greenbelt Fire Station. Delegate Ross noted the Greenbelt Nursing Home property is currently for sale.

Alert Items

There was discussion regarding State and County cutbacks.

Other Issues of City Interest

The following items were listed as being of interest: Opposition to Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) Extension/Expansion; Support for Purple Line/Opposition to Intercounty Connector; Use of UM Shuttle by Greenbelt Residents; Prohibition of Transfer of Gas Station Liquor Licenses; Revision of Location Policy for Noise Barriers and Additional Funding; Full Funding of Bridge to Excellence (Thornton); Creation of Container Deposit Program; Municipal Electric Aggregations; Increased Penalties for Red Light Camera Violations (assess points, remove license); Transit Service Issues; Apartment Assessment Inequities; Funding for Greenbelt Lake Dredging; Reestablishment of Landlord Tenant Commission; and Requiring Art for New Development.

Maryland Municipal League Legislative Program

The Maryland Municipal League's priority of Municipal Budget Security was noted.

Prince George's County Municipal Association Legislative Program

The Prince George's County Municipal Association priority of Municipal Budget Security was noted.

The legislators thanked the City of its hospitality. Council thanked the legislators for attending.

The meeting ended at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*