

2009 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OUTLINE

I. CHARTER AMENDMENTS/LOCAL BILLS

1. Amend Article 7, Section 77(9) & 78(2) to allow the City Administration to set the date for public hearings in matters related to special assessments for improvements. *Rationale: Current process is for Council to set the public hearing in one agenda cycle then hold the public hearing in another cycle. This proposal streamlines the public hearing process by eliminating one Council agenda cycle. (Public Works)*

**** This item may evolve into a broader provision whereby the setting for all public hearings may be done administratively for the same rationale listed above.**

2. Amend in part and repeal in part Chapter IV Article 1 Section 17(e) of the Durham City Charter to allow the City Council, through resolution or ordinance to establish the City Manager's authority to purchase apparatus, supplies, materials and equipment and to enter into contracts for construction and repair work. *Rationale: The current Charter provision provides the manager with \$100,000 of authority to purchase apparatus, supplies, materials and equipment and contracts for construction and repair work without additional Council approval. Should Council wish to amend this threshold amount, a Charter amendment would have to be requested from the State. This provision would eliminate the need for a Charter amendment should the Council desire to increase or decrease the Manager's authority to enter into such contracts. (Finance Department)*
3. Increase the total amount of the City's vehicle registration fee from \$10.00 to \$15.00 by making permanent the \$5.00 increase set to expire on July 1, 2009 and to provide an additional \$5.00 increase. These fees will support the City's public transit services. **(Public Works/DATA)**

II. GENERAL LAW

1. Provide a fuel set aside or priority in favor of government agencies that provide public services (police, fire, rescue, water delivery and treatment, etc) during periods of fuel shortages. **(Fleet Management)**
2. Increase ABC privilege license fee. **(Councilman Brown through Finance Department)**
3. Increase penalty for conviction of larceny of regulated metals property and associated damage to property. **(Councilman Brown through Police Department)**

III. OTHER

1. Resolution in support of modification to the newly promulgated Jordan Lake Rules to reduce their financial impact on local governments. **(Public Works)**
2. Resolution to improve the effectiveness of North Carolina's probation system. **(Councilman Brown)**
3. Resolution to improve the effectiveness of North Carolina's Mental Health System. **(Mayor Pro Tem McFadden)**
4. Resolution to improve the effectiveness of North Carolina's correctional system and in particular drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. **(Mayor Pro Tem McFadden)**

Note: One additional item has been presented to the City Council from Rev. Melvin Whitley on behalf of ACORN and the Stop the Bullet Coalition. This item relates to the regulation of the sale and distribution of ammunition (and in particular, handgun ammunition) within the State of North Carolina. The Bullet Ownership Bill (BOB) would in essence restrict the sale of ammunition to those individuals who are legally entitled to possess a firearm. Should the Legislative Subcommittee wish to add this to the agenda, it would fall into the general laws section.