

November 8, 2022 – Continued  
December 13, 2022 – presented for approval

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**R2022-42: TO ADOPT STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023 SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

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**Applicant/Purpose:** City Council / to approve the Legislative Priorities for the 2023 South Carolina Legislative Session

**Brief:**

- The 125<sup>th</sup> South Carolina General Assembly commences its two-year session on 1.10.23
- Over the years the State and the City have enjoyed a collaborative and productive partnership;
- City Council met to review the 2023 legislative session and discuss priorities for the upcoming session

**Issues:**

- The following priorities are the 2023 State Legislative Priorities for the City of Myrtle Beach:
  - Economic Development
    - **Downtown Revitalization:** Encourage and support State collaboration and partnerships to further the City's Downtown Revitalization
      - Historic Renovation of three buildings on Main Street into a performance theater/performing arts center
      - Extensive infrastructure investment throughout the downtown area that will include, but is not be limited to, stormwater, sewer, road re-alignment, underground utilities, streetscape improvements, and pedestrian enhancements among other infrastructure
    - **Convention Center Revitalization:** Support state assistance in further renovations and rehabilitation to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center's lobby and atrium.
  - Public Safety
    - **Squat Truck Legislation:** Support legislation restricting the elevating or lowering a motor vehicle, and prohibit motor vehicle modifications that result in the motor vehicle's front being higher than of the rear fender
    - **Opioid Legislation:** Support legislation that continues to address opioid, fentanyl, and synthetic drugs in our community.
    - **Mental Health:** Support legislation increasing the expansion of mental health services in the state.
  - Transportation
    - **Alternative modes of transportation:** Support efforts requiring SCDOT to incorporate alternative modes of transportation when resurfacing / rehabilitating state roadways within neighborhoods, or on roadways that are key arteries for the public in community to/from places of employment and for enjoyment
  - General
    - **Retiree Proviso:** Support reasonable legislation to allow SCRS and PORS retirees to return to work without financial limitations.
    - **Home Rule:** Oppose any proposed legislation or regulation infringing on the City's home rule.

**Public Notification:** Normal meeting notification.

**Alternatives:** Amend the Resolution / deny the resolution.

**Financial Impact:** The City has/will invest over \$100 million dollars in downtown. Any assistance from the State will be greatly appreciated.

**Manager's Recommendation:** I recommend approval.

**Attachment(s):** Proposed resolution

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**CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**TO ADOPT STATE LEGISLATIVE  
PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023 SOUTH  
CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

WHEREAS, the 125<sup>th</sup> South Carolina General Assembly will commence its two-year session on January 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the State’s leading industry, and with approximately 20 million visitors to the Grand Strand, the City of Myrtle Beach is one of the state’s busiest tourist destinations; and

WHEREAS, over the years the State of South Carolina and the City of Myrtle Beach have enjoyed a collaborative and productive partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Myrtle Beach City Council met to review the 2023 legislative session and discuss priorities for the upcoming session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Myrtle Beach, in Council duly assembled:

- 1. City Council hereby adopts the following priorities as its 2023 State Legislative Priorities:

**Economic Development**

- Downtown Revitalization: Encourage and support State collaboration and partnerships to further the City’s Downtown Revitalization. The City has made, and continues to make, a significant investment into Downtown Revitalization with over \$100 million either expended or planned to be expended over the next year.

The next phase of improvements includes:

- Historic Renovation of three buildings on Main Street into a performance theater/performing arts center.
- Extensive infrastructure investment throughout the downtown area that will include, but is not be limited to, stormwater, sewer, road re-alignment, underground utilities, streetscape improvements, and pedestrian enhancements among other infrastructure. This infrastructure is necessary to support the revitalization of downtown.

Economic analysis conservatively forecasts the impact to the revitalized downtown to be in excess of \$300 million in private investment that is anticipated to spin off in excess of \$50 million in various tax revenues over the next decade

- Convention Center Revitalization: Support state assistance in further renovations and rehabilitation to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center’s lobby and atrium. The Myrtle Beach Convention Center attracts an estimated 750,000 visitors annually, and is a major economic impact driver in the state and region.

**Public Safety**

- Squat Truck Legislation: Support legislation restricting the elevating or lowering a motor vehicle, and prohibit motor vehicle modifications that result in the motor vehicle’s front being higher than of the rear fender

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- Opioid Legislation: Support legislation that continues to address opioid, fentanyl, and synthetic drugs in our community. This includes, but is not limited to, additional sentences for crimes, supporting treatment and addiction facilities, and addressing bills that are too vague.
- Mental Health: Support legislation increasing the expansion of mental health services in the state.

**Transportation**

- Alternative modes of transportation: Support efforts requiring SCDOT to incorporate alternative modes of transportation when resurfacing / rehabilitating state roadways within neighborhoods, or on roadways that are key arteries for the public in community to/from places of employment and for enjoyment.

**General**

- Retiree Proviso: Support reasonable legislation to allow SCRS and PORS retirees to return to work without financial limitations. The State should suspend the \$10,000 limit placed on retirees who return to work and fill critical positions.
- Home Rule: Oppose any proposed legislation or regulation infringing on the City's home rule. Local communities are best suited to address local issues.

SIGNED, SEALED and DATED, this 13th day of December, 2022.

ATTEST:

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BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

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JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK