

# CITY OF HIGH POINT

## AGENDA ITEM



**Title:** 2017 City of High Point Federal Agenda

**From:** Greg Demko, City Manager

**Meeting Date:** March 6, 2017

**Public Hearing:** N/A

**Advertising Date**

**Advertised By:**

**Attachments:** 2017 Federal Agenda

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**PURPOSE:**

Approve the 2017 City of High Point Federal Agenda.

**BACKGROUND:**

Each year the City of High Point seeks the assistance of The Ferguson Group in drafting a Federal Agenda. Attached is a copy of the 2017 Federal Agenda prepared by Jennifer Imo, the City's Washington Lobbyist, which has been reviewed and approved by all city departments and is now ready for City Council's approval.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:**

Council is requested to approve the 2017 Federal Agenda as proposed by The Ferguson Group.



**CITY OF HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA  
DRAFT 2017 FEDERAL AGENDA**

PROJECT/ISSUE	ACTION ITEM
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	
<b>Domestic Violence Initiative</b>	<p>Continue to promote High Point's Domestic Violence Initiative, which focuses on controlling the chronic domestic violence offender.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Justice's (DOJ) COPS Hiring Program</li><li>• Various grant programs within DOJ's Office of Violence Against Women and Office of Justice Programs</li></ul> <p><i>HPPD secured \$414,333 from OVW's Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Grant program and \$1 million from COPS Hiring for 8 officers.</i></p>
<b>Fire Department Equipment and Technology Needs</b>	<p>Pursue federal assistance for various equipment needs, as well as emergency traffic signal preemption.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (signal preemption is not currently an eligible use of AFG funds)</li><li>• Firehouse Subs</li></ul>
<b>Firefighter Health, Wellness and Safety</b>	<p>Pursue federal assistance for an alert system at the fire houses and generators at five fire stations.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program</li><li>• Firehouse Subs</li></ul>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Forward High Point	<p>Pursue assistance to promote downtown revitalization, including infrastructure and road improvements for a multi-use stadium and mixed-use development.</p> <p>Funding opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Market Tax Credits</li> <li>• DOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program</li> <li>• DOT's TIGER Grant Program</li> <li>• National Endowment for the Arts Our Town and Art Works Grant Programs</li> </ul>
Core City	<p>Pursue federal assistance for targeted revitalization efforts in the Daniel Brooks Housing Community and the Washington Street District.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Growth America's Small-Scale Manufacturing and Place-Based Economic Development Program <i>(application pending)</i></li> <li>• Hardest Hit Fund for blight removal (using HHF for down payment assistance and foreclosure avoidance).</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Clean-Up Grant (to follow up on the \$400,000 brownfields assessment grant secured by the City.)</li> </ul>
Food Insecurity	<p>Pursue assistance to address food insecurities within the City.</p> <p>Funding opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USDA's Local Food Promotion Program and Farmers Market Promotion Program <i>(currently developing project for grant application)</i></li> <li>• USDA's Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program</li> <li>• USDA's Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program</li> <li>• The Kresge Foundation, Hayden Harman Foundation</li> </ul>
HOUSING	
Weatherization	<p>Work with the Piedmont COG and State Energy Office to get the City of High Point designated as a weatherization provider.</p>
Section 108 Guaranteed Loan Program Lending Guidelines	<p>Advocate for relaxing the lending requirement that only allows a grantee to borrow up to 5 times its CDBG allocation.</p>

<b>Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule</b>	Support implementation of the 2015 AFFH Rule, which clarifies fair housing obligations and provides data and mapping tools to communities to help set fair housing priorities and goals.
<b>HUD Federal Program Requirements</b>	<p>Support efforts to raise the project threshold for Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage rate requirements from \$2,500 to \$100,000 and eliminate the unit thresholds in the CDBG (8) and HOME (12) programs.</p> <p>Support efforts to streamline reporting mechanism for all HUD programs (currently, different programs have different platforms for reporting).</p>
<b>CDBG Program</b>	Support efforts to streamline and simplify the regulations to make it easier for grantees to undertake economic development projects.
<b>HOME Program Policy Changes</b>	<p>Support efforts to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Eliminate the requirement for small jurisdictions to direct 15% of their HOME allocation to a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO).</li> <li>(2) Provide flexibility in the CHDO definition to make it easier for jurisdictions to create them.</li> <li>(3) Eliminate the 24-month statutory commitment deadline, which impedes program flexibility and makes it difficult to fund projects that require more rigorous financing.</li> <li>(4) Increase in the administrative cap (from 10% to 20%) to ease the operating burden of local participating jurisdictions (CDBG is 20%).</li> </ol>
<b>ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>Water and Wastewater Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor opportunities to secure funds for large infrastructure projects under WIFIA.</li> <li>• Secure assistance for stormwater improvements throughout the City. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for stream restoration</li> <li>○ NCDENR Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Compost Facility</b>	<p>Pursue assistance for a compost facility.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCDENR's Organics Recycling Waste Grants program</li> <li>• <a href="#">The Closed Loop Fund</a></li> </ul>

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
High Point Greenways	<p>Pursue federal assistance to complete the High Point Greenways project.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT's Recreational Trails Program (through NC Parks)</li> <li>• DOT's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program</li> </ul> <p><i>The City has secured \$100,000 from RTP and ~\$3M from CMAQ for its greenway system.</i></p>
Rail Improvements	<p>Coordinate with North Carolina Railroad Company and Norfolk Southern to expand rail capacity in High Point from two to four tracks, and secure funds to shore up deteriorating slopes.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT's FASTLANE Grant Program</li> <li>• DOT-Federal Railroad Administration's Grant Programs</li> </ul>
Transit Needs	<p>Secure federal assistance for transit services and needed updates at the Mendenhall Transportation Terminal.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT-Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant Program</li> </ul>
PARKS AND RECREATION	
Westchester Park	<p>Pursue federal assistance for infrastructure development at Westchester Park.</p> <p><b>Funding opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and Water Conservation Fund</li> <li>• Connect NC Bond Grant Program</li> <li>• Various foundation grants for parks and recreation</li> </ul>
LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	
Department of Labor Overtime Rules	<p>Monitor and report on proposed changes to DOL's overtime rules. Proposed changes would impact 94 City employees costing the City approximately \$100,000.</p>

<b>Workforce Development</b>	Work with High Point's Congressional Delegation and relevant federal agencies to develop best practices related to workforce development and connecting the local workforce to local jobs.
<b>OTHER PRIORITIES</b>	
<b>Financing</b>	<p>Support tax-exempt municipal bonds and marketability of municipal bonds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the importance of tax-exempt municipal bonds on infrastructure projects in High Point.</li> <li>• Support reintroduction and passage of legislation that would classify municipal securities as high quality liquid assets.</li> </ul>
<b>Online Sales Tax Legislation</b>	Support passage of legislation that would grant state and local governments the authority to collect taxes on internet and mail-order sales.
<b>FY 2018 Budget and Appropriations</b>	<p>Support preservation of and full funding for the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development Block Grant</li> <li>• HOME Investment Partnership Program, McKinney Vento Act Programs</li> <li>• Low Income Housing Tax Credit and Housing Trust Fund</li> <li>• Byrne Justice Assistance Grants</li> <li>• Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Assistance Program</li> </ul>
<b>Grants</b>	Pursue relevant federal, state and foundation grant opportunities and secure congressional support for same.
<b>Federal Agency Rules and Regulations</b>	Monitor proposed changes to federal agency rules and regulations that may affect the City and provide comments and/or advocate the City's position directly to the relevant federal agency and the congressional delegation.