RESOLUTION NO. 14-276

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS, the 2015 North Carolina general Assembly "long session" will convene on January 14, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Asheville has identified certain matters of local and State-wide interest where legislative action is needed or desired;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The "City of Asheville Legislative Agenda for the 2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly," attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted.

The City Manager is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the members of the General Assembly whose districts include the City of Asheville.

The City Council offers the City's assistance to members of the General Assembly and the legislative staff with respect to any items listed on Exhibit A, including the provision of additional information, and further resolutions in support of specific bills.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Asheville City Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to the members of the local delegation for their service on behalf of the City of Asheville.

Read, approved and adopted this 9th day of December, 2014.

Magdalen Burleson
City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

CITY OF ASHEVILLE 2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Municipal Authority
Like all municipalities in North Carolina, Asheville has unique economic, environmental, and cultural interests. Maintaining municipal authority to promote, regulate, and celebrate these interests is essential to enable local officials to best address local needs.

- Support legislation which enables municipalities' authority to opt in to regulating digital dispatching ("car sharing") services.

Municipal Revenue
The fiscal health and responsibility of municipalities require stable revenue sources that are proportionate to the need for local services. Responsible fiscal management requires the protection of revenue sources both under, and outside of, municipal control.

- Support legislation which restores lost revenue due to the repeal of Privilege License Tax authority.
- Seek legislation to give municipalities the option to use electronic legal public notices in lieu of newspaper publication.
- Oppose sales tax distribution reform that would decrease sales tax revenue to Asheville.
- Transportation funding reform should not impact local government revenue.

Mandates
Unfunded and burdensome legislative and regulatory mandates undermine the efficiency, effectiveness and success of municipal programs and services.

- Support legislation which enhances revenue for public education and transportation infrastructure without negatively impacting existing municipal revenues.

City Services
The City of Asheville, which provides high quality services to meet the dynamic needs of its residents, requires adequate authority and flexibility to finance, operate, and manage these services.

- Oppose legislation that limits or removes local control over public utility systems.
- Oppose legislation that limits municipal control of enterprise funds.
- Support legislation that enables the collection of on street parking fees by various means, including coins, currency, tokens, credit cards, or electronic means.
- Oppose legislation that removes or limits the authority of municipal building code enforcement officers. Proposals to remove building code enforcement officers' authority to order corrections during construction compromises public safety by limiting when corrections may occur solely to the design and review phase.

Economic Vitality
An economically vital community enables Asheville to provide for opportunity, mobility, and a high quality of life for its residents.

- Support restoration of economic development incentives which maximize Asheville's economic vitality, such as film and historic building tax credits.
- Restore full funding to the Job Development Investment Grant program.
- Restore funding of the state's Housing Trust Fund.
- Increase funding of the Workforce Housing Loan Program.
- Restore the State Affordable Housing Tax Credit.

Community Standards
Asheville, the largest city in Western North Carolina, is nationally known for its natural beauty, rich architectural legacy, and entrepreneurial energy. In order to promote economic vitality in a manner that maintains the unique features that make our community a desirable place to live, work, and play, municipalities and local officials need to be enabled with the tools and authority to make local decisions.

- Oppose legislation that removes or limits local control of the regulation of trees.
- Oppose legislation that preempts municipal authority to regulate design and aesthetic controls in historic districts.
- Support legislation that strengthens and/or clarifies current state law to more effectively deter and punish perpetrators who damage property, such as by committing vandalism with graffiti, with punishment not to exceed misdemeanor.

Environmental Stewardship
As a community committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, Asheville needs adequate regulatory authority in order to maximize its partnership in environmental protection with state and federal agencies. As a city with a proud mountain heritage and identified as a destination for ecotourism and "green" industry, the Blue Ridge mountain region's natural beauty is recognized as a great benefit to the community. Environmental protection is essential to a high quality of life, cultural heritage, and economic development.

- Oppose legislation that would limit municipal authority to regulate environmental standards such as erosion control or stormwater quality.
- Support legislation that strengthens the requirements for the clean up and disposal of coal ash in coal ash ponds along the French Broad River in a manner that is equitable to rate payers.