



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager

**DATE:** March 3, 2006

**REF:** FYI

**PC:** Departmental Directors, etal

1. The City has received notification from the North Carolina League of Municipalities that Judge Terrence Boyle has granted our Motion for Summary Judgment with regard to former Police Chief Trevor Hampton's lawsuit against the City. Chief Hampton, on October 6, 2003, filed a lawsuit alleging that the City violated his employment agreement. In addition, a 1983 civil rights claim was also alleged, which was based on a lack of due process by the City Council. Chief Hampton has thirty days to file an appeal with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. I would like to thank Brian Edes, the League-appointed attorney on this matter, along with Steven Lee from the League. At this time, the City has no outstanding legal actions pending.
2. During the creation of the rental inspection fee billing, it was discovered that Lakeside Apartments was not added to the tax billing by Pasquotank County. The County advised they failed to pick up the property when they were notified of its annexation in 1997. The County will bill them for the last five years but cannot bill them for the prior four years. Approximately \$50,000 will be billed and \$40,000 will not be recovered. The City will implement a procedure to ensure that property that is annexed is included in the subsequent tax billing.
3. In response to citizen concerns in the Sawyertown community, the Elizabeth City Police Department conducted "Operation Take-Down" on Thursday, March 2, 2006. Members of the Department's Community Services Division, Investigation Bureau and City Drug Unit targeted suspected drug dealers and prostitutes. Two women were arrested for

prostitution with additional drug charges filed against one of them. One individual was charged with Intent to Sell crack cocaine and five grams were seized. In the Hugh Cale area, one individual was arrested for the possession of crack cocaine. Also, members of the Elizabeth City Police Department's City Drug Unit and Patrol Division assisted the Pasquotank County Drug Task Force in serving a search warrant at 814 Price Street. Three suspects were arrested and approximately 7 grams of crack cocaine were seized. This location recently had been the subject of numerous citizen complaints concerning illegal activity.

4. The Parks and Recreation Department has completed all of its capital projects called for in its fiscal year 2005/2006 budget. New play structures have been installed at Pete Hooker Park and Gosnold Park. In addition, several months ago, the City Council requested that a fence be installed around the playground equipment at Charles Creek Park. A local contractor has also completed that project.
5. Mayor Foster and I have received an invitation from NCDOT Division One Engineer, Anthony Roper and Board of Transportation Member Stan White to attend a meeting on March 29 at the Camden County Courthouse. The meeting is being held to discuss highway needs in Camden and Pasquotank Counties. This meeting will be a good opportunity for Mayor Foster and me to reinforce Council's desire to aggressively pursue street improvements.
6. I am happy to report that the Police Department Communications Bureau has completed its re-location. Communications has now merged with the Records Bureau. By having the two bureaus in one location, the Administrative Division will be able to operate in a more efficient manner by offering extended hours to service public requests, including providing accident reports. This issue was mentioned by a Councilor during a recent meeting.

RCO/vdw