



TO: Mayor and City Councilors

FROM: Rich Olson, City Manager

REF: FYI ~ Week Ending November 3, 2006

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1. City Staff, with our partners Pasquotank County and the Airport Authority completed and submitted this week an application for \$4 million to the Department of Commerce for its 2006 Economic Development Reserve Fund Grant. If approved, the grant will help fund the Elizabeth City Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park which is being developed at the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Regional Airport. The project will take advantage of the City's greatest asset - the US Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City and its growing aircraft overhaul function, along with the Aviation Science Program at Elizabeth City State University, the workforce development capabilities at the College of the Albemarle and existing relationships with private industry in the aviation sector, to produce aviation-related jobs and investment in the Aviation Center. Our research indicates that we will create 500 good-paying jobs and over \$150 million in private investment. I would like to thank everyone who assisted in preparing the grant application.
2. NCDOT officials, along with their consultants from Kimley-Horn, met with me, County Manager Randy Keaton and others in a preliminary scoping meeting on improvements to Elizabeth Street and the old (eastbound) side of the Pasquotank River Bridge yesterday. This is the very first of many meetings, including public input meetings this winter/next spring, to suggest changes for improvement to Elizabeth Street and the bridge. The Elizabeth Street improvements will extend from the Pasquotank River to Road Street. Under the existing 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), this project was actually two projects but has been combined into one since the road/bridge work is intertwined and since it would be inefficient to do one project and not the other at the same time. Regretfully, despite these efficiencies, the large transportation funding shortfall faced by the State causes this project to have an estimated 3-year construction period beginning in 2012. This project will begin once the US 158 widening project (from the bridge east to Belcross) is completed. The City will be working with NCDOT staff and their consultants over the coming months analyzing aspects of Elizabeth Street and its unique construction. In the coming weeks, test borings to research the "ground" underneath the street will be done overnight from 7 PM to 7 AM and this will restrict traffic to a single lane in each

direction. I encourage everyone to be careful and be patient with workers you see on or near the street.

3. The Elizabeth City Police Department's Drug Unit made 36 street level drug arrests during the month ending October 31, 2006. The Sawyertown and Hugh Cale neighborhoods were the targeted neighborhoods for the interdiction work. The Officers have noticed a difference in these neighborhoods since we began the operation in early October. The Police Department has set, as a primary goal for the Drug Unit, daily enforcement actions on a consistent basis in the areas of town with the most complaints. The Department intends to keep up this strategy on a consistent basis.
4. Officers from the Elizabeth City Police Department will be traveling to Wilmington, NC on November 6 to pick up a deuce and a half military vehicle that was donated to the City through the State's Law Enforcement Support Services agency. The vehicle will be used during natural disasters, such as a hurricane, to assist local emergency personnel travel through high water and to transport heavy equipment and supplies. The City and the local Coast Guard Air Station have reached a tentative agreement to use the vehicle jointly.
5. The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, has been completed by the Finance Department. The City's auditors, Douglas A. Hollowell P.C., have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements. The CAFR was submitted to the Local Government Commission on October 31, 2006. Presentation of the CAFR is scheduled for the November work session.
6. The Elizabeth City Police Department received 15 additional Tasers this week that were obtained by grant funding from the Department of Justice in the amount of \$12,082. The Tasers will be deployed in the field after the initial training is conducted with the officers. The Tasers are another non-lethal weapon that the department utilizes in its use of force continuum in an effort to minimize injuries to both officers and suspects.
7. Mrs. Carethia Brown, who is the Police Department's Parking Control Officer, hosted the Elizabeth City Police Department's Halloween festivities in the lobby of the A. P. Midgett Building last Tuesday evening. Mrs. Brown, who dressed as a clown, greeted approximately 70 children and distributed 25 door prizes and candy, which was donated to the Department. City-wide, Halloween passed without any major incidents.
8. WCNC AM 1240 was one of two AM radio stations in northeastern North Carolina that changed to Spanish-speaking broadcasts this week in order to serve the area's growing Hispanic population. For many years, the City used WCNC's broadcasts as background sound for its public access station, Channel 11. Due to the WCNC programming change, the City is now using WERX FM 102.5 for background sound.

9. All City of Elizabeth City offices will be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans' Day. Friday's garbage collection routes will be worked on Thursday, November 9.

10. Upcoming Events:

- The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for the Junior Woman's Club annual Mistletoe Show at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 10 at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center. Please call the Chamber at 335-4365 if you are able to attend.
- The Chamber is also hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Griggs Lumber Company at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 16. The facility will be located at 109 Impact Drive (Take a right off US Highway 17 South on Foreman Bundy Road, then right on Impact Drive.)

RCO/vdw