RESOLUTION

LOCAL AID TO THE STATE

- WHEREAS, State financial assistance for mandated and high priority programs, including public education, health and human services, public safety, and constitutional officers, is \$800 million less in FY 12 than in FY 09; and
- WHEREAS, cities and counties must balance their budgets during a time in which future State assistance is unreliable, Federal stimulus dollars are dwindling, and real estate assessments are declining; and
- WHEREAS, the Appropriation Act contains \$60 million in across-the-board cuts to cities and counties for both FY 11 and FY 12, under which localities are required to either elect to take reductions in particular State aid programs, or to send the State a check for the amounts determined by the Department of Planning and Budget ("Local Aid to the State"); and
- WHEREAS, the reductions are applied to essential services, including law enforcement, jail administration, foster care and child protection services, election administration, and social services; and
- WHEREAS, the County of James City does not have the authority to unilaterally decide to discontinue providing services such as election administration or to refuse to house and care for State prisoners in local and regional jails; and
- WHEREAS, the State budget cuts are not accompanied by any reductions in State-imposed mandates, standards, and service requirements, nor do they provide any administrative flexibility for local agencies; and
- WHEREAS, the County of James City remitted \$313,331 in FY 11 and will be required to remit another \$329,339 in FY 12; and
- WHEREAS, cities and counties will have provided the State with \$220 million by the close of FY 12 for this "Local Aid to the State" program; and
- WHEREAS, these reductions shift State costs to local taxpayers and artificially increase the amount of State surplus revenue; and
- WHEREAS, State revenues have begun to recover and the State is expecting to have a revenue surplus for the second year in a row; and
- WHEREAS, revenue collections for the County of James City continue to reflect the struggling housing market; and
- WHEREAS, the State should not shift its share of the costs for mandates and responsibilities to local governments.

- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, asks Governor Bob McDonnell to submit a budget amendment to the 2012 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$60 million-a-year reduction for the current year, FY 12, and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in the budget submitted for FY 13 and FY 14 without any other State funding reductions to State mandated, locality provided programs.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the General Assembly support a budget amendment to the 2012 session of the General Assembly to reverse the \$60 million-a-year reduction for the current year, FY 12, and to eliminate the aid to localities reduction in the budget submitted for FY 13 and FY 14.

Mary K. Jones

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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ATTEST:

Robert C. Middaugh

Clerk to the Board

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 9th day of August, 2011.

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