PUBLIC SAFETY TOP PRIORITY FOR WILMINGTON

- **More than half of all City employees are in police and fire services**
- In FY 2014-15, public safety and debt consumed 100% of the city's property tax collection
- Since 2004, the City has increased funding for police and fire services by 43%

WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Bill Saffo
Mayor Pro Tem Margaret E. Haynes
Neil Anderson
Kevin O'Grady
Laura W. Padgett
Charles H. Rivenbark, Jr.
Earl Sheridan

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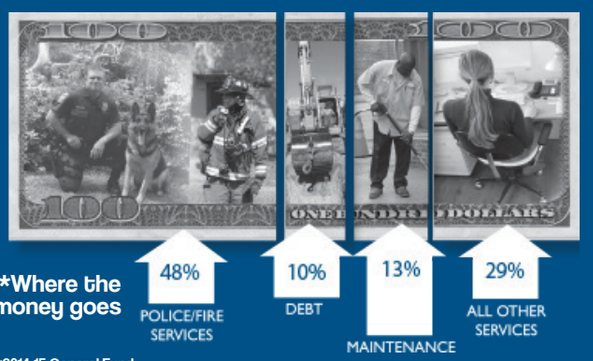
CITY OF WILMINGTON NORTH CAROLINA

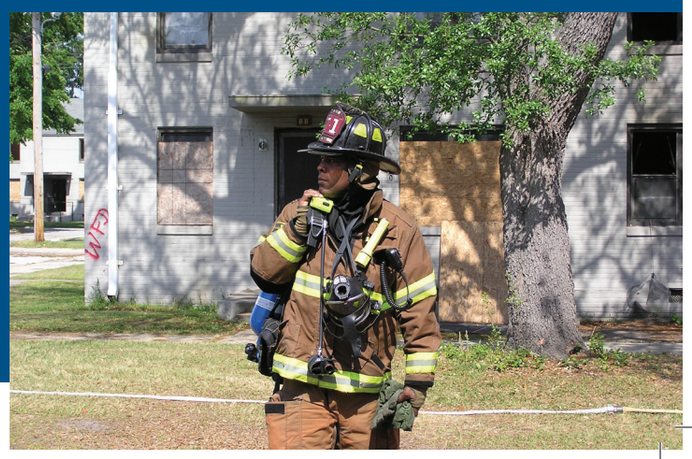
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2015

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 80% of all sales tax revenue in New Hanover County is generated within the City Limits. However, the City only receives about 20% of that revenue each year and has no control over how it is distributed.
- According to the current distribution formula, each time New Hanover County raises its property tax rate, the city's share of sales taxes decreases unless the city raises its tax rate.
- Wilmington's property tax rate is among the lowest of large NC cities.
- The only source of significant revenue the city can change is its property tax rate.



*2014-15 General Fund



OUR OUTLOOK

IN the 2015 session of the NC General Assembly, Wilmington anticipates opportunities to support initiatives that foster the City's existing assets and facilitate future growth. As such, Wilmington's legislative agenda is focused on broad areas, but also provides the ability to support objectives that may yield similar outcomes in partnership with others.

OUR MISSION

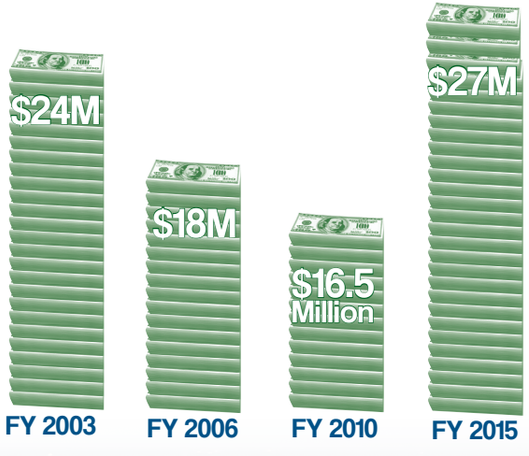
IN order to maintain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of Wilmington, the Wilmington City Council is committed to working in partnership with their colleagues in other governmental entities. The NC General Assembly plays an essential role in helping the City improve the quality of life for our citizens and encourage investment in the region.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

THE Wilmington City Council commits to productive problem-solving and collaboration with our State legislative partners for the benefit of our shared constituency, the citizens of Wilmington, to **help achieve the following**:

- **Support** reinstatement of Film Industry and Historic Preservation Tax Credit Programs.
- **Support** full funding of state economic development tools and incentive programs.
- **Support** replacing revenue loss to municipalities stemming from repeal of Privilege Tax License.
- **Oppose** modifications to Room Occupancy Tax Distribution Formula.
- **Oppose** legislation that undermines local government authority and revenue generation.
- **Support** prioritization of, and funding for, local transportation and infrastructure projects.
- **Strengthen** penalties for violations of concealed carry weapons and felons with firearms laws.
- **Support** changes to State Allowable Use Policies for first responders use of utility vehicles and ATV's.
- **Support** efforts to increase equity in property insurance-rate making process.
- **Support** full funding for affordable housing programs.
- **Support** legislation creating an independent redistricting commission.
- **Support** legislative agenda of both the NC League of Municipalities and the NC Metropolitan Mayors Association.

WILMINGTON'S FINANCES HEALTHY

- **City's $91 million General Fund budget is balanced**
- Funds that had been taken out of savings during the economic downturn have now been largely restored through spending reductions
- City has 5-year, $41 million plan to repair roads, public facilities
- City's amount of debt is low compared to other NC cities
- City's current bond rating is AAA

CITY'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT