



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2013

CITY OF WHEELING OFFICIALS PROPOSE HOME RULE AMENDMENTS

Wheeling, WV – City of Wheeling officials announced today that they intend to submit a proposal to the West Virginia Municipal Home Rule Board to amend the City's Home Rule Plan.

Mayor Andy McKenzie and City Manager, Robert Herron, outlined the following changes included in the City's four-page proposal:

- Eliminating Business and Occupation (B&O) taxes for businesses classified as manufacturing.
- Reducing the B&O tax rate for businesses classified as retail.
- Modifying the City's Amusement Tax category, which would include the implementation of a municipal consumer sales/use tax (0.5%) within the City of Wheeling.

These changes, if approved, will have significant impacts on the business community. The applicable B&O tax reductions and eliminations will save local businesses in excess of \$1 million while also making the Wheeling market more competitive overall.

To compensate for the loss of B&O revenue, a marginal consumer sales/use tax will generate an estimated \$1.4 million in additional annual net revenue for the City of Wheeling. Over the next five years, \$3.5 million would be generated to address City infrastructure needs. This additional revenue could create \$7 to \$10 million in bonding capacity for investments at WesBanco Arena and surrounding City property.

The announcement follows mention of upcoming changes presented in Mayor McKenzie's 2013 State of the City Address. The proposal aims to reduce financial burdens on local business and invest in the City's infrastructure, including street paving, bridge repairs, sidewalks, and other infrastructural projects. Additionally, the City will assist in enhancing WesBanco Arena – one of Wheeling's valuable tourism and entertainment assets.

"This proposal moves toward a better balance between the business community and consumers in funding local government services, as well as creating outstanding opportunities to improve our tourism, entertainment, and convention attractiveness," McKenzie stated.



Officials will hold a special City Council meeting on May 14, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposal and a first reading of an ordinance to submit the proposal to the Municipal Home Rule Board. If authorized, the amendments to the City's current Home Rule Plan would modify the initial plan, approved in 2008 and amended in 2009.

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