

MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

Corporation of
Harpers Ferry

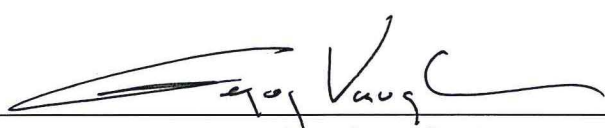
2021
PROGRESS
REPORT

West Virginia
Municipal Home Rule Board
P. O. Box 11360
Charleston, WV 25339-1360
MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov
304.558.3356

“Commencing December 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, each participating municipality shall give a progress report to the Municipal Home Rule Board and commencing January 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Municipal Home Rule Board shall give a summary report of all the participating municipalities to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.”

The Municipal Home Rule Board has developed this standard format for Home Rule Program participating municipalities to prepare and submit their respective Annual Progress Reports. The intent of this standard format is to gather and compile information in a consistent, easily understood, and efficient manner that will be used to develop a concise and practical summary report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Annual Progress Reports must be submitted electronically as an individual file in PDF format no later than the close of business on the first business day of December, by emailing to WV Municipal Home Rule Board at MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov.

A. General Information		
Name of Municipality: Corporation of Harpers Ferry		
Certifying Official: Gregory F. Vaughn	Title: Mayor	
Contact Person: Deborah Kelly	Title: Financial Officer	
Address: PO Box 217		
City, State, Zip: Harpers Ferry WV 25425		
Telephone Number: 304-535-2206	Fax Number:	
E-Mail Address: mayor@harpersferrywv.us		
2020 Census Population: 286		
B. Municipal Classification		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
C. Attest		
I hereby confirm that I am the authorized official for this municipality and certify that the information submitted herein and attached hereto is true and accurate and that this report addresses each and every initiative included in the original Home Rule Pilot Program Plan Application for this municipality and any subsequent amendments, if applicable.		
Gregory F. Vaughn		11/29/2021
Type Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Blight and derelict properties
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 09-08-2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The Town continues citing several derelict properties to bring them into compliance with our ordinances. We feel this visible action is having a “snowball” effect upon others regarding taking voluntary action prior to being cited. The Ordinance Compliance Officer has been able to communicate directly with property owners through the On-the-Spot Code Violation Enforcement, with improved results in many cases.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>N/A</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: On-the-spot code violation enforcement
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 09-08-2014
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
SUCCESES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance. Enactment of this initiative continues to save time, money, and extensive meeting time required to deal with non-compliance. The initiative improved efficiency at the town office, since the violation is reported to the municipal court with the Ordinance Compliance Officer in attendance, and thus the office or council is not involved. Communication with residents and business owners has been welcomed and effective, with swift results. The ability to move any unresolved issues directly to municipal court has often produced positive results.
LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities. We would highly recommend using an Ordinance Compliance Officer to improve enforcement and efficiency. Our Compliance Officer is a part-time (10 hr./week) employee and his financial impact regarding his compensation is certainly mitigated by the results of his actions.

Please use this page to report progress on each **non-tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application and Amendment(s). Each non-tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Authority to dispose of municipal property without auction
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12-17-2020
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>SUCSESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative which highlights successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>The Corporation of Harpers Ferry originally included this initiative in its Home Rule Plan for the purpose of selling tangible municipal property, such as retired electronics or police equipment, directly and at fair market value. Disposing of property through sealed-bid auction, the previous process, was cumbersome, timely, and yielded few, if sometimes any, interested bidders.</p> <p>In 2020, the Town Council, through its Home Rule authority and specifically this ordinance, entered into negotiations with an investment firm for the purpose of selling real property owned by the Town. The direct sale of the property, finalized in April 2021, allowed the firm to secure the final investment funding it needed to begin construction on a hotel resort project valued far in excess of \$100 million. It is anticipated that the future hotel and additional business it will attract to the community will result in major revenues for the Town and Jefferson County, through a combination of sales and use, business and occupation, room occupancy, and property taxes.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>The ability to sell property without auction, when warranted and appropriate, will prove highly beneficial to the betterment of our community. We would highly recommend that all Home Rule municipalities pursue this authority.</p>

Please use this page to report progress on each **tax related initiative** included in your Home Rule Application. Each tax related initiative must be listed on a separate page.

Initiative: Implementation of a 1% sales and use tax
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> or N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12-14-2015 (effective date 07-01-2016)
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p>REVENUES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting revenue amounts and revenue categories realized; revenue amounts and revenue categories reduced; net revenue gain; and, any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Codified Ordinance Article 735 Sales and Use Tax became effective July 1, 2016. Its enactment was preceded by reductions in both municipal business and occupation and room occupancy tax rates. The Corporation of Harpers Ferry brought in \$201,725.23 in sales and use tax revenue in FY 2021. This is a 6.2% increase over FY 2020.</p>
<p>SUCCESSSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting projects, improvements, programming, etc. realized through the implementation of this revenue initiative and any metrics used to track performance.</p> <p>Despite the COVID-19 crisis, sales and use tax revenues aided in providing substantial revenue to the Town.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this revenue initiative that would benefit other municipalities.</p> <p>N/A</p>