City of South Charleston West Virginia



Municipal Home Rule 2015 Progress Report



A Conception			
A. General Information			
Name of Municipality: City of South Charleston			
Certifying Official: Frank A. Mullens, Jr.	Title: Mayor		
Contact Persons: Frank A. Mullens, Jr.	Title: Mayor		
W. Michael Moore	Title: City Attorney		
Address: City Hall; 401-D Street; P.O. Box 8597 (Mayor)			
317 Fifth Avenue (City Attorney)			
City, State, Zip: South Charleston, WV 25303			
Telephone Number: (304) 744-5300 (Mayor)	Fax Number: (304) 744-6587 (Mayor)		
(304) 414-2300 (City Attorney)	(304) 414-4506 (City Attorney)		
E-Mail Address: scmayor@cityofsouthcharleston.com (Mayor)			
mmoore@moorebiserlaw.com (City Attorney)			
2010 Census Population: 13,450			
B. Municipal Classification			
□ Class 1 ☑ Class II □ Class	III Class IV		
C. Pilot Program Entry Phase			
□ Phase I (2007 Legislation) ☑ Phase II (2014 Legislation) □ Phase III (2015 Legislation)			
D. 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.			

Frank A. Mullens, Jr.	For Mar	11 32 14	
Name of Certifying Official	Signature of Certifying Official	Date	

Tax Related Initiative

Initiative: Municipal Sales and Use Taxes (Issue 1.)

Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application \square or a plan amendment \square ?

The original 2014 plan called for up to a half percent sales and use tax. The first plan amendment in 2015 removes the half percent restriction.

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?
Yes
No

The tax initiative in the first plan amendment is currently in the process of being enacted on December 17, 2015 with a July 1, 2016 effective date.

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

N/A

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

After being admitted into the home rule program, the City continued to assess its long-term financial needs. The original plan limited the authority of the City to a half percent sales and use tax. However, the City plans to enact a sales and use tax of one percent. This change in plans necessitated the first plan amendment, which in turn caused delay in implementing Issue 1 as to Municipal Sales and Use Taxes.

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.

The City of South Charleston expects approximately \$4.25 million in increased annual revenue from the sales tax.

SUCCESSES – 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.

N/A

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.

N/A

Non-Tax Related Initiative

Initiative: Immediate citations (Issue 2.)

Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application ☑ or a plan amendment □ ?

□ Other

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? I Yes

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

Ordinance No. 2212 was approved on March 19, 2015.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

N/A

SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

This initiative provides an important tool for the City to achieve City Code compliance from habitual violators of nuisance ordinances. In addition, the resulting ordinance encourages cooperation to resolve nuisances without the need to resort to enforcement actions, and it has resulted in improved compliance by the residents of the City.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

N/A

Non-Tax Related Initiative

Initiative: Property Transfers (Issue 3.)

Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)

□ Organization □ Administration □ Personnel □ Other

Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application \square or a plan amendment \square ?

Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted?
Z Yes

If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?

Ordinance No. 2211 was approved on March 19, 2015.

If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).

N/A

SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

This initiative permits the transfer of City property without the need for public auction under certain circumstances. This enables the City to further its economic development goals. It permitted the transfer of vacant property to neighboring property owners after public notice. The initiative shifts potential liability for such property to the new property owners while ensuring that such property is put to its most efficient use.

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities. None.

Non-Tax Related Initiative

Initiative: Variances and special permits (Issue 4.)			
Category of Issues Addressed (check all that apply)			
□ Organization ☑ Administration □ Personnel □ Other			
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application $oldsymbol{ extsf{M}}$ or a plan amendment \Box ?			
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? Yes No			
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?			
N/A			
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).			
The City is currently working on a comprehensive update of sections of City Code that also affect the zoning and planning code that contains current provisions concerning variances and			

special permits. Current state law provides certain limitations as to ordinances that are enacted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program. The City is waiting for work on its City Code update to be completed before determining how best to integrate its home rule ordinance related to variances and special permits into City Code.

SUCCESSES – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting successes realized through the implementation of this initiative and any metrics used to track performance.

N/A

LESSONS LEARNED – In the space below, please provide a brief narrative highlighting lessons learned during implementation of this initiative that would benefit other municipalities.

N/A