

# MUNICIPAL HOME RULE PROGRAM

City of Oak Hill

2025  
PROGRESS  
REPORT

WV Municipal Home Rule Board  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Bldg. 1, Ste. W-300  
Charleston, WV 25305  
[MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov)  
304.558.3356


Rev. 08.01.24

**West Virginia State Code §8-1-5a (m) provides:**

“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](mailto:MunicipalHomeRule@wv.gov).**

<b>A. General Information</b>		
Name of Municipality: City of Oak Hill		
Certifying Official: Cris Meadows	Title: City Manager	
Contact Person: Cris Meadows	Title: Cris Meadows	
Address: 100 Kelly Ave		
City, State, Zip: Oak Hill, WV 25901		
Telephone Number: 304-469-9541	Fax Number: 304-469-2801	
E-Mail Address: <a href="mailto:cmeadows@oakhillwv.gov">cmeadows@oakhillwv.gov</a>		
2020 Census Population: 7730		
<b>B. Municipal Classification</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class I <input type="checkbox"/> Class II <input type="checkbox"/> Class III <input type="checkbox"/> Class IV		
<b>C. Attest</b>		
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.		
Cris Meadows		12-5-25
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.

<b>Initiative: Issue citations for External Sanitation violations and common nuisances</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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 daily implementation of this ordinance by both our code enforcement team and police officers is the driving force behind abating hundreds of issues in our city. We use this as our primary code enforcement tool.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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>We have observed that the consistent implementation and utilization of the ordinance daily facilitate the avoidance of redundant efforts and accelerate the resolution of concerns raised by employees, the public, residents, and business owners that require attention.</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.

<b>Initiative: File liens on real property for costs incurred in abating exterior sanitation and common nuisance violations</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>SUCSESSES</b> – 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>We are presently employing this method to place liens on properties that we have cleaned through trash and weed removal. Our intention is to recover these amounts when the property is transferred in the future. The liens have been modest in amount, and we have billed the customers with ample time given for payment prior to placing the lien.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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>Sometimes it's in the public interest to use city forces to remove blight and other issues.</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.

<b>Initiative: Implement 1% Sales and Use Tax</b>
Was this tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/2015
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<p><b>REVENUES</b> – 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>In 2025, we collected \$1,139,984.72, exceeding the previous year's total by \$20,501.78.</p> <p>The city lowered the B&amp;O tax rate for the retail category, offsetting some of its gains in the sales tax category.</p>
<p><b>SUCCESES</b> – 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>The city has lost the local hospital to non-profit status and is losing nearly half a million dollars in annual revenue, so this is filling that gap.</p>
<p><b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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>Failure to implement this measure would have significantly impacted the city, considering the loss of hospital taxes that were previously allocated to municipal services.</p>

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<b>Initiative: Exempt the City's Police Civil Service Commission from the Party Affiliation Requirement</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<b>SUCCESSSES</b> – 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.  We feel that this ordinance, which is now in place, will make the appointment of these commission members much easier in the future, as our current commission is aging and our volunteer base is shrinking.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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

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<b>Initiative: Alcohol sales on Premises within 300 feet of a church</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<b>SUCCESES</b> – 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. We have not encountered any issues regarding the reduction of the distance from a church for alcohol sales. This policy has enabled businesses to operate that previously would have been prohibited due to prior restrictions.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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

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.

<b>Initiative: Registration of vacant structures when owners are non-responsive</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted? 12/14/15
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).
<b>SUCCESSSES</b> – 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. The ordinance has encouraged people to rent or sell the structure to avoid the fees incurred.
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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

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.

<b>Initiative: Cost of an Audit</b>
Was this non-tax initiative a part of your original plan application <input type="checkbox"/> or a plan amendment <input type="checkbox"/> ?
Has the ordinance(s) needed to implement this initiative been enacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, when was the ordinance enacted?
If no, please describe challenges faced in enacting the related ordinance(s).  Following the submission of the Home Rule plan and the request for permission to set a higher fee for an audit, we encountered no difficulty in securing an auditor to bid on the city's project. Consequently, there was no necessity to adopt an ordinance.
<b>SUCCESSSES</b> – 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.  N/A
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b> – 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