

## MINUTES OF CITIZENS ADVISORY FORUM: May 21, 2011

Members present: Curt Thompson (*presiding*), Louise Johnson Chief of Staff. All others are listed on the sign in sheet.

### **OPENING REMARKS**

Curt, stated that he will give a wrap up of the legislative session. According to Curt, while this session was not the most successful nor was it the most unsuccessful. Prior to giving the legislative update he introduced to the CAF, the Barack Obama coordinator for Gwinnett County, Kim Boro. Curt also announced the passing out of two types of cards, volunteer and contribution cards.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Kim Boro, provided her email address (Kimboro@uga.edu) which we are going to publish for people to contact her and become involved in the 2012 Obama re-election campaign. She recommended that prior to her contacting each CAF participant that we visit Barackobama.com to see what events are happening. She also states that she is planning an event for June 21, 2011. She will get back to us with more details.

### **MEETING TOPICS:**

#### Legislative Update:

There were 160 bills that were passed this year during their legislative session. Curt gave an update on some key bills that passed and would impact members of his district. They are as follows:

- 1) Peachtree Corners will be on the ballot to be voted on as a city. It will be the largest geographical city in Gwinnett County.
- 2) Lilburn's annexation was approved
- 3) GA will not comply with Federal Healthcare Affordable Act, but wanted create Healthcare exchange which was sponsored by Nathan Deal that, was voted down
- 4) Tax cuts for the rich reduce funds to go to expand mass transportation, roads and education.
- 5) Adopted SPLOST like tax for the ARTS
- 6) Changed the Criminal Evidence Code which makes it conform to the Federal tax codes
- 7) Cut HOPE scholarships by more than 10% to 20%, HOPE is NOT saved, some schools lost all HOPE scholarships, Republicans have succeeded in making this a voucher system.
- 8) Balanced budget on back of education K – 12, Higher Education and giving to Charter Schools.
- 9) Passed a bill that added a sweetener to Anti-freeze so that it will not be so sweet so that animals would not drink.
- 10) Passed the Arizona Like Immigration Bill that will negatively impact the state

Questions about what kinds of other programs could save HOPE. Could GA have a full time legislature vs. a part time one and what would that cost? Re-districting still under Federal government review based on the Voting Rights Act.

**NEXT MEETING:**

There will not be a June CAF; instead there will be a fundraiser in lieu of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes Recorded

By Louise Johnson

Edited

By Louise Johnson