

# Text Comparison

## Documents Compared

Intergovernmental Relations I.pdf

Intergovernmental Relations II.pdf

## Summary

6 word(s) added

6 word(s) deleted

1560 word(s) matched

5 block(s) matched

To see where the changes are, scroll down.

# Intergovernmental Relations

## Overview

The City of Harrisburg is one of 40 municipalities in Dauphin County. Multiple school districts reside within the County as well. While there are specific instances of cooperation between and among the City of Harrisburg, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dauphin County, the Harrisburg School District and other neighboring municipalities, there is no mechanism or body that facilitates discussion of issues of mutual interest or concern.

The City has engaged in collaborative work with a variety of intergovernmental agencies, as detailed below. However, it is imperative that the City expand these efforts as one component of its financial recovery process.

### ***Harrisburg School District***

In 2000, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed the Education Empowerment Act to facilitate underperforming school districts' self-improvement efforts. Under this legislation, the Mayor of Harrisburg took control of the Harrisburg School District, providing budgetary and management control, as well as the appointment of School Board members. The legislation expired in 2010, at which point Harrisburg residents elected a new School Board which resumed control of the School District.

The City of Harrisburg currently shares services and/or performs services for the Harrisburg School District in a number of areas, such as:

- The City produces and distributes property tax bills on behalf of the School District and also collects the payments. Additionally, the City currently has a one-year contract in effect to collect all mercantile and amusement taxes and distribute a designated portion to the School District. The School District and the City are in the process of evaluating the possible outsourcing of this function to a third party collection service in the future.
- The School District fuels all of its vehicles, including buses, at the City's Vehicle Maintenance Center. The School District compensates the City in full.
- At present, the City collects trash at all of the District's schools and facilities, but the District is in the process of putting its refuse collection service out for competitive bidding.
- Both the City and School District purchase electrical power through an intergovernmental cooperation agreement, which the City organizes for a number of participating governmental agencies. The School District purchases most of its other commodities from state or national purchasing mechanisms available to public schools.
- Until recently, School Resource Officers (SROs) from the Harrisburg Police Bureau were regularly present in District schools. Previously funded through District grant awards, the City has paid the full cost of SROs in recent years. Due to the City's current fiscal constraints and the lack of available grant funds in the District, the SROs have been eliminated from the City's and the District's current budget.
- Since the City does not own recreation center facilities, School District buildings are available to the City at no charge for recreation programming.

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- Since the City does not own recreation center facilities, School District buildings are available to the City at no charge for recreation programming.

- The School District's food service provides lunches at City-sponsored parks and recreation summer programming, for which the District is reimbursed through school nutrition program funds.

There is potential for the City of Harrisburg and the Harrisburg School District to collaborate and/or share services in a number of additional areas, such as:

- Youth services, including recreational sports and after-school and summer programs;
- Building, grounds and vehicle maintenance, whether sharing equipment and staff or jointly contracting with a third party service provider; and
- Computers, printers and copiers, whether through leasing, new purchases, or contracting with a third party service provider for ongoing maintenance.

### ***Dauphin County***

The City and Dauphin County most frequently collaborate in the provision of public safety services. The Harrisburg Police Bureau participates in the Dauphin County Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and works closely with the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office in criminal investigations. In June 2011, the Dauphin County Communication Center will begin providing 911 and dispatch operations for the City of Harrisburg, at no charge to the City. The County and the City are both signatories to the multi-jurisdictional agreement that established the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force One. This is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sponsored task force that responds in natural and man-made disaster relief efforts across the country. The County Emergency Management Agency facilitates mutual aid between all fire companies within Dauphin County, including the Harrisburg Fire Bureau.

Dauphin County, through its Department of Community and Economic Development, directly assists businesses and municipalities within the County in undertaking economic development projects. The Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation, a non-profit development entity, has partnered with the City in ongoing efforts to retain and grow existing businesses as well as attract new ones through business resource networks and calling programs. As discussed in the Economic Development chapter of this Recovery Plan, there are regional organizations that are willing to coordinate and assist with a long-term economic development strategy and plan for the City. Multiple economic and community development projects have been identified by key stakeholders associated with the City; however, a coordinated effort is needed to identify, prioritize and implement the projects. Given its current fiscal challenges, the City must look to other agencies and organizations, like Dauphin County, to partner in economic development efforts.

In addition to potential economic development partnerships, there may be opportunities for the City and Dauphin County to collaborate and/or share services in a number of additional areas, such as:

- Criminal investigations, including drug enforcement and forensics;
- Emergency management programming;
- Information technology, including equipment and services;
- Financial management systems; and
- Tax assessments, collections, and abatements.

### ***Capitol Region Council of Governments***

The Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is a voluntary association of 40 member boroughs and townships from Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry and York Counties, formed to promote intergovernmental communication and cooperation. The two primary areas of focus for the

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organization are regional purchasing and Uniform Construction Code (UCC) appeals. Joint purchasing through the CRCOG provides a mechanism for economies of scale, as well as reduced administrative burden for member municipalities. The UCC Joint Appeals Board consists of 16 diverse professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, electrical, plumbing and codes, providing an established appeals process for members.

The current CRCOG bylaws limit membership to townships and boroughs, though the CRCOG leadership has indicated that a revision of the bylaws may be possible to admit the City of Harrisburg as a member. Through membership in CRCOG, the City could gain access to joint purchasing and enhanced code enforcement opportunities.

### ***Recovery Plan Initiatives***

The following table lists the specific initiatives included in this Recovery Plan to encourage increased intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration.

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Initiative Number</b>	<b>Initiative Title</b>
Bureau of Police	POL06	Assign representative to the District Attorney's Office Narcotics Task Force
Bureau of Police	POL07	Participate in Dauphin County Forensic Team
Bureau of Police	POL08	Transfer prisoner booking responsibilities to Dauphin County
Bureau of Fire	FIRE08	Adopt and implement new Countywide accountability system
Bureau of Fire	FIRE11	Initiate discussions with HACC Public Safety Center regarding possible training collaboration
Department of Parks, Recreation and Enrichment	PRE01	Transfer responsibility for recreation programming to a non-profit entity
Housing	HS02	Develop a comprehensive housing strategy
Economic Development	ED02	Develop a coordinated, long-term economic development strategic plan

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## Initiatives

<b>IGR01.</b>	<b>Identify and implement intergovernmental cooperative initiatives</b>	
	<b>Target outcome:</b>	Improved cooperation and cost reduction
	<b>Five year financial impact:</b>	Not available
	<b>Responsible party:</b>	Mayor and City Council

With the assistance of the Act 47 Coordinator, the Mayor and City Council shall convene a group of leaders from the City, Dauphin County and the Harrisburg School District to discuss possible collaborative intergovernmental initiatives aimed at conserving funds and/or improving current services. These initiatives may address topics including, but not limited to: tax collection; fleet maintenance; purchasing; facilities maintenance; financial management services; and information technology. The group shall meet on a regular basis with the ultimate goal of identifying the most promising areas for future shared services, developing initiatives within these areas (along with specific implementation plans) and implementing these initiatives within each organization. The group shall analyze opportunities based on potential for cost savings, ability to improve current service delivery and/or savings on long-term capital costs for all entities involved.

<b>IGR02.</b>	<b>Pursue membership in the Capital Region Council of Governments</b>	
	<b>Target outcome:</b>	Improved cooperation and efficiency
	<b>Five year financial impact:</b>	(\$5,250)
	<b>Responsible party:</b>	Mayor

As previously stated, the current CRCOG bylaws limit membership to townships and boroughs, which precludes the City of Harrisburg from joining. However, CRCOG leadership has indicated that a revision of the bylaws may be possible to admit the City of Harrisburg as a member.

The Mayor shall contact the Executive Director of CRCOG to discuss possible bylaw revisions that would allow the City to be admitted as a member. Through membership in CRCOG, the City could gain access to joint purchasing opportunities, regional code enforcement resources and strengthened intergovernmental relationships. The financial impact information shown below reflects the annual cost to a municipality for CRCOG membership, assuming that the City joins the group within the next calendar year.

### Financial Impact

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
\$0	(\$750)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$1,500)	(\$5,250)

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