



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

## City Council Agenda Item

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**Subject:** Lobbyist Services FAA Agreement – Executive Offices

**Submitted By:** Ricky L. Clark, Jr., City Manager

**Date Submitted:** February 1, 2024

**Work Session Date:** February 5, 2024

**Council Meeting Date:** February 5, 2024

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### Background/History:

Since 2016, Clayton County Municipalities have engaged with Capri & Clay LLC for lobbyist services to ensure that all entities received a fair share of funding from the lost FAA fuel tax. Staff is seeking approval to continue to participate. The funding for said lobbyist services is shared amongst Clayton County Municipalities, Clayton County Board of Commissioners & the Clayton County School Board. Our share for the City of Forest Park is 5.86%, which equates monthly to \$205.10.

On July 20, 2023, the House passed H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, by a vote of 351 to 69. The bill reauthorizes the FAA for five years (FY 2023 - FY 2028). Unfortunately, during consideration of the bill, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee which has jurisdiction over FAA, failed to include an amendment by Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) which would have exempted state and local sales general sales taxes from FAA policy. During floor consideration, the House failed again, to include an identical amendment as filed in committee by Rep. Napolitano, Reps. Scott and Williams which would have also exempted state and local sales general sales taxes from FAA policy.

In the Senate, S. 1939, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2023 was introduced on June 12, 2023 by Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Ranking Member Ted Cruz (R-TX). The bill includes language (Section 624) which exempt Clayton County general sales taxes from FAA policy. Senator Warnock, who sits on the Commerce Committee, along with Senator Ossoff, pushed for this provision to be included in the legislation. Unfortunately, the Senate Commerce Committee has still not acted on the legislation due to several controversial issues, most recently, a stalemate over a proposal that would raise the pilot retirement age from 65 to 67. Once these issues are resolved, the Committee will need to approve the bill before informal discussions on a final bill can begin with the House.

Currently, the FAA is operating under an extension of their authority which expires on March 8th. Given the new issues surrounding the grounding of Boeing's 737 Max 9 planes-- there is renewed pressure on Congress to consider the FAA Reauthorization bill in the Senate and work toward a final multi-year bill.

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**Cost: \$ 85,000**

**Budgeted for: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No**

**Financial Impact:**

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**Action Requested from Council:**