



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of Council Chief of Staff

Public Safety Standing Committee

July 28, 2026

Legislative Summary

Previous Meeting: June 23, 2026

Next Meeting: September 22, 2026

Committee Notes

Presentation Items:

- Chief Rick Edwards, Police Department – Briefing on Recent Crime Stats
- Rupa Murthy, CEO of YWCA Richmond, Collette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Chief Rick Edwards – Briefing on the Family Crises Center/Domestic
- **Discussion Items:**
- Emergency Services Calls & Response

Next Meeting:

- September 22, 2026
 - Commonwealth Attorney's Annual Briefing
 - Sheriff's Annual Briefing
 - Animal Care & Control Update and Report
 - RRHA Discussion Item on Use of Surveillance Cameras at RRHA Properties

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

None. No papers have been assigned to the Committee

Presentation Items & Potential Questions:

Chief Edwards, Police Department – Crimes Stats Briefing

- Potential Questions:
 - Do you make comparisons between our crime stats and trends in crime between the city and neighboring jurisdictions.
 - Can you offer insights into increases in thefts from outbuildings?
 - Can you provide insights into the increases in thefts of vehicles and mopeds?

- Members have complained about increasing problems with drug dealing and prostitution on Richmond Highway and on Midlothian, can you tell us efforts to address those concerns?

Rupa Murthy, CEO of YWCA Richmond, Collette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Chief Rick Edwards – Briefing on the Family Crises Center and Domestic Violence

- **Potential Questions:**
 - What is needed from the City to support a domestic violence center?
 - Can you offer insights into the reasons for increases in domestic violence in our recent crime statistics?
 - What are preventive measures being put in place to address Domestic Violence?
 - Is there an awareness campaign to help victims learn of your services and those the City provides?
 - How are perpetrators treated by police, at prosecution?
 - Please describe any additional treatment programs, if any, for both victims and perpetrators.

- **Discussion Items:**

Stephen Willoughby, Director, Department of Emergency Communication Preparedness and Response
Services Calls & Response

- **Potential Questions:**
 - Can you update the Committee on the implementation of the transfer of calls to RAA as required by Ord. No. 2026-059?
 - There was a recent article in Axios on the use of AI in call taking by the City can you explain the roll of AI in call taking? Link to article:
<https://www.axios.com/local/richmond/2026/07/21/richmond-amazon-ai-non-emergency-calls>
 - The article mentions that AI is helpful for call taking instances where there is staffing shortages; how are staffing levels and turnover at DECPR?
 - What measures are being taken to assure the public that live people are available to help them?
 - Generally, how many 911 calls are going to voice-mail and how long is taking to return those calls?