

# Department of Public Works

*Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee Meeting*



Presented by Bobby Vincent, Director  
*July 17, 2018*

# Mission, Vision & Values



## MISSION

To provide a clean, safe and healthy environment

## VISION

To become the organizational leader in customer satisfaction by improving communication, assuring organizational alignment and affecting positive change while preserving our national accreditation

## VALUES

- Accountability
- Teamwork
- Respect
- Training
- Communication
- Consistency
- Professional/Organizational Growth

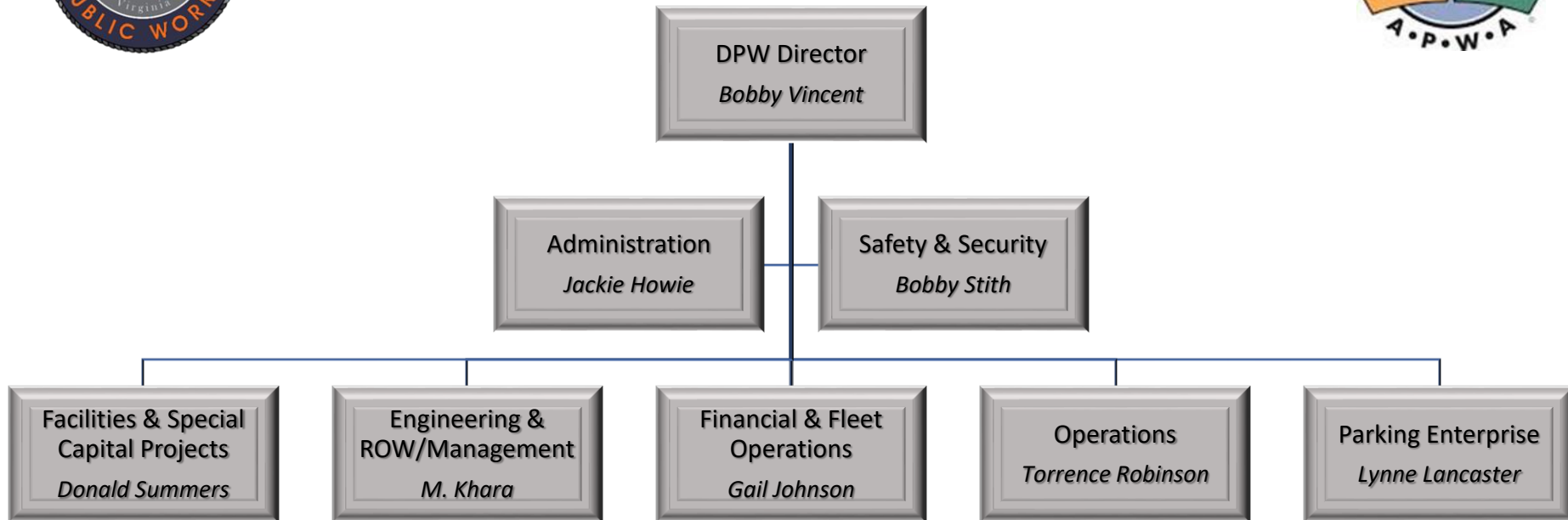


## CUSTOMER VALUE PROPOSITION

The Department of Public Works strives for excellence while providing safe, quality and efficient services in a fiscally responsible manner

# Department of Public Works

## Organization Chart



# Department of Public Works

Purpose and Historical Information



## Introduction

A well informed, organized and truly dedicated Urban Forestry Commission can be a real benefit to the city of Richmond. This commission would work in tandem with City leaders allowing residents an opportunity to participate in the democratic process and have direct input into the care and preservation of Richmond's urban forestry.

## History

- On June 23, 1992, City Council adopted ordinance 92-231-227 authorizing the establishment of a City of Richmond Municipal Tree Policy and a Shade Tree Commission to advise and assist the Director of Recreation and Parks.
- On March 24, 2003, the Shade Tree Commission was abolished by City Council as well as other Council-appointed commissions.
- On October 26, 2009, City Council adopts Ordinance 2009-174-184, establishing an Urban Forestry Commission.
- In November 2014, due to inconsistency in reaching a quorum, the Urban Forestry Commission unknowingly met for the last time officially and support became increasingly challenging.



# Department of Public Works

## Assessment Overview



### **The Asset of Richmond's Urban Forest**

In 2009 a third-party review of Richmond's Urban Forest (UF) concluded the following:

- Number of inventoried city-owned tree sites: 120,289
- Number of vacant city-owned tree sites: 43,097
- Stocking level (percentage): 64%
- Richmond's Urban Tree Canopy coverage (% of land area): 42%
- Value of city-owned tree inventory: \$211M



Another assessment and inventory was completed in FY16. From this most recent assessment, UF has been on par with the following annual averages:

- Dead and hazardous trees removed each year: 1,035
- Trees pruned: 1,395
- Stumps removed: 693
- After-hour emergencies responded to: 133
- Number of trees planted: 1,282



# Department of Public Works

City Council Questions submitted Monday, July 16, 2018



Can you please confirm or provided the requested information with regard to the Urban Forestry budget:

- 1.) The Urban Forestry Budget was moved to the Street Maintenance Special Fund in FY18.
- 2.) The FY17, FY18 and FY19 Urban Forestry adopted budget were \$2,968,318, \$2,794,294 and \$2,331,238, respectively
  - The Urban Forestry adopted budget decreased by (\$463,056) or (16.5%) between FY18 and FY19
  - The Department of Public Works overall budget was decreased by 17.2% from FY18 to FY19.
  - The Special Fund and General Funds were decreased 11.0% and 11.3% respectively
- 3.) What was the reason for the decrease?
  - See above information
- 4.) What will be the impact to personnel or operations as a result of this decrease in funding?
  - See next slide for personnel increases
  - Contractor services were budgeted 29% lower
  - However, the division is filling 6 positions (to include 2 crews and 2 Arborists)
    - An attempt to perform more in-house work
    - Increase completion of smaller work request



# Department of Public Works

Current Positions within Urban Forestry



## Title

Administrative Program Support Assist

Arborist

Arborist

Arborist

Arborist

Maintenance Worker I

Maintenance Worker I

Operations Manager

Tree Maintenance Specialist II

Tree Maintenance Specialist II

Tree Maintenance Specialist II

Tree Maintenance Specialist II

Tree Maintenance Specialist III

Tree Maintenance Specialist III

Tree Maintenance Specialist III

Tree Maintenance Specialist IV

Tree Maintenance Specialist IV



## NOTE:

- 11 Currently Filled Positions
- 2 Temporary Employees
- 6 Positions Under Advertisement

# Department of Public Works

DPW Recommendations Pertaining to the UF Commission



## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Department of Public Works supports the thoughtful creation of a new mission-driven Urban Forestry Commission that emphasizes member development, inclusive of thoughtful nomination, orientation, training and evaluation. DPW recommends the establishment of a specific committee responsible for board development. Commission duties should consist of the following:

1. Assist in the development and adoption of an updated Municipal Tree Policy.
2. Provide advice to the Urban Forestry Division regarding rules, regulations, and policy promulgated under the City Of Richmond Municipal Tree Policy.
3. Promote and enhance public understanding of challenges in managing our urban forest, the details of the Municipal Tree Policy, and proper tree care.
4. Working with the public, facilitate the development and adoption of a comprehensive tree maintenance and management plan for all City-owned trees.
5. Work to secure adequate funding for urban forestry programs, including applying for any available grant such as the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grant.
6. Work in conjunction with City Tree Stewards. (Tree Stewards educate residents on proper tree care, provide maintenance training, etc.)
7. Prepare an annual report to the Director of Public Works for presentation to City Council. Parameters of report to be pre-defined.







Questions?