



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Richmond City Council Work Session II

#### American Rescue Plan Act

August 2, 2021

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

### Agenda

*Richmond City Council Special Meeting and Work Session to review the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the Richmond community, and to discuss next steps regarding the American Rescue Plan Act.*

#### **July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Objective 1:** To develop an agreement for a process and spending plan for ARPA funding of \$155 million.

#### **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Objective 2:** To identify and reach a consensus on goals and categories for the Richmond ARPA plan according to ARPA guidelines.

## **Welcome, President Cynthia Newbille**

Martha Marshall, Facilitator

## **Overview of Today's Agenda – Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff**

### **I. Update from Administration on Current and Anticipated ARPA Round One Activities**

Lincoln Saunders Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)



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Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to  
the CAO

Jason May, Interim Director of  
Budget and Strategic Planning

## II. Review of Guiding Principles from July 12<sup>th</sup> Work Session I -Framework

- i. Council's Comments and Questions
- ii. Discussion of Guiding Principles for COVID Recovery and ARPA funding decisions based on Council's Work Session/July 12<sup>th</sup>

## III. Council Review of Goals and Project Focus Areas

- i. Discussion of what factors should be completed to address the goals/categories
- ii. Determining highest impact and categories/priorities



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- iii. Council agrees on goals and categories

Potential Goals/Categories for Consideration (New or Proposed Goals)
Health
Economic Instability
Housing
Education and Information Technology Infrastructure
Recovery of Revenue Loss



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### IV. Comments: Council Planning and Moving Forward

- i. Review of Framework Steps and Projecting Target Dates for Framework Implementation
  - Factors to Consider to Execute Steps
    - Collaboration between the Mayor and Council
    - Agreement on Targeted Timeline and Parameters to Execute Steps in Framework
- ii. Plan for the Next Session - Council's Key Desires of Accomplishment for the Next Session
  - Timeline – Specific and comprehensive for the framework and components – Staff will complete (GA, Federal legislation, etc.)
  - Chart to be completed- goals and categories chart and submissions – Staff will complete and share with members
  - Chart showing the committed funds – CSO, housing, state funds.
  - Recommended timeline from Administration
  - Council Priorities from the Retreat
  - Date to set up a framework, dates and time to expect info from Admin. –by



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Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> for a draft and final to Council by August 20<sup>th</sup>

- VFC leveraging dollars to the greatest extent possible. Some of this could already determine our dollars. For ex. 50 million to CSO. City must show a commitment of capital improvement dollars. Additional information needed from Ron and Bob Steidel.

iii. Final Comments –Update General Assembly Special Session – Council Lobbyist Ron Jordan, Advantus Strategies

iv. Final Comments

# Adjournment of Meeting



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**The next step** in the ARPA funding process is that **Richmond City Council determine its goals and project focus areas** for this funding. A separate worksheet (Excel document) is provided for Councilmembers to input desired goals and project focus areas. Please return to the Interim - CCOS on or before Monday, Aug. 2nd at 8 a.m. for items to be added to a cumulative list of all Councilmembers.

Councilmembers, please list project items and impact statements under the categories for discussion by all of Council. These suggestions would lead to discussions to finalize Council's priorities at the next Work Session. As you identify suggestions for ARPA funding, please consider other sources of funding anticipated with similar focus through the state and federal government (Broadband, Eviction, etc.).

## The ARPA Funding can be used within these areas:

- **Public Health**
- **Economic Impacts**
- **Premium Pay**
- **Revenue Loss**
- **Investments in Infrastructure**

Eligible uses must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency and cannot be grossly disproportionate to the harm experienced.

### PLEASE INPUT YOUR INFORMATION FOR A CUMULATIVE LIST

Potential Goals/Categories for Consideration (New or Proposed Goals)	COVID IMPACT STATEMENTS	Project Focus Areas/Description/Estimated Costs
Health		
Economic Instability		
Housing		



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<b>Education and Information Technology Infrastructure</b>		
<b>Recovery of Revenue Loss</b>		



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### **DRAFT PRINCIPLES**

#### **Covid-19 Recovery and ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) Action Planning**

**These draft guiding principles and goals were developed based on Council's work session discussion, July 12th.**

Council's Guiding Principles for Covid Recovery and ARPA funding decisions:

- To collaborate with the Administration to ensure Council's role in the recovery decision making process is clear, appropriate and timely
- To leverage recovery resources for the greatest impact
- To be data driven in understanding community challenges
- To actively engage the community so all can be heard
- To seek equity and inclusion, and address disparity when making decisions
- To ensure transparency throughout the process
- To ensure projects are sustainable, shovel ready and outcome focused
- To identify qualified census tracts
- To ensure alignment with existing plans and policy guidance
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### Alexandria Goals –ARPA and Recovery Funding

1. Ensure everyone has access to the basics
2. Help businesses recover and thrive
3. Ensure that recovery lifts everyone
4. Make long term investments that Increase community resilience
5. Build city government's capacity to plan, partner and perform

### Administration's Goals – Mayor's ARP Priority Areas

1. Supporting Children and Families (Seniors)
2. Transforming Infrastructure, Neighborhoods, and Public Spaces
3. Investing in Jobs and Economic Recovery (Business)
4. Improving Government Resilience and Response
5. Safe and Secure Neighborhood

## Richmond City Council's Goals

- Education
  - Workforce Development
- Information Technology Infrastructure
- Housing
- Health
- Economic Instability
- Recovery of Revenue Loss
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Premium Pay



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### Framework for Council Proposed Plan

As a part of the initial phase of the planning process, Council will agree on the steps needed to determine the ARPA funding process. The steps below provide points of discussion for Council's consideration to develop a proposed approach.

STEPS	Council's Agreement for Development of the plan may consist of the following steps:
1	Council will identify goals, projects and priorities according to categories from the ARPA guidelines and identify priorities from the past and any new priorities.
2	Determine the impact of the pandemic to Richmond residents and community impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Receive data to identify Richmond's needs according to ARPA guideline categories and eligible items.</li> <li>o Enhance Collaboration between Administration and Council.</li> <li>o Determine a timeline, assigning roles and tasks between Administration and Council staff and other resources needed.</li> <li>o Conduct Research and Gather Data to determine impact.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Determine the revenue loss eligible for reimbursement</li> <li>▪ Determine the premium payments eligible for reimbursement.</li> <li>▪ Determine the impact on community health, social/human services and economic impact.</li> <li>▪ Determine potential eligible infrastructure investments (Combined Sewer, Water, Broadband).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	Council and Administration will collaborate to present projects for consideration and indicate the impact, the costs and how decisions were reached.
4	Review all items and pare down the initial list to determine how to use funding and the funding needed.
5	Identify eligible and feasible items in the first tranche of funding.
6	Coordinate Community Engagement sessions to explain the ARPA process and for resident input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Inform the community how they can contribute to the process</li> <li>o Promote and conduct public sessions for community engagement.</li> <li>o Survey and/or solicit community interest in projects.</li> <li>o Promote public information notification.</li> </ul>
7	<b>Council and Administration will collaborate</b> to pare down the final list of priorities to create Tiers 1-3 to rank priority of projects for \$155 million funding. Composition of the collaborative Council and Administration Work Group will be determined.
8	Establish Partnerships and Leverage ARPA Funds - Research for awareness of available funding opportunities (Local, Federal and State government)



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Reference/Resource Material

### City of Alexandria Goals for ARPA

The table below serves as an example of projects completed in Alexandria, Virginia. Alexandria, settled on four goal for their ARPA funding. All projects that they selected to fund with ARPA funding falls into one of the four categories. In addition, the City identified administrative and operational requirements to support recovery and provide fiscal stewardship.

Recovery Goal	Project Name	Cost
Businesses Thrive	Lower King Street Closure/King Street Place short term improvements	\$ 100,000.00
	Visit Alexandria Web Site Enhancement	\$ 120,000.00
	New Business Support Programs	\$ 280,000.00
	Visit Alexandria, Expanding Audiences, Awareness & Regional Marketing	\$ 500,000.00
	Seed funding for Old Town North Community Development Authority	\$ 500,000.00
	Foundational Support for Commercial Business Districts	\$ 560,000.00
	Re-employment and Upskilling Project	\$ 1,120,000.00
Everyone has access to the basics	The Unified Early Childhood Workforce Stabilization Initiative	\$ 2,830,000.00
	Rental Resiliency	\$ 312,000.00
	Food Security System Advancement	\$ 2,500,000.00
	Alexandria Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program	\$ 3,000,000.00
	Alexandria Community Access and Emergency Support Grant Program	\$ 4,000,000.00
	Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) COVID-19 Eviction Prevention*	\$ 200,000.00
	Food/Rent Bridge Funding #2*	\$ 450,000.00
Food/Rent Bridge Funding #1*	\$ 1,000,000.00	
Recovery Lifts Everyone	Digital Equity Plan & Broadband Strategist and Policy Analyst	\$ 420,000.00
	Alexandria Library Outdoor Programs & Job Skills Workshops	\$ 24,000.00
	City Arts Relief and Recovery Grants to Alexandria-based Artist(s) and Arts Organizations	\$ 110,000.00
	Alexandria African American History Tourism Enhancements	\$ 295,000.00
	Increase Seasonal Staffing Hours at Freedom House	\$ 150,000.00
	Alexandria Community Remembrance Project	\$ 150,000.00
	Alexandria Library Mobile Hotspot Lending Program	\$ 20,000.00
	LGBTQ & BIPOC Equity Project	\$ 253,000.00
	Out of School Time Program (OSTP) Enhanced Enrichment Programming and Financial Assistance Opportunities	\$ 620,000.00
Court Mental Health & Asset Builder Program	\$ 500,000.00	
Long-term community investment	Arlandria Chirilagua Housing Cooperative Improvement Initiative (study)	\$ 50,000.00
	Flash Flooding spot improvements	\$ 1,900,000.00
	AHDC - Arlandria Community-Serving City Flex Space	\$ 2,000,000.00
	Stormwater State of Good Repair & Resiliency	\$ 3,852,000.00
	City Wide General COVID Expenses, Response, and Grant Administration	\$ 2,000,916.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 29,816,916.50</b>

\*Previously approved by City Council



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The following chart has topics that link COVID-19 impact statements and project focus descriptions.

Potential Categories for Consideration	COVID IMPACT STATEMENTS	Project Focus Areas/Description
<b>Health</b>	We lost 285 person and more than 2000 infected-medical care for long-term post COVID-19	Medical care for long-term post COVID-19
	Mental health and addictions cases drastically increased, leading to increases in suicidal deaths	Mental health services
	Families of low income and color greatest impacted without resources for meds and health care services	Resources for medical and health care services
	Disparities in vaccinations	Vaccinations needed in neighborhoods
<b>Economic Instability</b>	Job losses and insufficient income disparities	Job Loss
	Highest industries out of business-retails, entertainment, restaurants and small office	Business
	Remote Working Disparities	Work Disparities
	Front Line High Risk Employees – fire-police, health care	Front Line Employees
	Youth and low skill jobs loss	Job Loss
<b>Housing</b>	Evictions, foreclosures, forced sales, increased rents – increased disparities in affordability	Rental Instability
	Housing experience greater than 30% of income requiring alternative income for food, utilities, childcare, transportation and essential housing services and repairs neglected	Housing Instability
	Home Ownership not attainable	Affordable Housing
	Increased homelessness	Homelessness
<b>Education and Information Technology Infrastructure</b>	P-20 education gaps	Education Gaps
	Lack of internet services by zip code	Internet Disparities
	Disparity in resources to assist remote home learning	Educational Resources
	Higher education and technical career goals delayed	Education and Training Resource Development
	Broadband disparities and lack of equity in access	Broadband Disparities
<b>Recovery of Revenue Loss</b>	Revenue Loss	
	Equipment and fleet	
	Jobs and productive workforce	
	Delayed projects	



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### SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES – FEB/MAR 2021 COUNCIL RETREAT

Retreat Categories	Council Retreat Priorities
<b>PANDEMIC RECOVERY</b>	<b>Vaccine Distribution:</b> To ensure all are vaccinated in the City and to continue to follow all Health regulations and requirements to reduce the numbers of positive tests, and the spread of COVID-19
	<b>Mental Health:</b> To meet the mental health needs in the City to ensure quality health services are rendered, proper diagnoses done and proper facilities are provided Objectives include incorporating the Marcus Alert Pilot Plan, Behavior Health Docket and create an Opioid and Addictions Abatement Authority
	The City's trajectory for growth has been tremendously impacted by the pandemic. Recovery will require new business investments. New recovery dollars must provide incentives for the business community to innovate and invest, provide special benefits and health care support, re-think wages, and provide re-skills training for employees. In addition, research indicates a drastic decrease in the middle class population and an increase in long-term poverty indicators in several industries, consumer spending and travel.
	Emergency services in Pandemic policy review
	Safety re-opening crowd control policies
	Housing: Rent/Mortgage Assistance
	Eviction Prevention
	Transit Assistance
	Tax Relief
	Disproportionate effects on Communities/People of Color
<b>EQUITY</b>	Systemic Racism: identify and rectify City policies and ordinances that uphold systemic racism; acknowledge community's history
	Poverty: Plan and initiate wrap around services to permanently pull people/families out of poverty; i.e., housing, education, mental health, food security, transportation, reentry, and health care access
	Housing: Identify policy and budget opportunities to create affordable housing, transform public housing, and develop solutions to homelessness.
	Public Safety: review initiatives to transform public safety and build community trust
<b>QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	Capital Improvements: Such as wastewater, stormwater, roads, schools, parks, etc.
	Environment: Support clean and safe neighborhood initiatives, such as landscaping, crosswalks, and drainage.
	Value & Equity: Define what equity of services means, and work to catch up neighborhoods that have been left behind.
	District Priorities: such as food deserts, flood mitigations, CIP projects, affordable housing.



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<b>ECONOMIC VITALITY</b>	PS Affirmative action and employment
	PS Fair Income and Career Equity
	Regional Economics of Policing and Community Safety Shared Partnership
	Cross Data Sharing Policy
	Revenue Generation: review potential new revenue streams such as a casino or cannabis
	Partnerships: Collaborate with private sector, nonprofits, anchor institutions, other local governments and regional entities to prevent missed opportunities and duplicability of services. Also for initiatives such as homelessness that has a regional impact.
	Strategic Plan: Have a Council driven strategic plan that reviews the existing plans completed by Administration and align with Council priorities
<b>OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL</b>	City Council: build communication and trust, balance accountability with the school district, and identify legislative agendas for both state and federal representatives
	Council Staff: Identify pathway for staff to better support councilmembers, implement an effective collective communication strategy, and improve community communications, and professional development and training provided to councilmembers and staff.
	Other Communities: Review consequences of independent city structure and Dillon Rule, partner and learn from other local governments.
	Administration/Mayor: Identify strategic priorities for council to proactively work with the administration as opposed to reacting to proposals.