

INTRODUCED: January 14, 2019

A RESOLUTION No. 2019-R004

To request that the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation undertake a study to determine if those portions of the James River east from Orleans Street to the borders with Chesterfield and Henrico Counties and those portions west from the 1970 corporate limits of the city to the junction with Henrico and Chesterfield Counties, qualify for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – All Members of Council  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 28 2019 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the City Council that the parts of the James River flowing through the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield and contiguous to the city of Richmond’s portion designated under the Virginia Scenic Rivers System as the Historic Falls of the James State Scenic River, possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic, and natural characteristics of statewide significance and should likewise be included in the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

AYES:            9            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:    JAN 28, 2019    REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_    STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

That the Council hereby requests that the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation undertake a study to determine if those portions of the James River east from Orleans Street to the borders with Chesterfield and Henrico Counties and west from the 1970 corporate limits of the city to the junction with Henrico and Chesterfield Counties, qualify for inclusion in the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, upon adoption of this resolution, the City Clerk is hereby requested to send a copy of this resolution to the governing bodies of the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield.



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Allen Jackson, Richmond City Attorney  
Richmond Office of the City Attorney

**THROUGH** Lou Brown Ali *MKB*  
Council Chief of Staff *cc Behrke*

**FROM** William E. Echelberger, Jr, Council Budget Analyst *[Signature]*

**COPY** Parker C. Agelasto, 5th District Representative  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Meghan K. Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *MKB*  
Amy E. Robins, 5th District Liaison

**DATE** January 2, 2019

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE** Extend the Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Designation

# RECEIVED

JAN 04 2019

## OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an  Ordinance  Resolution

#### REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Parker C. Agelasto, 5th District Representative

#### SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Finance and Economic Development

#### ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The Patron requests a resolution to request that the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation undertake the study required as a first step to extending the existing Historic Falls of the James Scenic River Designation to include:

- East from Orleans Street to the borders with Chesterfield and Henrico Counties, and
- West from the Western boundary of the City to the junction with Chesterfield and Henrico Counties.

The Chief Administrative Officer is to provide a copy of the resolution to the Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the County Managers for Henrico and Chesterfield.

#### BACKGROUND

##### Summary:

- The portion of the James River that falls entirely within the boundaries of the City is already in the Scenic Rivers program as the Historic Falls of the James.
- The Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance.

## BACKGROUND

### Summary:

- The portion of the James River that falls entirely within the boundaries of the City is already in the Scenic Rivers program as the Historic Falls of the James.
- The Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance.
- The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation administers the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program.
- Several Steps are required before a river or river segment can be designated:
  - The locality requests a study by Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation staff.
  - The DCR conducts the study includes a map survey, literature review, on site evaluation of its scenic characteristics. Evaluation criteria include:
    1. Stream corridor vegetation
    2. Streambed and stream flow modifications
    3. Human development of visual corridor
    4. Historic features
    5. Landscape
    6. Quality of fishery
    7. Rare, threatened or endangered species
    8. Water quality
    9. Parallel roads
    10. Crossings
    11. Special features affecting aesthetics
    12. Recreational access
    13. Land conservation
    14. Overall aesthetic appeal
  - After completion of the study by DCR, the local governing body may approve a resolution in support of designation as a Scenic River.
  - The final step is for the General Assembly to pass a bill designating the waterway a state scenic river.
- The Virginia Scenic Rivers Program's is not the same as the federal Department of the Interior's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

## FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes  No

Budget Amendment Required Yes  No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact

The proposed resolution has no fiscal impact.

Attachment/s Yes  No