



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Education & Human Services Standing Committee

November 13, 2025

Prep Document for Committee Members

Previous Meeting: October 9, 2025

Next Meeting: December 11, 2025

Legistar Link: [City of Richmond - Meeting of Education and Human Services Standing Committee on 11/13/2025 at 2:00 PM](#)

Presentation

- Gun Violence Prevention Efforts (Greg Hopkins, Director of Office of Gun Violence Prevention)

Discussion Items

- RPS Updates: Jason Kamras, Superintendent
- DCAO HS Report: Amy Popovich, DCAO for Human Services

Papers for Consideration

- [Res. 2025-R041](#) (Avula, Approve Plan under Juvenile Community Crime Control Act)

Next Meeting Preview (Thu, 12/11)

- RHHD on Community Health Assessment and Annual Update
- OCF on Positive Youth Development Fund and Annual Update

Gun Violence Prevention Efforts

Notes:

- Richmond Office of Gun Violence Prevention: [Gun Violence Prevention | Richmond](#)
 - Res. 2021-R029 declared gun violence a public health crisis in Richmond.
 - City has averaged 53 homicides per year over last three years (2022-24) according to weekly crime data from RPD: [Weekly City Crime Stats | Richmond](#).
 - Mr. Hopkins' background includes work as Safer Communities and Juvenile Justice Program coordinator at VA DCJS.
 - The office main priority areas are as follows:
 - Reduce gun violence by working in partnership with other city agencies and the community;
 - Reduce the annual number of victims of violent crime;
 - Reduce the annual number of non-fatal shootings; Increase community trust and engagement with RPD; and,
 - Address the root causes of crime that contribute to violence.
- Recent VPM article [Richmond looks for holistic solutions to gun violence](#)
 - Safer Communities grant awarded \$3.32 million in 2023, but appropriated later in August special session after City adopted its budget. Ordinance not brought to City Council until March 2024.
 - \$3.5 million in grant funds for FY26

Potential Questions:

- What sorts of data does RPD and OGVP use to inform work against gun violence?
- What role does DJS play in gun violence prevention?
- You outline five strategic components of your work, including rapid response teams and trauma-informed strategies. Please outline the investments in each and how they work.
- Which initiatives and investments have you seen success from? Can we scale any of these up to help drive down gun violence even more?
- Please outline the non-departmental (partner agency) investments in the FY26 budget and how they're helping to reduce gun violence.
- Describe the role of RPD's Real-Time Crime Center to help with investigations, including use of surveillance equipment.
 - How many cameras do we have deployed? How many are mobile?
 - To what extent do we have access to private security camera feeds? What about RRHA and RPS cameras?
 - Describe Richmond's use of license plate reader technology.
- What can the General Assembly do in its upcoming session to help prevent gun violence?

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

1. Resolution 2025-R041

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Notes:

- Continued at October EHS meeting to allow for more discussion.
- Virginia Code (16.1-309.3(D)) requires City to approve local plan.
- Purpose of original requirement to create plans like this was “to establish a community-based system of progressive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offenses and treatment needs of youth before the court system.”
- City will receive up to \$347,683 from VA Department of Juvenile Justice for this work and commit an equal amount in local funding to match.
- Materials include letters of support from representatives from the Thirteenth District Court Service Unit.
- The plan identifies several programs and the # of youth anticipated for each program:
 - Community service 80 youth
 - Pre-d (probation) electronic monitoring 85 youth
 - Community monitoring 50 youth
 - Decision points (cognitive behavior intervention) 15 youth
 - Virginia Rules 20 youth
 - ARISE 30 youth
 - Restorative justice 10 youth
 - Specialize program services 10 youth
 - Larceny reduction 10 youth
 - Violence reduction program 20 youth
 - Broken Men 10 youth
 - Girls Circle 15 youth

Recommended Questions

- Can DJS share the total unduplicated number of youths served by the 12 programs covered by this plan last year?
- What was the total number of youth eligible for diversion programs last year?
- How does the state determine how much funding it provides the City for these diversion programs? Is the amount tied to the number of youths placed in diversion?
- Do we track what % of court-involved youth are offered diversion (vs. detention)?