



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of Council Chief of Staff

Public Safety Standing Committee

March 24, 2026

Legislative Summary

Previous Meeting: February 24, 2026

Next Meeting: April 28, 2026

Committee Notes

Presentation Items:

- Joseph Lowery – Briefing the Committee on the Citizen Review Board's progress and ongoing operations.
- Chip Decker, CEO – Richmond Ambulance Authority's 2026 RAA Updates and Quarterly Report.

Discussion Items:

- Rick Edwards, Chief – Richmond Police Department Updates.

Next Meeting:

April 24 – DPW and RPD on Illegal Dumping and Graffiti

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

1. Ordinance No. 2026-057

Patron: Mayor Avula

Key Points:

Authorizes CAO, for and on behalf of the City, to accept funds in the amount of \$225,388.00 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Police's Operation Ceasefire Special Fund by \$225,388.00.

- This award is in addition to previous award of \$250K from the Department of Criminal Justice Services
- The funds are to be used towards SWAT readiness and violence reduction.

Staff Questions:

1. Please elaborate on what is meant by SWAT readiness in the Administration's O&R.
2. Please elaborate on what is meant by violence reduction in the Administration's O&R.
3. Will additional City funds be needed to continue any program needs that these funds are being spent in the future or will these funds be spent on one-time expenditures?

Fiscal Impact: None Yes. The FY26 Budget is being amended to appropriate the funds.

2. Ordinance No. 2026-058

Patron: Mayor Avula

Key Points:

- Amends Ord. No. 2025-057, adopted May 12, 2025, which adopted the FY 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations: (i) increasing anticipated revenues by \$2M from certain fines and fees collected from the Safety Camera Program, (ii) creating a new special fund for the Department of Police entitled the "Safety Camera Program Special Fund," and (iii) appropriating the increase to the FY 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Police's "Safety Camera Program Special Fund" by \$2M, all for the purpose of funding the Safety Camera Program and Vision Zero Action Plan.
- Establishes the "Safety Camera Special Fund" (Fund).
- The fund will be used to receive civil penalty proceeds from fines for traffic violations under the traffic signal enforcement program.
- The amendment provides that the money in the fund is to be reserved for: 1.) sustaining the program and 2.) implementing Vision Zero Action Plan strategies.
- This mechanism was not provided for in the paper establishing the Traffic Signal Enforcement Program, Ord. 2007-179-156 which makes it difficult to use proceeds from the civil penalties.

Staff Questions:

1. How much of the funds are expected to be paid into administration of the program versus for Vision Zero needs?
2. Which Vision Zero needs will receive money from the fund?
3. Will the new "Department of Transportation" decide on allocations from the fund? If not, who?
4. Will disbursements from the fund require Council endorsement?

Fiscal Impact: None Yes. The Administration's O&R indicates that \$2M will be added to the City's Special Fund Budget.

3. Ordinance No. 2026-059

Patrons: Trammell and Abubaker

Key Points:

- To amend City Code 2-728, concerning the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, to require the routing of E-911 calls for emergency medical services to the Richmond Ambulance Authority by the Department of Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response.
- The paper requires immediate transfer of medical only E-911 calls to the RAA once they are identified as such calls.
- The paper directs that DEC will route calls to RAA at the conclusion of processing calls for fire or police, or both, if the call includes a need for fire and police, or both, in addition to medical assistance.
- These requirements will not apply if RAA is no longer a authorized PSAP.

Staff Questions: N/A

Fiscal Impact: None Yes. The Code amend directs an earlier transfer of calls therefore no expected costs are anticipated.

Presentation Items Potential Questions:

Chip Decker, CEO – Richmond Ambulance Authority. 2026 RAA Updates and Quarterly Report.

- Potential Questions:
- Please explain \$58M in bad debts apparently owned to RAA.
- Are these bad debts collectible?
- Is there a need to for funds to equip the recently acquired ambulances?
- Is there an alternative to City using city funds to pay for the recently acquired ambulances?
- Does RAA pursue federal grants to pay for vehicles and equipment?

Joseph Lowery – Civilian Review Board Progress Update Briefing the Committee on the Citizen Review Board's progress and ongoing operations.

- Potential Questions:
- Can you tell us how cases have been referred to the Board? For example, where cases referred by the Police Department, citizens, other officers?
- How will the Council and Mayor be informed of findings/case outcomes?
- How will the Public be informed of findings/case outcomes?
- Please remind the Committee of Board's relationship to the Commonwealth's Attorney.