



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2018-148: To amend Ord. No. 2017-036, adopted May 15, 2017, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by re-appropriating a \$1,000,000.00 portion of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 fund balance excess, assigned by Res. No. 2017-R080, adopted Nov. 6, 2017, to the General Fund Cash Transfer for Capital Projects program, and appropriated these transferred funds to the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues by \$1,000,000.00 and the amount appropriated to the School Capital Maintenance project in the Education category by \$1,000,000.00, all for the purpose of abating lead in the water supply first and then other issues related to health and safety in public schools administered by the School Board of the City of Richmond, Virginia.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Budget & Strategic Planning
Date: May 21, 2018

PETITIONER: Jay A. Brown, Director of Budget & Strategic Planning

LOCATION: City of Richmond

PURPOSE: To amend the FY2018 Capital Improvement budget (Ord. 2017-038) by appropriating funds in the amount of \$1,000,000, earmarked in the assigned portion of the general fund balance, as of 6/30/2017, to the Richmond Public Schools – School Maintenance Capital Project to fund the abatement of lead in water fountains in public schools.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION:

Recent media coverage has indicated that both Ginter Park and George Mason elementary schools' "water fountains were shut down after preliminary reports of water testing showed high, but still legal, levels of lead" according to the Richmond Times Dispatch. In addition, Channel 12 On Your Side also indicated "SB1359, if passed, will require schools to address any water contamination issues in potable water from sources identified by the EPA as high priority for testing, giving priority for such testing plan to schools whose school building was constructed, in whole or in part, before 1986".

In response to this recent media coverage, this amendment seeks to appropriate funds that were specifically set aside to address the abatement of lead in the water supply of school facilities, to RPS' school maintenance capital project. By doing so, RPS will have the funding to address this critical issue at their school facilities first, and any unspent funds, can be used to address other issues related to health and safety, per resolution 2017-080.

Council resolution #2017-R080 created a new reservation of assigned fund balance called the School Maintenance – Lead Abatement Reserve. Per this resolution, this reservation of funds is intended to be used for the abatement of lead in the water supply, first, and then other issues related to health and safety, in public schools administered by the School Board of the City of Richmond.

This ordinance seeks to appropriate funds to Richmond Public Schools to assist in addressing the matter of lead found in water fountains in school facilities.

The City Administration recommends adoption of this ordinance.

Staff Contact: Jay A. Brown, Department of Budget and Strategic Planning (646-3898)