



## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

### City Council Questions Received by Council Chief of Staff Offices

1. What is included within the Mayor's "premium pay"
2. Does eviction diversion include homeowners' paying their property tax bill?
3. Robinson: AHTF: would admin consider a consistent dedicated source of revenue for AHTF? \$10 million
4. Larson: What within the Mayor's Proposed ARPA is usually funded within our existing CIP?
5. Robinson: explanation from Admin whether or not Council's housing proposals are covered within the Mayor's proposed AHTF funding and proposal.
6. Saunders will provide info on collaborating on the trailer park mentioned by Trammell
7. Clarify what is being funding with CBG funds
8. Larson: within the Health section: do we really need to be building new buildings? Suggested using the community centers and properties that we already have.
  - a. Is there plan for staffing in the future?
9. Larson: wants to know the alignment for the Mayor's proposal to Richmond 300 and the different nodes and business districts.
10. Larson: Is there anything in the Mayor's proposal that helps businesses to outdoor dining?
11. Robinson: greater information on staffing, timeline, speed of deployment, and timeline for procurement for these proposals.
12. Robinson: signs for how high the water is so residents know if they can drive on a flooded road.
13. Larson: lead abatement: how will it be executed, communicated, and completed?
14. Jordan: information regarding the credit assessments
15. Jordan: residents with flooded basements, would city help pay for back flow pumps for residents?
16. Larson: So we are permitted to do cameras in school cameras? Including private school zones?



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### Administration Responses

1. ***“What is included in the Mayor’s ‘premium pay’”***

**Administration Response:** A \$3,000 bonus for first responders within the agencies of: Department of Justice Services, Department of Emergency Communications, Richmond Fire Department, Richmond Police Department, and Richmond Ambulance Authority.

2. ***“Does eviction diversion include homeowners’ paying their property tax bill?”***

**Administration Response:** If this question is in reference to the \$22 M already paid out by the State’s RRP to help keep Richmonders housed, the answer is no. The RRP Program ran by the State is only for rent relief. See one-pager attached as well as the language excerpted from VHCD’s website below. Earlier, the Program provided both mortgage and rent relief assistance but now the State’s program only provides rent relief assistance.

*Excerpt: The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RRP may provide financial assistance for rent payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward with opportunity for renewal based on availability of funding and the household's need for additional assistance and continued eligibility. The total payments may not exceed a total of 15 months of rental assistance per household. Mortgage relief applications are no longer being accepted at this time.*

3. ***Robinson: “AHTF: would admin consider a consistent dedicated source of review for AHTF? \$10 million”***

**Administration Response:** The Mayor’s ARP proposal allocates \$20 million into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. This means \$10 million in this Fiscal Year and another \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2023. Because of this investment, we are meeting the Affordable Housing Trust Fund goal established in the city’s Equity Agenda, and supported by city council, of \$10 million per year four years ahead of schedule.

Additionally, the administration is working to bring forward a policy that would commit us to maintain this investment of \$10 million annually AFTER we utilize our ARP dollars these next two years. With good planning, we can be prepared to fund this shared priority in our general fund every year from here on.

This additional funding represents over a 1,268 percent increase in dollars for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund since Mayor Stoney took office.



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4. **Larson: “What within the Mayor’s Proposed ARPA is usually funding within our existing CIP?”**

**Administration Response:** Southside Community Center

5. **Robinson: “explanation from Admin whether or not Council’s housing proposals are covered within the Mayor’s proposed AHTF funding and proposal.”**

**Administration Response:** The Mayor’s plan puts \$20M in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund will determine utilization and expenditures for each year.

6. **“Saunders will provide info on collaborating on the trailer park mentioned by Trammell”**

**Administration Response:** Applications to ameliorate trailer homes and site utilities could be submitted to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for consideration.

7. **“Clarify what is being funding with CBG”**

**Administration Response:** CDBG – Single Family Rehabilitation is \$1,191,843 for four different projects and CDBG- Single Family Homeownership is \$500,000 for two different projects.

8. **Larson: “within the Health section: do we really need to be building new buildings? Suggested using the community centers and properties that we already have. Is there a plan for staffing in the future?”**

New Community Centers: Southside, TB Smith, Church Hill (at Luck’s Field); Calhoun

These community centers will include state of the art recreation and community facilities in the center of neighborhoods, provide after-school and summer programming for youth, serve as host sites for USDA food programs, and include adult and senior programming for surrounding residents. In total, these centers will be walkable for approximately 100,000 Richmond residents in the city’s 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd Council Districts.

These centers will be community hubs, or opportunity centers, where city services will be accessible for neighbors targeted intentionally in areas that have seen historic disinvestment.

- **Southside Community Center** will be the first new-build community center developed in the City of Richmond in more than 30 years.
  - It will serve more than 25,000 Southside residents from the City’s 9th, 8th, and 4th Council Districts



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- **TB Smith Community Center** will be the first full service community and recreation center in the City's 8th District and will serve more than 10,000 residents from the 8th and 6th Council Districts.
  - The proposed Fall Line Trail will connect this new community center to Bellemeade, Hillside and Blackwell.
  - The proposed James River Branch Trail will connect this new community center to Southside Plaza, George Wythe High School, and the James River Park System
- **Church Hill Community Center** will be located central to Richmond's Church Hill Neighborhoods - walkable from Whitcomb, Mosby, Fairfield, Creighton, Union Hill, Peter Paul, Eastview, Woodville and Breuer's.
  - It will serve more than 35,000 residents from the 7th and 6th Council Districts
- **Calhoun Community Center** renovations and additions will update the aging center and provide access to state of the art recreational and community amenities and services for more than 40,000 residents from the city's 3rd, 2nd, and 6th Council Districts.
  - Including the repair and reopening of the pool facility

Staffing Plan: We will identify staffing needs by engaging the community on what programs and activities they would like to see take place at the new and renovated community centers. In addition, we will be working with community partners and organization who might provide programming at these location as a complement to what PRCF provides. New community centers could have a 3-4 year completion date allowing for ample partnerships and community feedback for programming.

9. **Larson: *"wants to know the alignment for the Mayor's proposal to Richmond 300 and the different nodes and business districts."***

**Administration Response:** See Appendix A

10. **Larson: *"Is there anything in the Mayor's proposal that helps businesses to outdoor dining?"***

**Administration Response:** No. The Mayor's proposed funding for small business is for marketing and technical assistance. There are several existing outdoor dining support programs currently offered by the city as a result of the pandemic. In addition, private property owners have always had options on how to use their property in compliance with ABC laws.



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11. **Robinson: “greater information on staffing, timeline, speed of deployment, and timeline for procurement for these proposals.”**

**Administration Response:** The administration approved thawing two Procurement FTE positions and those recruitments are underway. The administration will also seek authority to increase the number of FTEs in DPS to help manage the anticipated large influx of solicitations expected for ARPA, CSO, and IJA related projects.

Spending hundreds of millions of ARPA, CSO, and IJA dollars within slightly more than five years, much of which will involve procuring goods, services, and construction services with strict adherence to federal procurement laws and policies and those of the Commonwealth and RVA, will take significant time and effort to complete. Proper planning, preparation, and execution of multiple solicitations, followed by negotiations and multiple contract awards will require precision and commitment. Obviously this work cannot be done at the expense of ongoing government operational needs but must be completed in tandem with DPS’s normal day-to-day workload.

The City will compete for qualified contractors and suppliers with departments and agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia, contiguous localities, and local school districts. If the City’s solicitations are issued considerably later than our competitors, the City could find itself without contracts for the acquisition and construction of desired projects or the cost of those projects could be so exorbitant the volume of projects would need to be reduced to remain within budget. Additional challenges the City faces are potential lack of supplies and materials (e.g., lumber and steel) as a result of the current global supply chain disruptions. Labor shortages further exacerbate these problems. As such, it would behoove the City to make decisions regarding which projects will be approved for ARPA and IJA funding as quickly as possible.

12. **Robinson: “signs for how high the water is so residents know if they can drive on a flooded road.”**

**Administration Response:** DPW is completing this task in the FY22 operating budget.

13. **Larson: “lead abatement: how will it be executed, communicated, and completed?”**

**Administration Response:** The program is at: <https://www.rva.gov/public-utilities/lead-service-line-replacement-grant-program>



**14. Jordan: “information regarding the Climate Assessment”**

**Administration Response:** We have not had a formal assessment of our greenhouse gas inventory since 2008. A risk assessment will inform a forward thinking process that will allow us to understand, accurately mitigate, and track the science for integration into city plans, including: RVAgreen 2050, Richmond 300, Clean Water Action Plan, Water Supply Master Plan, Urban Tree Canopy Master Plan, Transportation Plans, Parks Master Plan, and Facilities and Fleet Master Plan. Building on work slated for FY22, the Office of Sustainability has developed a preliminary framework and budget for climate risk assessment and implementation with other city departments that will need an estimated \$575,000 in new funding to execute. This plan includes items such as: climate risk and vulnerability assessment, urban heat island reduction plan with a focus on vulnerable populations and ecosystems, equity-centered and neighborhood-based adaptation and resilience strategies, and a detailed review of city infrastructure.

**15. Jordan: “residents with flooded basements, would city help pay for back flow pumps for residents?”**

**Administration Response:** Yes, sump pumps or back flow preventers could be considered under the Healthy Homes Grant Program.

**16. Larson: So we are permitted to do cameras in school cameras? Including private school zones?**

**Administrative Response:** Please clarify the question in regards to ARPA funding.