

**Presentation to
City Council Committee on Public Safety
by RRHA'S CEO, Steven Nesmith**

TOUCH POINTS

**RRHA's New Enhanced Security and
Enforcement Strategy in Coordination with RPD**

RRHA's Enhanced Security and Enforcement Strategy in Coordination with RPD

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- **Mission:** As the weather gets hotter, there tends to be an increase in crime, hence RRHA's Enhanced Security and Enforcement Strategy this Spring and Summer of 2025 aims to reduce crime, (including crime committed by non-public housing residents), and create “safe spaces” for our youth, thus promote the health and well-being of all public housing residents and our senior sites.
- **Note:** Although this new enhanced security and enforcement strategy is dedicated for the Spring and Summer 2025, it will be part of our larger comprehensive year long safety and security efforts for our residents.



More Strategic Security Deployment as it relates to our Hot Spot Strategy

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Goal:

- **Optimize both RRHA's Security Team and RPD's security presence in high-risk areas to prevent and reduce crime.**

Action Items:

- **In coordination with RPD, deploy more a creative “force deployment” of RPD officers with RRHA's Security Team with a clearer focus on City of Richmond Police Hot Spot Deployments, based on RPD Crime Reports**



Applying De-Escalation Training and Techniques

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Goal: Provide De-Escalation Training to Youth to Reduce Crime

The use of Verbal De-Escalation:

- **Use calm, non-threatening voice tone and open body language**
- **Acknowledge emotions** ("I see that you're upset...")
- **Avoid commands or yelling—ask, don't tell**
- **Use active listening** ("Can you help me understand what happened?")

Third-Party Intervention

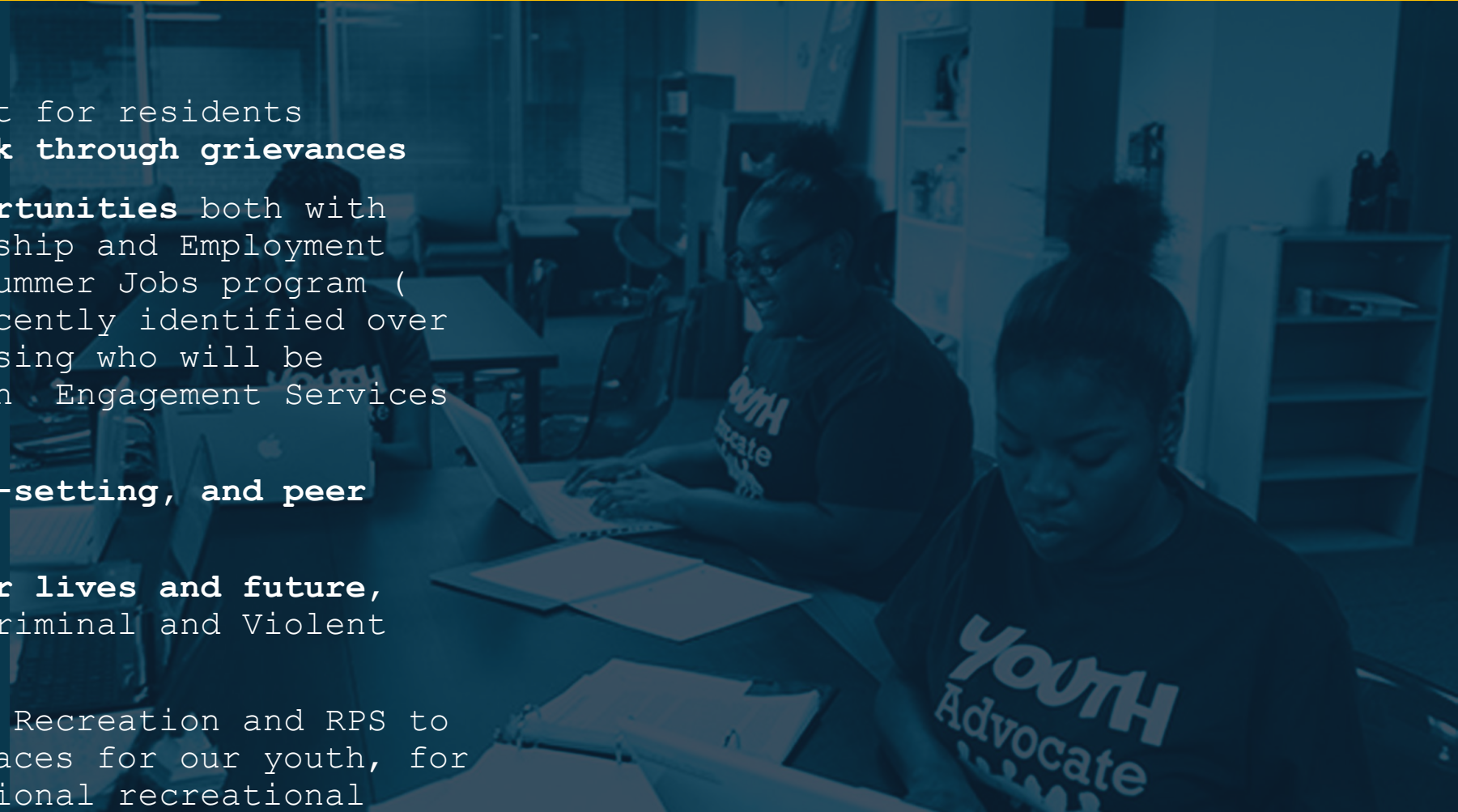
- **Bring in trusted mediators** (e.g., community leaders, resident advocates, or elders)
- **Use peer interrupters or individuals with lived experience** (as many violence interruption programs do)



Creating Safe Spaces for Youth and Employment Opportunities

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- Provide a safe environment for residents (especially youth) to **talk through grievances**
- **Providing summer job opportunities** both with RRHA's CEO's Youth Leadership and Employment Academy, and the City's Summer Jobs program (which City of Richmond recently identified over 150 youth from public housing who will be participating in its Youth Engagement Services Program)
- Focus on **mentorship, goal-setting, and peer support**
- Teach youth to **value their lives and future**, reducing involvement in Criminal and Violent Behavior
- Partnering with Parks and Recreation and RPS to locate additional safe spaces for our youth, for example, the use of additional recreational



Enhanced use of RRHA's 2130 Lease Enforcement Tools

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- **Enforce lease violations with enhanced use of RRHA's 2130 Lease Enforcement Tool.** The 2130 lease enforcement tool focuses on all lease violations, for example, any unauthorized guest or criminal activity being conducted inside RRHA unit.
- **The 2130 notice informs the tenant that they are in violation of their lease and must take measures to abate/correct the violation within 21 days.**
- **If resident does not comply, within 21 days then RRHA can issue an unlawful detainer, to proceed with eviction.**



Resident Engagement & Education – Not Over Policing Communities

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- **Promote Better Use of RRHA's Tip Line.** RRHA's 'See Something, Say Something' Campaign using our new 'Tip Line – and being able to report crimes without the fear of retaliation. Deploy a more robust Communication Strategy – Visibility of the tip-line number via Key Tags and other sources of communications.
- **When residents see something in real time, they can report it on the Tip-Line**
RRHA's Communications Division will utilize a multi-pronged strategy to highlight the availability and encourage the use of the Tip Line by public housing residents
- **Engage public housing resident leadership e.g., the RTO and Resident Council Leaders in overall new enhanced security and enforcement strategy**
- **Coordinate services for families in crisis- collaborating with external partners and City Agencies to assist families impacted by crime with Resident Services and RRHA's Property Management Offices.**

City Council Members | Questions & Answers

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