



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Education & Human Services Standing Committee

June 11, 2026

Prep Document for Committee Members

Previous Meeting: May 14, 2026

Next Meeting: July 9, 2026

Legistar Link: [City of Richmond - Meeting of Education and Human Services Standing Committee on 6/11/2026 at 2:00 PM](#)

Presentations:

- Juvenile Justice and Gun Violence Prevention Efforts ~ Greg Hopkins, Director of Justice Services/Office of Gun Violence Prevention

Discussion Items

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

Papers for Consideration

1. [ORD. 2026 - 139](#): Transfers \$80,000 from the Venture Richmond organizational subsidy allocation to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (DNCS) to support CARITAS Surge Shelter operations. The ordinance reallocates existing General Fund resources without increasing overall City spending.

*** Council staff recommend hearing the following two papers together as a block:*

2. [*ORD. 2026- 140](#): Authorizes the City to accept approximately \$1.16 million in National Opioid Settlement funds and appropriates the revenue to DNCS's National Opioid Settlement Special Fund. The funding will be used for opioid abatement and remediation efforts aimed at addressing the opioid crisis in Richmond.
3. [*ORD 2026-141](#): Transfers \$300,000 from DNCS's National Opioid Settlement Special Fund to the Sheriff's Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program Special Fund. The funding will support treatment services for incarcerated individuals with substance use disorders.

4. [ORD 2026-142](#): Authorizes a grant agreement with the YMCA of Greater Richmond to provide low-cost after-school programming at six Richmond elementary schools. The partnership is intended to expand access to safe, structured enrichment opportunities for students outside of school hours.

*** Council staff recommend hearing the following two papers together as a block:*

5. [*ORD 2026-143](#): Authorizes a second amendment to the City's grant agreement with The Salvation Army to extend operations of the inclement weather and year-round emergency shelter at 1900 Chamberlayne Avenue through June 30, 2027, with options for up to three additional one-year extensions. The amendment ensures continuity of shelter services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
6. [*ORD 2026-144](#): Authorizes a first amendment to the City's lease agreement with The Salvation Army for a portion of the property at 1900 Chamberlayne Avenue. The amendment supports the continued operation of a resource and training center that provides services and assistance to residents in need.

Board Vacancies

- [none]

Outstanding Follow-Up Items/Reminders

- [none]

Next Meeting Preview (Thu, 7/9)

Presentations:

- [none]

Gun Violence Prevention

Notes on Presentation:

- **Slides 3–4:** CY2025 shooting data shows that Black residents, males, and young adults/adolescents continue to represent the majority of shooting victims. East End and Northside neighborhoods experienced the highest concentration of shootings, reinforcing the need for targeted prevention and intervention strategies.
- **Slides 5–8:** Through the FY26 Safer Communities Grant Program, community partners delivered violence prevention, intervention, workforce development, survivor services, and trauma-informed programming. Through Q3, the initiative reported serving more than **16,600 residents**, conducting **395 activities**, and deploying approximately **\$3.2 million** in grant resources.
- **Slides 9–12:** DJS highlighted the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) as a primary diversion and prevention tool. FY26 programming served **251 youth**, while the 13th Court Service Unit reported **865 intake cases** and **517 diversion-eligible youth**, reflecting continued demand for community-based alternatives to detention.
- **Slides 13–15:** The Trauma Healing Response Network (THRN) continues to serve as Richmond’s post-violence intervention and healing strategy, providing emergency relief, wellness checks, grief support, relocation assistance, and retaliation prevention services. FY26 reporting included **927 wellness checks**, **126 emergency relief requests**, and **4 reported retaliations prevented**.
- **Slides 16–20:** OGVP and DJS outlined upcoming priorities including implementation of Operation Ceasefire funding, partnership with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR), expanded violence prevention programming, and continued alignment around a public health approach to violence reduction that incorporates prevention, intervention, and healing strategies.

Potential Questions:

1. Beyond participation numbers, what measurable outcomes are being tracked to determine whether Safer Communities, THRN, and other gun violence prevention programs are reducing shootings, recidivism, or retaliation?
2. Given that East End and Northside continue to experience the highest concentrations of gun violence, how are resources being targeted to those neighborhoods, and what metrics are being used to evaluate effectiveness?
3. Several initiatives rely on state and grant funding. What is the City's long-term strategy for sustaining successful programs if future grant funding is reduced or unavailable?
4. On slide 16, the strategic evaluation recommends restructuring the gun violence framework and improving outcome tracking. What specific changes are anticipated, and when can Council expect to receive updated performance measures or evaluation results?

ORD 2026-139: CARITAS Surge Shelter Operations (\$80,000 Transfer)

Staff Notes:

- Transfers \$80,000 from a Venture Richmond appropriation to DNCS to cover additional CARITAS surge shelter expenses incurred during Winter Storm Fern.
- The City extended surge shelter operations beyond the originally planned schedule due to emergency winter weather conditions.
- Funding was made available after Venture Richmond informed the City it would not require the allocated funds during FY26.
- The ordinance reconciles expenditures associated with the emergency shelter extension.

Potential Questions:

1. Does Administration anticipate requesting additional surge shelter funding in future fiscal years given recent winter weather trends?

ORD 2026-140: National Opioid Settlement Funds (\$1.16M)

Staff Notes:

- Authorizes acceptance and appropriation of approximately \$1.16 million in additional opioid settlement proceeds received from multiple pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, and retailers.
- Richmond has been receiving annual settlement payments since FY22 and is expected to continue receiving payments through 2038.
- Funds are restricted to approved opioid abatement and remediation activities and are deposited into the City's National Opioid Settlement Special Fund.
- No local match is required.

Potential Questions:

1. What opioid abatement programs are currently funded through the settlement fund, and how have outcomes been measured?
2. How much total opioid settlement funding has Richmond received to date, and how much remains unspent?
3. What priorities are proposed for this newest allocation?

ORD 2026-141: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program Transfer (\$300,000)

Staff Notes:

- Transfers \$300,000 from the National Opioid Settlement Special Fund to the Sheriff's Medication Assisted Treatment Pilot Program.
- Supports medication-assisted treatment for incarcerated individuals who enter the jail with a valid prescription for opioid use disorder treatment.
- Funding will cover medications and an additional registered nurse position to coordinate treatment and discharge planning.
- The program is intended to reduce overdose risk among individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

Potential Questions:

1. How many individuals are expected to be served annually through the MAT Pilot Program?
2. What metrics will be used to evaluate the program's effectiveness and determine whether it should be expanded?
3. How will participants be connected to treatment providers and support services after release?

ORD 2026-142: YMCA After-School Programming Contract

Staff Notes:

- Authorizes an agreement with the YMCA of Greater Richmond to continue operating after-school programming at six elementary schools.
- The City currently supports low- and no-cost after-school programming at all elementary schools and zone middle schools.
- The YMCA operates six elementary sites while Parks and Recreation operate the remaining elementary locations.
- Administration notes the partnership allows the City to maintain consistent program fees while reducing operating costs compared to direct City operation.

Potential Questions:

1. Are there waitlists or unmet demand for after-school programming at any sites?
2. Do we anticipate doing a needs assessment for after-school programming to ensure we are targeting the areas with the most need?

ORD 2026-143: Salvation Army Shelter Operations Contract Extension

Staff Notes:

- Extends the City's grant agreement with The Salvation Army through June 30, 2027, with options for up to three additional one-year renewals.
- Supports continued operation of both the year-round emergency shelter and the City's inclement weather shelter at 1900 Chamberlayne Avenue.
- The partnership was originally authorized by Council in February 2024.
- Ensures continuity of shelter operations while maintaining existing service capacity.

Potential Questions:

1. What performance measures are included in the agreement to evaluate service delivery?
2. How does this facility fit into the City's broader homelessness response strategy?

ORD 2026-144: Salvation Army Lease Agreement Amendment

Staff Notes:

- Extends the City's lease agreement for the Community Resource and Training Center located at 1900 Chamberlayne Avenue.
- Provides one guaranteed additional year with the option for up to nine one-year renewals upon mutual agreement.
- Functions as a companion ordinance to the grant agreement extension.
- Supports continued operation of the City's resource and training center alongside shelter services.

Potential Questions:

1. What services are currently provided through the Community Resource and Training Center?
2. Are there any anticipated facility improvements or service expansions during the extended lease term?