



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of Council Chief of Staff

Public Safety Standing Committee

February 24, 2026

Legislative Summary

Previous Meeting: October 28, 2025

Next Meeting: March 24, 2026

Committee Notes

Presentation Items:

- Stephen Willoughby, Director – Department of Emergency Communications and Emergency Response. 2026 Status Update Incident Response (Hagerty Report).
- Rick Edwards, Chief – Richmond Police Department. 2025 Crime Review Automated License Plate Readers.

Discussion Items:

- None.

Next Meeting:

March 24 – Expect Civilian Review Board Updates.

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

1. Ordinance No. 2025-287

Patron Mayor Avula

Key Points:

- Amends City Code § 27-131, concerning the traffic signal enforcement program, for the purpose of establishing the way civil penalties are allocated.
- Establishes the “Safety Camera Special Fund” (Fund).
- The fund will be used to receive civil penalty proceeds from summons issued for traffic violations under the traffic signal enforcement program established under section 27-131 of the City Code.
- 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.

- The City's Safe and Healthy Streets Commission endorses this proposal. Its resolution to do so is attached to the legislation.
- This necessary mechanism was not provided for in the paper establishing the Traffic Signal Enforcement Program, Ord. 2007-179-156 and 2025-057 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. Where has the money been going until now (before the establishment of this fund). How much money has already been collected to date?
3. Which Vision Zero needs will receive money from the fund?
4. Will the new DOT decide on allocations from the fund? If not, who?
5. 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.

Presentation Item Potential Questions:

1. **Stephen Willoughby, Director** – Department of Emergency Communications and Emergency Response. 2026 Status Update Incident Response (Hagerty Report). The Administration is implementing recommendations from assessment of emergencies/EOC management during the 2025 Winter Water Crises. This is an update on that implementation effort.
 - Potential Questions:
 - Does Hagerty remain a paid consultant?
 - Is the assessment complete?
 - Is the Administration rejecting any of the recommendations? If so, why?
 - When do you anticipate full completion of the accepted recommendations?
 - How did implementation of the recommendations impact City reactions to the latest snow and ice emergency?
 - What prompts activation and deactivation of the EOC?
2. **Rick Edwards, Chief** – Richmond Police Department. Annual Crime Report
 - Potential Question:
 - Can you address concerns about the rise reported domestic violence in the City?
 - Are you comfortable that officers are fully trained in addressing domestic violence in to protect their safety and victims?
 - How does RPD work with other agencies to get victims help for domestic violence victims?
 - What do you attribute to the drop in murders?
 - Does an overall drop in violent crime allow officers greater ability to address speeding and “run radar?”
 - Does an overall drop in violent crime allow officers greater ability to address complaints of prostitution and drug dealing on the Midlothian and Richmond corridors?

- Does an overall drop in violent crime allow officers greater ability to address complaints of illegal dumping and graffiti in the City?
- Can you tell us more about deployment of electronic tools such as Flock, drones, and ShotSpotter?