



City of Richmond

Formal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, July 27, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (early departure)
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival) (early departure)
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., and presided.

Invocation was offered by Pastor Ben Campbell of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 East Grace Street, Richmond, VA.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 24, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, July 27, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

Vice President Chris Hilbert moved that the following appointments and reappointments be approved:

Board name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name	Terms
Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks (13 members)	3 rd District Representative	Elaine Summerfield 3 rd District Resident (reappointment)	10/24/2020 – 10/24/2023
	8 th District Representative	Tia Palmer 8 th District Resident (reappointment)	09/26/2020 – 09/26/2023
Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board (9 members)	Person with a disability*	Gabriel Bibb 4 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/27/2023
	Senior citizen*	Mark Bouziane 4 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/27/2023 Succeeding Maureen Eberhardt
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Board (5 members)	Must be residents of the region that is served by the community college and should include residents from various businesses, industries, and professions being served by the community college	Shawn Nicholson 6 th District Resident	06/30/2020 – 06/30/2024 Succeeding Eldon Burton
Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (15 members)	*	Irvin Dallas 7 th District Resident (reappointment)	07/01/2020 – 06/30/2023
		Colleen Howarth 1 st District Resident	07/01/2020 – 07/01/2023 Succeeding Thomas Bannard
Affordable Housing Trust Fund Oversight Board (10 members)	Representative from Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities*	Aubrey Jones 3 rd District Employment	07/27/2020 – 11/10/2023 Succeeding Steven Saltzberg
Audit Committee (7 members)	Certified Public Accountant	William Chaney 1 st District Resident (reappointment)	07/25/2020 – 07/25/2023
Ethics Reform Commission (11 members)	*	Nathan Joyce 6 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/27/2023
Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board (16 members)	Resident of a City Council district with a 20% poverty rate*	Dominic Barrett 5 th District Resident (reappointment)	7 th District Resident 07/27/2020 – 03/09/2023
		Carmen Simon	07/27/2020 – 09/14/2023 Succeeding Ceonna Johnson
PlanRVA (7 members)	Qualified Voter*	Jacob Giovia 7 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 11/22/2023 Succeeding Mike Gray
Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority (7 directors)	Resident of the city	Neil Millhiser 2 nd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 01/28/2021 Succeeding Tiffany Jana
	Certified Public Accountant *	Marquia Gunn 7 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/25/2024 Succeeding Meda Lane
Board of Building Code Appeals, Electrical Division (8 members)	Public Electric Power Utility Representative*	Noah Ford 6 th District Employment (reappointment)	07/22/2020 – 07/22/2023
	Electrical Contractor*	Jason Biniasz 1 st District Resident	07/27/2020 – 06/25/2023 Succeeding Jeffon T. Neal
Board of Building Code Appeals, Plumbing and Mechanical Division (8 members)	Alternate*	Justin White 7 th District Resident (reappointment)	07/25/2020 – 07/25/2023
Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (6 members)	Resident*	Nathan Joyce 6 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 03/22/2021 succeeding Darlene Mallory
Clean City Commission	Corporate/Citizen Volunteer Representative	Charles D'Aprix 7 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 01/27/2021 succeeding M. Jane Hotchkiss
Commission of Architectural Review Board (9 members)	Richmond Association of Realtors	Neville Johnson 1 st District Resident (reappointment)	07/31/2020 – 07/31/2023

Board name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name	Terms
Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority (9 members)	Citizen Representative*	Neil Kessler 6 th District Employment (reappointment)	07/27/2020 – 03/26/2024
		Basil Gooden 2 nd District Employment	07/27/2020 – 06/28/2022 succeeding Heidi Abbott
		Barrett Hardiman 3 rd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 01/09/2024 succeeding Samuel Young
		William Johnson 6 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 03/26/2024 succeeding Elliott Harrigan
Urban Design Committee (10 members)	Citizen Representative*	Charles Woodson 5 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 05/13/2022 succeeding Sahied Mansaray
Richmond Public Library Board (9 members)	Qualified Voter*	William Yates 1 st District Resident (reappointment)	07/01/2020 – 06/30/2024
		Barbara Burton 3 rd District Resident (reappointment)	06/30/2020 – 06/30/2024
		Brent Graves 4 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 06/30/2022 succeeding Kevin Butterfield
		Sheron Carter-Gunter 4 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 06/30/2024 succeeding Daisy Weaver
		Garrett Sawyer 4 th District Resident	07/27/2020 – 06/30/2024 succeeding David Lydiard
		Gail Zwirner 2 nd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/27/2024 succeeding Tanya Francis
Board of Trustees of the Richmond Retirement System (7 members)	Retiree*	Daisy Weaver 2 nd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 11/22/2023 succeeding Nancy Leake
	*	Elizabeth Jennings 1 st District Resident (reappointment)	10/24/2020 – 10/24/2023
	Classified Service Representative	David Naoroz 2 nd District Resident (reappointment)	10/27/2020 – 10/27/2023
Sister Cities Commission (13 members)	*	Thomas Lisk 1 st District Resident (reappointment)	07/25/2020 – 07/25/2023
		Ronald Timmons 2 nd District Resident (reappointment)	09/23/2020 – 09/23/2023
		My Lan Tran 6 th District Employment (reappointment)	07/25/2020 – 07/25/2023
		Julianne Condrey 3 rd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 01/09/2021 succeeding Stacy Luks
		Zachary Reid 3 rd District Resident	07/27/2020 – 07/25/2023 succeeding Bill Beville
		Hwan Hill 5 th District Resident (reappointment)	10/24/2020 – 10/24/2023

*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

The motion was seconded and was approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Larson had not yet arrived.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no awards or presentations.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written citizen comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting, and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

There were no citizen comment speakers.

Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2018-324

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2007-131-174, adopted Jul. 23, 2007, which authorized the special use of the property known as 1400 Grove Avenue for the purpose of permitting a multifamily dwelling consisting of no more than ten units and authorized the special use of the properties known as 1410 and 1412 Grove Avenue for the purpose of allowing single-family attached dwellings on substandard sized lots, together with accessory off-street parking, to remove from the ordinance the provisions pertaining to 1412 Grove Avenue, upon certain terms and conditions.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2018-325

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1412 Grove Avenue for the purpose of either a single-family attached dwelling or a single-family detached dwelling and up to four rooms or groups of rooms for short-term rental use, upon certain terms and conditions.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2019-275

To amend ch. 6 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XII (§§6-596-6-602) to establish a technology zone program in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3850, for the purpose of facilitating the development and location of technology businesses in the city of Richmond, capital investment, and job creation.

To be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020

ORD. 2019-276

To amend City Code §§ 26-872, concerning definitions related to license taxes, and 26-989, concerning license taxes for personal services businesses, and to amend ch. 26, art. XV, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 26-1003.1, concerning the license tax for technology businesses, for the purpose of creating a new business, profession, and occupation license category called "technology business" and imposing a new license tax on such businesses.

To be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020

ORD. 2020-103

To rezone certain properties in the areas surrounding the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2020-104

To amend the official zoning map for the purpose of designating certain street blocks as “priority streets” and certain street blocks as “street-oriented commercial streets” in the areas surrounding the Science Museum of Virginia, Allison Street, and the Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Union University Broad Street Bus Rapid Transit station areas.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2020-105

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-433.2 (concerning parking lots in the UB Urban Business District, 30-440.3 (concerning yards in the B-4 Central Business District), 30-446.2 (concerning parking lots in the B-7 Mixed-Use Business District), and 30-950.2-30-950.5 (concerning Plan of Development Overlays), for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of the adopted Pulse Corridor Plan.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2020-117

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Records Management System User Agreement between the City of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University for the purpose of contracting for the use of equipment and materials as allowed by Va. Code § 15.2-1736 by allowing the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department to become an operational user of the Department of Police’s records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the Department of Police and the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department.

To be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020

ORD. 2020-147

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Third Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (“CARE”) Program.

Withdrawn

ORD. 2020-148

To amend ch. 26, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 10 (§§ 26-590-26-599) for the purpose of providing for the partial exemption of certain rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures from real estate taxation.

To be amended and continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

RES. 2020-R039

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Moved to Regular Agenda

ORD. 2018-236

To amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein new sections 26-370-26-374, concerning a real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole

dwelling, for the purpose of establishing a new real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling.

To be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

ORD. 2020-153

To rename that portion of U.S. Route 1, known as Jefferson Davis Highway and located within the corporate boundaries of the City, from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Hull Street to its southerly terminus at the corporate limits of the City near its intersection with Walmsley Boulevard, as "Richmond Highway."

To be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020

RES. 2019-R057

To require that Richmond Performing Arts Alliance take all actions necessary to sell at fair market value its property at 623 East Broad Street and contribute the proceeds thereof to its endowment as provided in a Comprehensive Agreement dated Sept. 14, 2007.

To be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

RES. 2020-R046

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

To be continued to Monday, August 10, 2020

RES. 2020-R049

To authorize the Mayor of Richmond, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Management, to order the temporary removal and storage of certain statues in the City of Richmond, whose presence creates a public safety concern or necessitates their removal for their preservation, on July 1, 2020, for the safety and health of the residents of Richmond and the protection of property.

Withdrawn

The motion to amend the agenda was seconded and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following ordinances and resolutions were considered:

ORD. 2020-107

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2126 Rosewood Avenue for the purpose of an existing single-family dwelling with an accessory dwelling unit, upon certain terms and conditions. (As Amended)

ORD. 2020-140

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 85-77-79, adopted Apr. 15, 1985, as amended by Ord. No. 2001-169-164, adopted May 28, 2001, which authorized the special use of the property known as 3103 Ellwood Avenue, to authorize the elimination of the operator occupied residency requirement of the second floor dwelling unit, additional signage and awning installation, to authorize an office use, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-141

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1110 North 35th Street for the purpose of two single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-142

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 1705, 1707, and 1711 Westover Hills Boulevard, and 4922 New Kent Road for the purpose of retail, office, and commercial uses accessory to an existing church, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-143

To authorize the special use of the property known as 3416 East Broad Street for the purpose of a two-family attached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-144

To conditionally rezone the properties known as 3307 Cutshaw Avenue and 3311 Cutshaw Avenue from the R-48 Multifamily Residential District to the R-63 Multifamily Urban Residential District (Conditional), upon certain proffered conditions.

ORD. 2020-149

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1101 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard for the purpose of a mixed-use building containing up to 29 dwelling units, with amenity spaces and commercial uses on the ground floor, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-150

To authorize the special use of the property known as 1110 North 20th Street for the purpose of a two-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-151

To authorize the special use of the property known as 3211 Delaware Avenue for the purpose of a group home located within an existing single-family dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-152

To designate the 4000, 4100, 4200, and 4300 blocks of Crutchfield Street in honor of the late Leslie D. Jackson.

RES. 2020-R013

To request that the Mayor propose a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget that provides for an appropriation of [\$221,770.00] the amount deemed necessary to cover the costs for a third-party equity analysis to measure equity in the City and that further provides for equity training for a core group of City employees and appointed and elected officials for the purpose of eliminating inequities through improved City policy. (As Amended)

RES. 2020-R044

To express the Council's support for the Director of Public Works' administrative directive entitled "Protected walkways and crosswalks, bicycle lane, and shared use paths" requiring certain pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and pathways within construction work zones.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Consent Agenda items prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Mark Baker, Baker Development Resources, LLC, addressed Council regarding ORD. 2020-140, ORD. 2020-144 and ORD. 2020-150. Mr Baker informed Council he represented the

applicants referenced in the proposed ordinances and was available to address any questions members may have.

There were no further comments or discussions and the **Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.**

REGULAR AGENDA

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R039

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Councilor Ellen Robertson provided an introduction of RES. 2020-R039. Councilor Robertson stated the proposed resolution would address a potential crisis in the city regarding impending evictions.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding Res. 2020-R039 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Allan-Charles Chipman stated Council should direct funds towards eviction diversion regardless of funding availability. Mr. Chipman requested that additional revenue recently identified by the city be directed towards anti-poverty concerns and not towards businesses recovering from recent social unrest in the city.

Councilor Kristen Larson stated that RES. 2020-R039 would circumvent the COVID-19 Relief Fund previously established by Council. Councilor Larson also stated the COVID-19 Relief Fund could allocate funds towards affordable housing and eviction relief without the need of RES. 2020-R039.

Councilor Michael Jones addressed the number of evictions in the city and stated the issue required an annual dedicated revenue source.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed her support for directing funds towards rental assistance and stated she supported the proposed resolution.

Councilor Kim Gray stated Council should take a holistic view of all issues facing the city due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Cynthia Newbille stated a comprehensive housing strategy was being developed to address housing needs in the city. President Newbille also stated she believed the strategy, COVID-19 Relief Fund and RES. 2020-R039 could work together to address housing issues in the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R039 was adopted:** Ayes 5, Robertson, Lynch, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes 2, Larson, Gray. Abstentions 2, Jones, Trammell.

President Newbille requested that the referenced housing strategic plan be submitted to Council as soon as possible.

Councilor Andreas Addison requested that city administration provide Council with information regarding city owned assets in opportunity zones and the city's response to the Regional Affordable Housing Framework.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-320

To reduce the speed limit on Patterson Avenue between Willow Lawn Drive and Pepper Avenue from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour.

Councilor Andreas Addison provided an introduction of ORD. 2019-320 and stated the proposed ordinance would address pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Travis Bridewell, Department of Public Works (DPW) operations manager, informed Council that DPW did not support the proposed ordinance. Mr. Bridewell provided statistics regarding traffic within the area and stated the information indicated that a speed limit of 35 miles per hour was appropriate.

Vice President Chris Hilbert stated his support for the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed her concerns with speeding vehicles in the city and stated her support for the proposed ordinance. Councilor Robertson requested a report be provided to Council regarding different speed limits in the city and the need for more uniformity.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2019-320 was unanimously adopted.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-041

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2017-129, adopted Oct. 9, 2017, which authorized the special use of the property known as 1704 Arlington Road for the purpose of illuminated canopy signage, to modify the permitted uses, upon certain terms and conditions.

Mark Olinger, Department of Planning and Development Review director, provided information regarding the proposed ordinance and stated the City Planning Commission recommended the applicant's request referenced in ORD. 2020-041 be denied.

Public Hearing

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-041 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Henry Moore, applicant, addressed Council and stated the ordinance was necessary to increase business by allowing the construction of additional signage directed towards potential customers.

Vice President Chris Hilbert expressed his concerns with surrounding counties' ability to advertise gas stations towards travelers and diverting potential customers away from city

businesses. Vice President Hilbert stated he would vote to override the City Planning Commission's recommendation for denial.

Councilor Kim Gray informed Council the proposed ordinance had general support from businesses within the referenced area. Councilor Gray stated the additional signage would allow for additional revenue to be collected through increased business in the city. Councilor Gray also stated she would vote to override the City Planning Commission's recommendation for denial.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated the lack of signage in the area was detrimental towards local businesses.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-041 was unanimously adopted.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-145

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$8,224,401.00; and to appropriate \$8,224,401.00 for various projects.

Daniel Mouer, Department of Housing and Community Development project development manager, provided additional information regarding ORD. 2020-145.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-145 was unanimously adopted.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-146

To amend Ord. No. 2020-050, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by increasing estimated revenues from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the amount appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development's Special Fund by \$418,767.00, for the purpose of funding housing, community and economic development activities, and assistance for low- and moderate- income persons and special needs populations.

Daniel Mouer, Department of Housing and Community Development project development manager, provided additional information regarding ORD. 2020-146.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-146 was unanimously adopted.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-155

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-155, and stated the proposed ordinance would begin the process of establishing a civilian review board (CRB).

Councilor Andreas Addison stated the proposed ordinance was a bold step forward and informed Council of discussions held at the July 23, 2020 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting regarding ORD. 2020-155.

Councilor Kristen Larson stated she appreciated the discussions held at the July 23, 2020 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting and informed Council of her support of ORD. 2020-155.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-155 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Benson Smallie spoke in support of Ord. 2020-155, and stated a CRB was a crucial step towards equality for all under the law. Mr. Smallie also stated a CRB would reestablish trust between citizens and police.

Allan-Charles Chipman spoke in support of ORD. 2020-155, and stated the establishment of a CRB was required to provide accountably.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-155 was unanimously adopted.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R045

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch provided an introduction of RES. 2020-R045, and stated the proposed resolution would help better respond to members of the community experiencing mental health issues.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding RES. 2020-R045 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Support

Allan-Charles Chipman spoke in support of RES. 2020-R045, and stated a *Marcus Alert* would benefit individuals suffering from substance addiction, as well as those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Nicole Spangenberg spoke in support of RES. 2020-R045, and stated a *Marcus Alert* needs to be implemented as a safety issue. Ms. Spangenberg addressed her experiences with panic attacks and stated she feared how a situation involving a panic attack would be handled by police rather than a mental health expert.

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R045.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed her support for RES. 2020-R045, and stated the implementation of a Marcus Alert will take a lot of work in order to bring several different entities together.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R045, and stated she believed the Marcus Alert could be successful with the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and other agencies working together.

Councilor Kim Gray stated she was informed that RPD officers would prefer mental health experts address mental health interventions.

Councilor Andreas Addison expressed his support for RES. 2020-R045, and stated mental health experts should be the first responders regarding incidents involving a mental health crisis.

Vice President Chris Hilbert stated it was unrealistic to expect police officers to respond to every situation and expressed his support for RES. 2020-R045.

President Cynthia Newbille stated the establishment of a Marcus Alert was important for the city, but suggested Council encourage the General Assembly of Virginia to take similar action to address the issue.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R045 was unanimously adopted.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R047

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

Councilor Michael Jones provided an introduction of RES. 2020-R047, and stated the proposed resolution would help identify potential funds for the civilian review board and Marcus Alert.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch provided additional information regarding RES. 2020-R047, and stated the proposed resolution was necessary to identify funds to create systemic change.

Police Chief William Smith stated Council should increase funding for the Richmond Police Department (RPD) to establish change, rather than looking to defund the department. Chief Smith informed Council that defunding would have a negative effect on officer morale. Chief Smith also stated that the proposed resolution would prohibit him from fully implementing changes that Council had requested within the RPD. Chief Smith further stated he would examine the RPD budget in the spirit of improvement, but he must first change the misconception that the RPD budget should be defunded.

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired if funding cuts were implemented on the RPD budget, would it require RPD to initiate layoffs of employees.

Chief Smith informed Council that insufficient funding would decrease the number of RPD officers and decrease available officer training. Chief Smith stated the lack of training would lead to more police misconduct.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding RES. 2020-R047 prior to the Formal City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the July 27, 2020 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Support

Naomi Isaac, Virginia Student Power Network student organizer, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and asked Council to act with urgency to fund needed change. Ms. Isaac stated the defunding of RPD was necessary to reinvest money into social services that address affordable housing and mental health.

Ceilidh Garten spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and shared her experiences with the RPD. Ms. Garten informed Council about incidents of racism she witnessed amongst probation officers and within the city's justice system. Ms. Garten also stated the RPD was not equipped to handle incidents of individuals suffering from a mental health crisis or substance addiction.

Allan-Charles Chipman spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and stated police violence could not be ignored. Mr. Chipman also stated that the police were not the best solution to address mental health and substance addiction. Mr. Chipman further requested Council divest from the police and invest in community systems of care.

Erika Misseri spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and requested a meaningful divestment from the RPD with funds being directed towards social work.

Mera Carle spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and addressed RPD's use of tear gas and its handling of protesters. Ms. Carle suggested a plan to defund the RPD budget by 50 percent within five years and to reallocate funds towards community services. Ms. Carle requested that RPD officers be required to live in the city and be prohibited from participating in an officer union.

Alisha Eversole, Virginia Commonwealth University Center for the Study of Tobacco Products student, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and stated substance addiction should be addressed as a disease and not as a moral failing to be dealt with through punishment.

Kalia Harris, Virginia Student Power Network student organizer, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R047, and informed Council that some of the protesters arrested by RPD were suffering from mental health crises while awaiting release. Ms. Harris requested the defunding of RPD and for the investment of Black futures. Ms. Harris also requested a comprehensive review of the RPD budget.

Councilor Kristen Larson stated Council had a fiscal responsibility regarding the city's budget and that conversations regarding the cutting of RPD's budget and the funding of new social programs should take place during the budget review process. Councilor Larson expressed concern that a decreased RPD budget would lead to fewer available officers to respond to issues in the city. Councilor Larson also stated she believed change within the RPD was necessary, but the reallocation of funds should be done in a responsible way.

Councilor Kim Gray stated a holistic approach was necessary to review the overall budget for ways to fund social programs needed in the city. Councilor Gray also stated Council should wait to see the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the city's budget before taking action on departmental funding. Councilor Gray informed Council she would vote no to adopt RES. 2020-R047.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated many citizens had shared with her their requests that Council not defund the RPD. Councilwoman Trammell expressed her concerns that a decreased RPD budget would increase the number of homicides in the city.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated Council was facing an unknown budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilor Addison requested that Council examine budget priorities in relation to issues facing the city, such as affordable housing and mental health. Councilor Addison also stated the proposed resolution should be included within a larger discussion about city priorities and city-wide budgeting. Councilor Addison recommended Council work with the General Assembly of Virginia to address necessary funding for city priorities.

Councilor Ellen Robertson addressed illegal drug activity and gun violence in the city. Councilor Robertson stated many African Americans in the city did not understand the reasoning behind requests to defund the police, because many African American communities would receive a less responsive RPD as a result of the defunding. Councilor Robertson also stated it was wrong to request police officers to address mental health issues in the city and that additional funding should be provided to address mental health issues facing minority communities.

Vice President Chris Hilbert stated that all city departments were facing an uncertain budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that he anticipated that all city departments would require budget cuts. Vice President Hilbert also stated citizens had informed him of concerns regarding gun violence in the city and the need for public safety.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated she understood the poor messaging behind the phrase “defund the police” and that some were reluctant to progressive change. Councilor Lynch also stated RES. 2020-R047 was necessary to properly fund the civilian review board and Marcus Alert previously addressed by Council.

Councilor Michael Jones stated RES. 2020-R047 was an opportunity to fund change. Council Jones expressed his belief that increased police budgets did not decrease crime and that reallocating RPD funds would benefit Black lives.

President Cynthia Newbille stated she believed that there was unanimous agreement between Council and Police Chief William Smith for a comprehensive review of the RPD’s budget. President Newbille also stated she believed that Council was in agreement that a review of all departmental budgets was necessary to identify funds available to address racial and social issues in the city. President Newbille further stated she did not believe that the responsibility to provide potential reallocated funds should be placed on a single department.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R047 was rejected:** Ayes 2, Jones, Lynch. Noes 7, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille.

President Newbille requested that legislation be introduced at the August 10, 2020 Special Council meeting to address the identification of available funds.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested that a third party audit of the city budget and more information related to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on city revenue be made available for review in any discussions regarding identification of available funds.

MOTIONS

Councilor Andreas Addison moved that the ordinance entitled:

ORD. 2020-148

To amend ch. 26, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 10 (§§ 26-590-26-599) for the purpose of providing for the partial exemption of certain rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures from real estate taxation.

be amended and continued to Monday, September 14, 2020, as follows:

Page 5, Line 9

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 5, Line 10

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 6, Line 7

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 6, Line 8

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 10, Line 18

After the “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 1

After the words “from the Director of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 8

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 9

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 12

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 13

After the word “of”, strike the words “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

Page 12, Line 16

After the words “Department of”, strike the text “Housing and Community” and insert the word “Economic”

There were no comments or discussions and the **motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Councilwoman Reva Trammell moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded was unanimously approved:

RES. 2020-R050

To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired why the proposed resolution required expedited consideration. Councilor Larson stated she would prefer the resolution be introduced and continued to be considered at an upcoming Council meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones stated he did not feel comfortable expediting consideration of RES. 2020-R050 until more information was available.

President Cynthia Newbille inquired if the proposed resolution could be addressed at the August 3, 2020 Special Council meeting.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid was available to address questions regarding the request for expedited consideration and informed Council that consideration could be continued to the August 3, 2020 Special Council meeting.

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to continue RES. 2020-R050 to the Monday, August 3, 2020 Special Council meeting, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Hilbert was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to approve the minutes of the following Richmond City Council meetings: Special Meeting held on Monday, July 1, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.; Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Monday, June 22, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., respectively.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-156

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Third Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort ("CARE") Program and a business recovery grant program.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-157

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-2, which designates the location for the central absentee voter election district in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for the central absentee voter election district.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-158

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 203.

Patron: Ms. Gray

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-159

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 206.

Patron: Ms. Gray

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-160

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 207.

Patron: Ms. Gray

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-161

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 412.

Patron: Ms. Larson

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-162

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 702.

Patron: President Newbille

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

ORD. 2020-163

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to establish two satellite polling places for in-person absentee voting.

Patron: President Newbille

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolution on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-164

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit an amended Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$6,184,226.00; and to appropriate \$6,184,226.00 for various projects.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-165

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$477,498.00 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Police's special fund by \$477,498.00 for the purpose of providing funding for COVID-19 pandemic response programs, projects, and services by the Department of Police, the Richmond Sheriff's Office, and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-166

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept grant funds in the amount of \$79,779.52 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and to appropriate the funds received to the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' special fund by \$79,779.52 for the purpose of funding the construction of the Pump House Trail extension.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2020-167

To amend City Code §§ 10-79, concerning the award of franchises and permits to operators of emergency medical service vehicles, 10-80, concerning the responsibility of authorized providers to respond to the City's centralized dispatch center, and 10-83, concerning the suspension of authorization to operate emergency medical service vehicles, to make modifications to the City's regulations governing the operation of emergency medical service vehicles in the city.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Public Safety Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-168

To grant to Med-Trans Corporation a permit for the operation of rotary-wing emergency medical services vehicles in the city to provide non-emergency aeromedical services, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Public Safety Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-169

To amend Ord. No. 2019-084, adopted Apr. 8, 2019, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2020-040, adopted Feb. 24, 2020, which declared that a public necessity exists and to authorize the acquisition of certain fee simple interests and easements for the public purpose of constructing multimodal transportation and drainage improvements along Hull Street Road between its intersection with Hey Road and its intersection with Warwick Road, to authorize the acquisition of additional fee simple and easement interests for the project.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-170

To change the use of the City-owned real estate known as the Annie Giles Community Resource Center and located at 1400 Oliver Hill Way so that such City-owned real estate will be used as an inclement weather shelter for homeless persons in the city of Richmond when the outdoor or wind chill temperature falls to 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below and when the outdoor temperature rises to 92 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, when there is a forecast of accumulation of one inch or more of rain, snow, sleet or other precipitation within a 24-hour period, or when there is a forecast that includes a warning for a hurricane, tornado or high winds.

Patron: Ms. Gray

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-171

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-402.2, concerning permitted accessory uses and structures, 30-413.15, concerning yards, 30-419.2, concerning permitted principal uses, 30-419.3, concerning permitted principal uses on corner lots, 30-419.4, concerning permitted accessory uses and structures, 30-420.5, concerning yards, 30- 424.5, concerning yards, 30-426.5, concerning yards, 30-428.6, concerning yards, 30- 430.5, concerning yards, 30-442.1, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-442.4, concerning yards, 30-444.2, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-444.4, concerning yards, 30-446.4, concerning yards, 30-447.2, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-610.3, concerning alley frontage, 30-620.1, concerning lots and lot areas, 30-630.1, concerning yards, 30-630.4, concerning side yards, 30-630.9, concerning permitted projections and encroachments in yards and courts, 30-680.1, concerning location of accessory buildings, 30-800.2, concerning extension or expansion, 30-810.1, concerning alterations to buildings, 30-940.3, concerning the Urban Design Committee, and 30-1080, concerning unlawful conduct and penalties; to amend ch. 30, art. IV, div. 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 30-402.8, 30-404.8, 30-406.8 and 30-410.8, concerning driveways from streets; to amend ch. 30, art. VI, div. 7 of the City Code by adding therein a new § 30- 660.1, concerning standards for location of refuse areas; to amend ch. 30, art. X, div. 4 of the City Code by adding therein a new § 30-1030.8, concerning expiration of approval of plans of development, and to amend ch. 30, art. XII of the City Code by adding there new §§ 30-1220.94, 30-1220.110:1, 30-1220.110:2, and 30-1220.110:3, concerning certain definitions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 17, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-172

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Quitclaim of Utility Easement Portion between the City of Richmond and the Capital Region Airport Commission, for the purpose of releasing a portion of a utility easement to the Capital Region Airport Commission.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-173

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Governor's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia, and River City Cider, LLC, doing business as Bryant's Small Batch Cider, for the purpose of enabling the Authority to provide an economic development grant to River City Cider, LLC, doing business as Bryant's Small Batch Cider, as an incentive to construct and improve a Virginia agricultural products processing facility in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

ORD. 2020-174

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 64-161-147, adopted Jun. 22, 1964, which authorized the use of certain real estate situated on the north side of Franklin Street beginning at a point 60.5 feet west of the west line of Adams Street, fronting 104.25 feet on the north side of Franklin Street and extending back between parallel or nearly parallel lines 200.5 feet, also known as the property located at 104 West Franklin Street, for the purpose of the construction and occupancy of an apartment building, to modify the off-street parking space requirements, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-175

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2007-224-196, adopted Sept. 10, 2007, which authorized the special use of the property known as 2811 Grove Avenue, for the purpose of authorizing an owner-occupied single-family dwelling with three tourist home lodging units, together with accessory parking, to remove the condition of owner-occupancy and to allow the hosting of special events, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-176

To authorize the special use of the property known as 311 West Franklin Street for the purpose of a multifamily dwelling containing up to 128 dwelling units, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-177

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 618 North 32nd Street and 620 North 32nd Street for the purpose of permitting the expansion of an existing adult care residence from 27 residents to 40 residents, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-178

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 1106 North 21st Street and 1108 North 21st Street for the purpose of two two-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-179

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2000 Selden Street for the purpose of two single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-180

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2406 Grayland Avenue for the purpose of two single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-181

To authorize the special use of the property known as 3131 Kensington Avenue for the purpose of five single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

ORD. 2020-182

To authorize the special use of the property known as 5312 Wingfield Street for the purpose of a single-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

RES. 2020-R051

To impose enhanced speeding penalties pursuant to City Code § 27-163 and to authorize the placement of signs giving notice thereof on the portion of South Harrison Street located between Idlewood Avenue and Randolph Street and the portion of Colorado Avenue located between Randolph Street and South Allen Avenue.

Patron: Ms. Lynch

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

Councilor Kim Gray left the meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones left the meeting.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell left the meeting.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting.

Vice President Chris Hilbert left the meeting.

REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

Councilor Kristen Larson left the meeting after providing her announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

CITY CLERK

From: [Sleipnir's Eight](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:53:59 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Katie Spencer

How are the statues still a topic of debate? We know the context in which they were erected - as a threatening response to the Civil Rights movement. The fact that they are the most visible and prominent monuments in our city speaks volumes about which members of our community we prioritize and which ones we treat as second class citizens. Mayor Stoney hemmed and hawed, giving empty promises of added context. He never followed through. Now, the people of our great city have done his job for him. Our people gave the statues that necessary context, context that paints a fuller picture of our bloody history, history that for too long has been glorified and white washed. And now the statues are coming down, whether you decide to help or not. Enough with the thumb twiddling. Don't make the people of this city do the job that our leadership themselves should be doing. Thank you.

From: [Stuart Harnsberger](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:13:26 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Please remove all confederate monuments and iconography of slavery as soon as possible.

Monument Avenue was designed to encourage westward development in Richmond, luring home buyers with large homes placed near Confederate idols, placed high up on pedestals to signify their immortality and perceived holiness. We need to reconsider who and what the monuments honor, and how we can honor current values of our city. They are not teaching tools and their removal will not erase history. Removing the monuments will uncover the shroud of The Lost Cause narrative that seeks to falsely imply that the Confederacy fought for a moral or just cause, which is simply not true. The monuments stand for the ideals of the Confederacy, which fought for the ability to maintain the practice of slavery.

These monuments are a disgrace, and they glorify the worst ideals of our shared Virginia heritage. They are an embarrassment to our city. They have not been a welcome space for people to gather, until much more recently when the monuments have become a space for honest reflection. In the past weeks the monuments have been protected by our police as though they were protecting real people. Our police are protecting the worst racist symbols that we have in our city, using excessive force to respond to peaceful protesters. This must be addressed directly as well.

These monuments need to be removed immediately, along with all other iconography which glorifies the practice of slavery. We also need to defund the Richmond Police Department and we should allocate their budget to Richmond Public Schools to begin to repair the effects of systemic racism.

Thank you for moving quickly to address these immediate needs.

Stuart Harnsberger

From: [Carolyn McSorley](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); district09@senate.virginia.gov; district10@senate.virginia.gov; district12@senate.virginia.gov; ltgov@ltgov.virginia.gov; mailoag@oag.state.va.us; [Mayor Levar Stoney](#)
Subject: RPD NEEDS TO BE CHECKED
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:46:26 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am utterly appalled at the response of Richmond Police Department to Americans exercising their first amendment right of freedom of speech and freedom to peaceably assemble on Monument Avenue and other places in Richmond.

RPD responds with unnecessary force and violence time and time again. This is not an acceptable way to handle this moment. Listen to the people!!

Why are there videos of multiple instances of RPD using rubber bullets and tear gas on crowds that are not being violent??!

Why does the city of richmond have a new police chief that shot a man in the back in 2002?!

Do you think any of this is building trust within the community? DO YOU THINK THIS IS HELPING???

Stop tear gassing peaceful protesters.

Stop shooting innocent people with rubber bullets.

Is this what your constituents tax dollars are going to??! Supporting police abuse of citizens that are exercising their American right to peacefully gather and protest... You should be ashamed.

HOW our police are approaching this time in history MATTERS.

HOW our police are responding to citizens concerns MATTERS.

Richmond needs an independent civilian review board separate from the RPD.

Richmond deserves accountability, transparency, and support from RPD.

RPD does not need military weapons, RPD needs better training on non-violence. They do not need more funding, Fund Richmond Public Schools!

Drop the charges for peaceful protestors! This is our right!!

The people have spoken and we will not be silenced. Remove the monuments.

We will not back down. This has to change and you will hear from us every step of the way until it does.

Do better!!!

From: [Anne Danforth](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monuments
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:58:54 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Take them down. We are way past due. Can think of zero reasons to leave them up.

Anne Danforth



From: [Erin Rowe](#)
To: [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com; [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: FW: Short-Term Rental Regulations
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:05:59 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of City Council,

As a lifelong Richmond resident, I would like to express my concerns about the proposed ordinances regarding regulation of short-term rentals in the city of Richmond. My husband and I own two properties in the city; one is our full-time residence and one is a full-time rental. The proposed ordinance on short-term rentals would eliminate our ability to let our property out on a short-term basis, as this is **not our full-time residence**. Additionally, we would be **limited by the number of nights** we're able to rent our property out. We support regulation and taxation on short-term rental properties, but I would like to see both of these restrictions removed from the ordinance for a number of reasons:

- 1. Tourism:** Short term rentals are quickly becoming a preferred means of travel offering a more affordable and spacious option to travelers. With the current trajectory of Richmond as a desirable travel destination, it seems unfortunate to place such restrictions on tourist accommodations.
 - Travelers are more likely to stay in Richmond with short-term rentals as an accommodation option (current ordinance cuts many of these out).
 - Short term rentals encourage visitors to integrate into the neighborhoods where the listings are located in ways that hotels do not. Local businesses in the surrounding areas can benefit from the existence of short-term rentals as well.
- 2. Increased Visibility + Neighborhood Beautification:** For a homeowner, short term rentals provide a way for the owner to have increased visibility on the condition of the property and reduce issues with tenants not taking care of the residence. As a property owner, this is one of the most attractive elements of a short term versus long term rental. Our long-term tenants have damaged our building and let it fall into various states of disrepair. Long-term rentals in my neighborhood (Museum District) don't have a positive history of keeping up with building and yard/garden maintenance and curb appeal. In order to attract new guests, short-term rentals keep our neighborhoods clean and contribute to neighborhood beautification efforts.
- 3. Source of income:** Short term rentals currently provide middle class income to many Richmond residents. Proper and thoughtful regulation and taxation would

be an opportunity to allow both middle class residents and the city of Richmond to prosper.

4. **Lack of data supporting the proposed ordinances:** We've attended all the public meetings throughout the course of this discussion and listened to Mark Olinger's presentation. There is a striking lack of data available regarding the current use and impacts of short-term rentals in Richmond. The only impetus cited for these proposed ordinances:
- The reported four (4) complaints in 2018. This seems to suggest a low amount of impact.
 - The personal opinions on Air BNB operating in the neighborhood of the presenter
 - Aside from these comments, Mr. Olinger was unable to answer questions from attendees about the criteria for arriving at these regulations

I'd like to reiterate that I am not opposed to the regulation of short-term rentals. I would just like to caution adopting measures without appropriate research, community input, and analysis of data. Please consider voting against the proposed ordinance, as it is currently written, by **removing the stipulations for 1) owner occupancy and 2) limiting the number of nights it can be let.**

Thank you for all do to contribute to the betterment of our community and for your consideration on this matter.

Best,

Erin Rowe

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Anneliese .](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: For Inclusion in the minutes and Distribution to City Council Members 6/22/2020
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:09:06 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Council and Madam President,

I am a resident of the 5th District and have made Richmond my home for the last 10 years.

In the last 23 days Richmond Police have behaved violently, brutalized residents, attacked the press multiple times (there is video footage of this) and lied on their Twitter platform and in press releases about their actions. I was personally gassed in broad daylight before curfew on June 1st and have ample video footage of this event. I see no leadership right now. The Mayor chose an interim police chief who murdered a resident in 2002. The city is being failed by our police, our city council, and our mayor and it is devastating to watch the same brutal tactics being deployed on non-violent protestors and the press night after night with zero accountability. Chemical agents that are not legal in warfare are being deployed against residents of our city in broad daylight, at night, and even at Father's Day celebrations. The mayor makes claims of outside forces coming in to create violence in our city - remind me, what percentage of RPD officers live in Richmond? I think the mayor might be right here - RPD, an outside force made primarily of officers that do not live here, is invading and violating the rights of residents. Don't get me started on the council rep for the 2nd district comparing bike marshalls that are trying to protect protestors from police violence to the KKK. How dare you!

I am calling for the immediate removal of the confederate monuments these police so dearly defend over any concern for resident's actual safety. I am calling for the removal of School Resource Officers from Richmond public schools and a reallocation of those funds to hire social workers, careworkers, support staff and other materials that will benefit students more than any SRO ever could. I call for the dropping and dismissal of all charges brought against people involved in demonstrations in Richmond since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

While we march for George Floyd and Breonna Taylor Richmond has our own story of injustice and police brutality; the murder of Marcus David Peters. I call for the immediate creation of a #marcusalert in Richmond to make dispatch of a mental healthcare professional the first response when someone is in mental crisis instead of an armed officer trained to shoot first and ask questions later.

I ask that all council members who have not joined protests or celebrated life in the newly claimed Marcus David Peters' circle get your eyes and ears on the ground. You do not understand what is happening here and you do not deserve to sit in positions of power if you won't see it for yourselves.

--

Anneliese Grant



From: drowe1624@comcast.net
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [debbie](#)
Subject: public comment for Council meeting 6/22
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:06:19 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council members,

I'm writing to express my deep disappointment and concern over the recent actions of RPD. I've seen members of RPD use excessive force against city residents and the Press who are exercising their constitutional right to assemble and the police are trying to silence Independent Journalists. Tactics by RPD include pepper-spraying, gassings, and spitting-upon without warning. Rubber bullets and flash bombs have been unleashed against civil demonstrators. Tear gas isn't allowed in War yet we are using it against civil protestors? I urge you to condemn these heinous acts.

Please work together to establish an Independent civilian review board with oversight and subpoena power; reform our police departments to include mental health professionals on calls (Marcus alert) provide better training in de-escalation and require PD to use this training; restrict the use of tear gas and other chemical agents on protestors; and remove asap all confederate monuments within the city.

Also, quickly reschedule a meeting for the Public Safety Committee which has not met since February. We need accountability and transparency provided by this committee now.

Thank you,
Debbie Rowe



From: [Phillip Thai](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Oppose ORD. 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:43:58 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille and Council Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose ORD. 2019-343 for short term rentals. The current ordinance will decimate the existing short term rental community by including the principal residency requirement.

In addition to the overly restrictive rules, Planning and Development have mentioned NO path for taxation which the city could use for RPS, affordable housing, and other underfunded projects for the city.

Lastly, this ordinance does nothing to improve oversight or provide consequences for bad STR landlords.

This is lose-lose legislation and should be voted down until a better plan is formed. I look forward to sharing my thoughts with you at Monday's council meeting.

--

Sincerely,



Phillip Thai



From: [Jeannie Bowker](#)
To: [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); ralph.northam@governor.virginia.gov; [City Clerk's Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#)
Subject: Police in Richmond
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:46:44 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stoney and City Council:

We are writing to urge you to rethink your draconian approach to public safety.

We cannot believe we had to watch aghast from a distance as Richmond and State police prioritized monuments and property over peaceful protestors again last night.

We are not "antifa" agitators and we are not outsiders. We are just your plain old citizens who are appalled at what the local and State police are doing in the city -- with the old police chief and the new police chief.

If the Mayor truly wishes to rethink and reimagine the police and public safety, it starts with trust; prioritizing all of our citizens' safety; listening to the advocates who have been asking to talk to you for years now; and recognition that you can create a better monument to Richmond by taking funding from our militarized police department and giving it to our schools and other social services.

Mr. Mayor and City Council, please rectify the historical and current mistakes being made and:

- (1) Re-open the Marcus-David Peters case
- (2) Transition funding away from the Police
- (3) Drop all charges against every protestor
- (4) Take down ALL the Monuments NOW to protect public safety; or at least have an order ready to take them down on 7/1
- (5) Establish an independent civilian review board separate with RPS with membership composed of those advocates the mayor has so far ignored
- (6) Establish a fully funded Marcus Alert system
- (7) Release the names of all RPS officers currently under investigation for use-of-force misconduct; and
- (8) Fire the current interim Police Chief due to the events last night and his 2002 shooting of a Black man in the back.

Thank you,
Jeannie and Colby Bowker

From: [Kristen Green](#)
To: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Wagner, Daniel M. - City Council Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Townes, Lisa F. - City Council Office](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Bond, Aaron A. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Floyd, Tavares M. - City Council](#); [Cythnia.Newbille@richmondgov.com](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Bishop, Richard K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Gray, Jeff L. - CAO](#); [Olinger, Mark A. - PDR](#)
Subject: please VOTE DOWN ORD 2019-343 Short Term Rental
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:59:58 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Council President Newbille, Council Members and City Staff,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Ord 2019-343 for short term rentals.

The ordinance, as proposed, unfairly -- and unnecessarily -- requires that STRs be the owner's principal residence. This will destroy the vibrant STR culture (including AIRBNB and VRBO) that has developed to support tourism in Richmond. When people travel with family or friends, they want to be able to rent a home where they can spread out and have access to a kitchen, and they are willing to spend a lot of money to rent these kinds of homes. This ordinance would take many of those homes off the Richmond market.

The proposed legislation prevents owners from making money on an investment property for no clear reason. Where is the Richmond-specific data that shows that STRs are a problem that are changing the fabric of our neighborhoods? You haven't seen it because this data does not exist. Rather, **this new ordinance is being driven by close-minded neighbors who enjoy complaining and their powerful lobbying group, the Fan District Association.** I am a resident of the Fan, and this organization's stance does not represent my beliefs or many of my neighbors. I welcome STRs.

STRs are, in fact, a better use of rental properties than long-term rentals because they are better maintained and stand to bring in taxable income for the city. A better use of council's time would be to write and approve legislation that enables the city to benefit financially from all STRs.

It is incredibly short-sighted to approve this ordinance. If anything, **Richmond should be doing more to develop STRs during times of Covid** since many people need to travel but do not feel safe staying in a hotel. Staying in a STR is a much better option for protecting one's health and peace of mind.

I am asking that you vote down this legislation. **We don't need this ordinance, as it doesn't solve any existing problems, and it stands to hurt property owners and tourists during a pandemic when residents deserve to be able to make money and Richmond needs to attract all the visitors it can get.**

Please vote no on the STO legislation before you tonight.

All the best,
Kristen Green

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: elizabeth.mullin
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: the removal of the confederate monuments / District 2 resident
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:20:50 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am a Richmond resident, [REDACTED] **I am writing to express my opinion that the monuments celebrating confederate generals and figures supporting the confederacy should be removed from the landscape.**

I believe that these monuments symbolize hate, prejudice, a harmful and outdated rhetoric, and an ahistorical approach to public art and culture.

I am an English teacher. Through the study of media, art, and literature, I understand that symbols have emotional, cultural, and political power. These "majestic" monuments are powerful symbols of the tenacity and banality of white supremacy, even in the face of legal and cultural opposition to it.

Lastly, I believe that the city of Richmond should celebrate the protest of these monuments and the removal of these monuments. My idea is to create a **Richmond museum of civil disobedience**. These monuments, as they look right now, would be powerful permanent exhibits in such a museum.

Thank you for your service, and thank you for reading and considering my ideas.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Mullin

From: [Ian Flatt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:30:34 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing as a resident of the 6th District to express my support for the demands of Richmond activists, protestors, and the family of Marcus David Peters, namely:

- the removal of ALL confederate monuments and monuments to white supremacy
- the implementation and funding of the Marcus Alert
- an independent citizen review board that is separate from the RPD and has real power to investigate and discipline / fire police officers and their supervisors
- removal of all police officers from city schools
- dropping all charges brought against people involved in demonstrations in Richmond since the murder of George Floyd
- a comprehensive review of the current budget for "public safety" to determine how funding can be reallocated from RPD, the sheriffs department, city jails, and the court system to better fund education, housing, health and social services

Thank you,
Ian Flatt



Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: craig.biber@richmondgov.com; [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Citizen Comment
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:00:44 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

The fact that I am going to sign this letter and ask that my name not be published for fear of retribution should give you some idea of the fear and anxiety that I live with as a fan resident since 1984.

During the day, our neighborhood has been enriched by beneficial tourism, attracting diverse visitors from all over Virginia and the world, including a film crew from a Japanese news station! We are proud to have the positive energy and welcome it. Contrary to what has been quoted from some in the news, I believe that one day it could actually *increase* the value of our homes.

At night, things turn in a very sinister direction. Our nights are filled with windows rattling from blaring music, loud fireworks set off close to nearby houses until dawn, people shouting obscenities and taunts, engines revving, police helicopters and incessant cars honking. We are now on our 22nd consecutive night of this "new normal." I was grateful that no one had been seriously hurt, but we now have armed vigilantes. **This is not a peaceful protest.**

I met a woman this morning as we were both picking up trash and liquor bottles from last night's revelry. She said, "I come down here a few times a day to pick up after people. This is not what the Black Lives Matter movement is about, and it is not helping us".

I visited a suburban grocery store and overheard two women talking. They were making plans to visit a restaurant. My heart broke when I heard one of them say, "We can never go back into the city of Richmond again. It's a mess down there." How long will it be before businesses say the same thing, and pack up for the suburbs?

I would like to specifically ask Ms. Lynch and Dr. Jones how they have helped our city work together to encourage communication and cooperation. Rather than promoting a dialogue between our police and the protesters, it looks like they have chosen to promote themselves by making public accusations and governing through twitter posts. Ms. Lynch and Dr. Jones, what are you doing to **unite** our city in this time of unrest? Have you been outside my house

at 3:00 AM to respectfully ask that people not set off fireworks, tag my sidewalk with graffiti, cut down tree limbs or pee on my lawn? Even our own police department feels that is a confrontation that would incite violence, and so our pleas go unheard.

In closing, thanks to each of you, and to all of our city employees who are working diligently everyday to find a solution to work together to make Richmond a better place.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Name removed for retaliation and safety concerns

From: [Joanna Patzig](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 6/22/20
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:29:22 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council Members,

I am a Richmond citizen in the 2nd district writing to express my support for the community speakers this evening who represented the Richmond Bail Fund, the family of Marcus David Peters and Justice and Reformation organization, and Virginia Defenders of Justice. I hope that their powerful testimonies illuminated the current racial injustices inherent in our infrastructure and drive you to pursue the change they advocated for tirelessly, with every means available to you. As a constituent I insist that you work towards meeting the demands of Justice and Reformation, which are as follows:

1. REOPEN THE MARCUS-DAVID PETERS CASE - We call on Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney Colette McEachin to re-open Marcus' case to provide a second chance for Justice.
- 2) DEFUND THE POLICE- Reallocate funds from the Richmond Police Department's extremely large budget to fund the Marcus Alert System and Civilian Review Board, as well as human services addressing health care, employment, our public education system, the environment, and general community welfare.
- 3) A MARCUS ALERT SYSTEM - The Marcus Alert System would mandate that mental health professionals be the first responders in a suspected or confirmed mental health crisis, with police only as their "back up" in the event that NON-LETHAL force is needed.
- 4) An independent CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD, with subpoena power, to receive and investigate claims of police abuse. We do not trust the police to police themselves.
- 5) The DROPPING OF ALL CHARGES of those members of our community who have been arrested in connection with the recent protests against the police murder of Mr. George Floyd.
- 6) IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE FIVE CONFEDERATE STATUES ON MONUMENT AVENUE and all other statues and memorials to Confederate leaders in the city.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your actions to deliver these demands in a way that creates meaningful and lasting change. Anything less would be a betrayal of your constituents and completely unethical.

Sincerely,
Joanna Patzig
W. Grace St.

1)
REOPEN THE MARCUS
-
DAVID PETERS CASE
-

We call on Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney
Colette McEachin to re

-
open Marcus' case to provide a second chance for Justice.

2)
DEFUND THE POLICE
-

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Reallocate funds from the Richmond Police Department's extremely large
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addressing health care, employment, our public education system, the environment, and general
community welfare.

3)
A MARCUS ALERT SYSTEM
-

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The Marcus Alert System woul
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professionals be the first responders in a suspected or confirmed mental health crisis, with police
only as their "back up" in the event that NON

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LETHAL force is needed.

4)
An
independent CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD, with subpoena pow
er, to receive and investigate claims
of police abuse. We do not trust the police to police themselves.

5)
The DROPPING OF ALL CHARGES of those members of our community who have been arrested in
connection with the recent protests against the police murder o
f Mr. George Floyd.

6)
IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE FIVE CONFEDERATE STATUES ON MONUMENT AVENUE and all
other statues and memorials to Confederate leaders in the city.

Note: An online petition supporting the first two demands has now gathered more than
74,000
signatures.

(
<https://www.change.org/p/richmond>

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Your immediate attention and response to these demands is needed

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is demanded

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by our communities.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. so accurately stated, "A riot is the language of the unheard."

We intend to be heard.

--
X

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Joanna Patzig



From: [Alex Caligiuri](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Continued military occupation by the police
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:46:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Richmond City Council and Councilwoman Kimberly Gray specifically,

I'm not sure if you know this, but we can see you.

We can see you when you claim to be held up by processes and laws for restorative and progressive actions and policies while you have no issue with authoritarian moves like allowing aerial surveillance on residents and blocking off public spaces in a matter of **HOURS**. Why then does it take days, weeks, months, and **YEARS** to impliment citizen review boards with subpoena power over the police? To remove racist statues? To investigate and fire police officers who use excessive force tactics?

Every single one of you should feel ashamed. You have sided against the residents of this city and the surrounding areas in a war waged by **THE POLICE** against **THE PEOPLE** (who by the way **DO NOT HAVE MILITARY GEAR, UNLIKE YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT**)

We can see you. God and everybody can see you.

Do you care at all?

Alex Caligiuri

From: [Leslie Rubio](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Removal of Monuments
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:10:21 AM

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My name is Leslie Rubio and I live in the 5th district. My address is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I strongly support the removal of all Confederate monuments/statues in the City of Richmond jurisdiction. I am hopeful that this proposal can be adopted immediately and the expedient removal of all racist statues/monuments will commence.

Thank you,

--

Leslie Rubio
[REDACTED]

From: [Sebastian Shetty](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Martha Wingfield](#); [Stewart Schwartz](#)
Subject: Re: Unsolicited proposal for Public Safety Building site
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:39:25 PM
Attachments: [PSG Statement.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear President Newbille and members of the Council,

Please find attached PSG's concerns regarding the unsolicited proposal for the Public Safety Building site.

Respectfully,
Sebastian Shetty



PARTNERSHIP *for* SMARTER GROWTH

Richmond City Council
900 E. Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Unsolicited proposal for Public Safety Building site

Dear President Newbille and members of the Council:

The failed Navy Hill development process earlier this year made clear that public participation and transparency is of utmost importance for decisions regarding large-scale redevelopment of city-owned properties in Richmond. Regardless of how valid an offer may seem to members of the Administration, city law must be followed, a Request for Proposal (RFP) must be issued to attract any competing bids, and transparency must be maintained throughout the process. Should the Mayor and Council decide to forgo the RFP process in favor of entering directly into negotiations with the developer, such a decision would disregard the need for transparency and inclusion, as well as fail to provide the city with the benefit of evaluating competing bids and winning the best deal for the city.

In withholding the appraisals from City Council and the public, the Administration claims that they are strengthening their negotiating position, and that releasing the numbers will undermine their hopes of getting the best deal possible. We disagree. Since developers will certainly have completed their own independent appraisals, the only people being kept in the dark about the true value of the property are the members of City Council and the taxpayers they represent. If the taxpayers know the true value of the property, the Administration and developers know that this will prompt great scrutiny, which will strengthen the city's hand, not weaken it.

Earlier this year, a majority of the City Council [adopted a resolution](#) calling for new appraisals of the properties formerly included in the Navy Hill proposal, a small area plan, and a “robust, citywide input” process to determine the future of the site. While we strongly agree with the need for a small area plan, we are prepared to accept competitive, negotiated redevelopment of this site with the mix of uses that has been proposed, along with the reconnection of Clay Street, however there must still be the opportunity for public input and review. The short city survey referred to by the economic development director cannot be a substitute for real public input. In addition, given that it was not a scientifically controlled survey, it should not be cited as representing support for the proposal.

It is not at all clear that the Council ordinance of June 22nd, approving the surplusing of the Public Safety building site, authorized the Administration to forgo the RFP process, therefore

the Partnership for Smarter Growth asks that Council ensure that the Administration issues an RFP and conducts a competitive process. In addition, Council should require the release of both the City's appraisal and the results of the survey. The Council should ensure the Administration conducts a transparent and inclusive public process for the RFP and subsequent review of project proposals and bids. Finally, the Council should ensure the Administration initiates a small area plan for the remaining parcels.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Shetty
Coordinator, Policy & Administration
Partnership for Smarter Growth

psg@psgrichmond.org
sebastian@psgrichmond.org

From: [Michael Jones](#)
To: [Anderson, Lawrence R. - Council Chief of Staff Office](#); [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#); [Morris, Summer A. - City Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: ATTN: 100+ Health Professional Students Against Police Use of Tear Gas, Rubbers Bullets...
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:09:02 PM
Attachments: [Health Professional Student Letter to City Council.pdf](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hunter Hewlett** <hunterhewlett@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Jun 30, 2020 at 6:35 PM
Subject: ATTN: 100+ Health Professional Students Against Police Use of Tear Gas, Rubbers Bullets...
To: <drjrva9th@gmail.com>

Dr. Mike Jones,

My name is Hunter Hewlett, and I am Richmond Resident and VCU Medical Student. In conjunction with Richmond Nurses, Richmond Health Professional Students have drafted and signed a letter in support of your legislation to ban chemical irritants, rubber bullets, and flash bangs in the City. Please find the letter reproduced below and attached to this email as a PDF.

My friend Camille Leech reached out to you today via Twitter and gave me this email address to deliver the below letter. If you could, please pass on the following letter to the Council Clerk for distribution to the rest of the City Council. Our hope is that other councilmembers see the immense amount of support for this legislation, especially from future health professionals.

Respectfully,

Hunter Hewlett
Medical Student | Class of 2023
VCU School of Medicine
2110 M St.
Richmond, VA 23223
hunterhewlett@gmail.com

—
To the Richmond City Council,

We are writing to you today urging you to vote in support of the legislation being introduced

by Councilmembers Jones and Lynch. We support a ban on the use of chemical irritants, rubber bullets, and flash bangs in the City of Richmond, particularly amidst the dangers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We support Richmond community members' First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly. As future health professionals, we believe it is the duty of the city to protect the health of the community when these rights are exercised. We stand in solidarity with our Richmond nursing colleagues and friends who circulated an original draft of this letter.

The nature of protests prevents participating community members from effectively social distancing, increasing their reliance on masks to protect both their health and the health of others. The use of pepper spray and tear gas on protesters increases their chances of contracting and spreading COVID-19 by forcing them to cough, breathe deeply, and remove their masks in close proximity to others. These chemical irritants also damage the respiratory system and risk worsening the effects of COVID-19.

Additionally, the use of rubber bullets and flash bangs can cause serious injuries and even death. We do not support the use of these weapons on members of the community.

It is incumbent upon the City Council to protect the health of the Richmond community. Please support the legislation to ban the use of chemical irritants, rubber bullets, and flash bangs in the City of Richmond.

Respectfully,
Future Health Professionals of Richmond

W. Hunter Hewlett, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Brooke Hess, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Kevin Parham, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Jacob Raskin, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Eisha Jain, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Daniel Walden, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Matilda Sullivan, VCU Dental Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Daniel Chun, VCU Dental Student, 3rd District Richmond Resident
Natalina Contoreggi, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Kelly McNult, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Alexander Hirsch, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Victoria Ngo, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Ethan Fieger, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Lydia Bedford, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Rachel Smith, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Rosellen Provost, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
C. Sierra Stingl, VCU Medical Student, 4th District Richmond Resident
Krishna Ravindra, VCU Medical Student, 5th District Richmond Resident
Samuel Bosch, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Maja Radic, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Julianna Kang, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Heidi Schoomaker, EVMS Student, Former Richmond Resident
Crystal Lewis, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Manisha Reddy, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident

Brian Gambardella, VCU Medical Student, Richmond 6th District
Ike Osuorah, VCU Medical Student, Richmond, VA
Matthew Olocco, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Sarah Beaverson, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Benjamin J. Chiang, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Maggie Rossano, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Aaron Chang, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Karishma Popli, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Teresa Elmore, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Malik Lowe, VCU Dental Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Jenny Liu, VCU Medical Student, 4th District Richmond Resident
Capwell Taylor, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Scott Risney, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Anne Marcinkowski, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Caitlin Womack, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Vashali Jain, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Magdalen Karrs, VCU Physical Therapy Student, 5th District Richmond Resident
Priyal Patel, VCU Dentistry Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Laurel Sheffield, VCU Physical Therapy Student
Nicole Karikari, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Jack Emerson, VCU Physical Therapy Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Morgan Denecke, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Kristen Fadel, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Jacob Wait, VCU Medical Student, 5th District Richmond Resident
Joseph Dean, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Elizabeth Thomason, VCU Graduate Student, 3rd District Richmond Resident
Amber Domako, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Anu Narayanan, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Jessica Bissinger, VCU Physical Therapy Student, Richmond Resident
Deborah Druckerman, VCU Medical Student, 1st District Richmond Resident
Asmaa Idris, VCU Clinical Laboratory Science student, Richmond resident
Caroline Cusick, VCU Clinical Psychology PhD Student, 4th District Richmond resident
Nicole Ng, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Joshua David, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Gaby Obedoza, VCU Medical Student, 5th District Richmond Resident
Alexa Gavino, VCU Physical Therapy Student, Richmond Resident
Jared Dunlap, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Alyssa Dennis, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Prem Minchu, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Laura Williams, VCU School of Medicine Graduate Student, 5th District Richmond Resident
Adonias Belay, VCU Psychology Student, Richmond Resident
Shannon Moldowan, VCU Biostatistics Student, Richmond Resident
Alana Porat, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Christine Wei, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Matthew Westfall, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Maheen Khan, VCU Medical Student, Henrico Resident, Three Chopt district
Kristen Maiden, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Jessica Anderson, VCU Health Professions student, Richmond resident
Kayla Pangilinan, VCU Pharmacy Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Pushpak Pondugula, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident

Mavra Masood, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Alexandra Vagonis, VCU Medical Student, 4th District Richmond Resident
Dhruv Srinivasachar, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Rachel Anderson, VCU Physical Therapy Student, Richmond Resident
Nicole Chambers, VCU Dental Student
Robert Minniti, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Geraldine Mabagos, VCU Medical Student
Michael Russell, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Phong Truong, VCU Medical Student, 4th District Richmond Resident
Sagar Prabhu, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Grace Lin, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Ellaiza Antonio, VCU Psychology Student, Richmond Resident
Allyson Howard, VCU Nursing Student, Richmond Resident
David Lester, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Diana Tran, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Genevieve Gilson, VCU Medical Student
Erin Heald, VCU Physical Therapy Student
Alexis South, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Rhea Sharma, VCU Medical Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Matthew Wynne, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Leigh Heller, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Ji Lee, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Cassandra Burba, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Nidhi Agrawal, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Shanté Barnes, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Katherine Klein, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Christina Kontzias, VCU Medical Student, Richmond Resident
Kaitlin McCuskey, Physician Assistant Student, Richmond Resident
Grant Bradley, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond resident
Meredith Crizer, VCU Physical Therapy Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Tasha Nasevich, VCU Physical Therapy Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Daniel Stamos, VCU Medical Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Deki Tsering, VCU Medical Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Natalie Noble, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Rachel Gaston, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, Hanover Resident, Mechanicsville District
Kathryn Felarca, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 6th District Richmond Resident
Kelly Hancock, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 7th District Richmond Resident
Grace Keen, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Farah Yasmeen, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 2nd District Richmond Resident
Natalie Slempp, VCU Occupational Therapy Student, 6th District Richmond Resident

From: [Cynthia Oliver](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statues
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 5:52:19 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

How are they going to be stored? And for how long? They are beautiful monuments & need to be out & able to be viewed by the public. Charge a entrance fee if need be to keep the dissenters, haters & riffraff away.

Have some courage. Don't bow down to the loud minority.

Sent from my iPhone

Cynthia Oliver



From: [Bryce Carter](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Special Council Meeting - Mayor's resolution for expediting removal of statues
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:33:12 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

For the record, my name is Bryce Carter. I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mayor Stoney's resolution to expedite the removal of statues in the City of Richmond is illegal according to both VA Senate Bill 183 and Virginia House Bill 1537. The citizenry respectfully asks that you, elected public officials, follow the letter of the law.

Both Senate Bill 183 and House Bill 1537 require a public hearing, not less than 30 days AFTER publishing a PUBLIC notice prior to removal or relocation of monuments.

Language from SB 183 passed 10 APR 2020:

Prior to removing, relocating, contextualizing, or covering any such publicly owned monument or memorial, the local governing body shall publish notice of such intent in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality. The notice shall specify the time and place of a public hearing at which interested persons may present their views, not less than 30 days after publication of the notice. After the completion of the hearing, the governing body may vote whether to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial. If the governing body votes to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial, the local governing body shall first, for a period of 30 days, offer the monument or memorial for relocation and placement to any museum, historical society, government, or military battlefield.

I respectfully ask that the Members of Council REJECT Mayor Stoney's resolution to expedite the removal of statues from The City of Richmond.

Respectfully,

Bryce Carter

From: wv-2@juno.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: statues on Monument Ave.
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 4:44:58 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

KEEP THEM UP! PUT ONES TAKEN DOWN BACK!

It's history, whether you like it or not. If you take down everything historical, no one can learn from it at all and you dumb down your youth and other Americans. People flock to Virginia and Richmond for its Civil War history. You are cutting your throat economically and politically.

Lee and Jackson were not for slavery, and all your people around there saying they were traitors and slave owners are wrong. Both only had a handful of slaves inherited from family members upon marriage and both arranged for their freedoms. Lee even arranged for freeing of his father-in-law's slaves at Arlington, per the man's will, by 1862.

Jackson had a school in Lexington for blacks to learn to read and write, and if you checked your history, you'd find out he was a friend to the black community around Lexington.

If you checked your history you'd find out many factors were involved in the war between the states, the Civil War. It was about the southern states paying 80% of the taxes of the federal government's budget to run America, when other states paid the 20%. Unbalanced representation in Congress! People not listening to them like you all are doing now if you don't listen to the majority of people who in polls say leave statues alone everywhere.

Did you know if you leave statues to blacks like Arthur Ashe, you are also leaving statues to a race who owned slaves? Africans sold each other into slavery and blacks in the south also owned slaves--thousands of them between a few large farm/plantation owners who were black.

So, slavery isn't a white owning black scenario only!

Son of old Virginia (my family goes back 400 yrs. in Virginia and we didn't own slaves) and frequent visitor to Richmond and Virginia.

Top News - [Sponsored By Newser](#)

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- [Bad News for Trump on His Niece's Tell-All](#)
- [This FBI Team Probes 'Disruptions in the Spirit'](#)

From: [STEPHANIE LAWSON](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monument removal
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 8:45:34 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Why don't the citizens get a vote ? And have you chosen to also remove the Martin Luther King memorials and road names , what if others find them offensive. Should they also start a violent and destructive protest
Pooh 01111110

From: [George Hostetler](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting 7/2/2020
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:35:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the City Council:

I have a number of concerns regarding the removal of Confederate statues on Monument Ave: It appears that the Mayor broke the law by his actions yesterday.

The Council has always deliberated before a vote on any policy directive or ordinance, allowing citizen input both for and against. This is not happening now and appears to be a breakdown in civil government.

I live in proximity to the Lee Monument and am greatly concerned by the nightly activities that create disruptive noise levels. The police make no attempt to alleviate the situation.

Sincerely,
George Hostetler



From: [Randy Blankenship](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Monument Ave
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:51:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Mr. Mayor and Members of City Council

As a Resident of Monument Ave and long time City business owner, I believe it best to reside by law and not mob rule in determining what happens with the statues on Monument Ave.

Therefore I request that expediting the removal of the statues Be rejected until the hearings and due course have taken place in accordance with legal proceedings.

Respectfully Submitted

E Randolph Blankenship Jr

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Garden Place](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
Cc: [Fred Calvert](#); [Melissa Schmitz](#); [andy stefanovich](#); [Nick Cooke](#); [Laura Leigh Savage](#); [Cindy Wofford](#); [Mary Lynn Tischer](#); [Cecilia Lewis](#); [Wolf Joffe](#); [Barbaragae Joffe](#); [Tracey Mauck](#); [George Hostetler](#); [Anna Aquino](#); [Anne Patten](#)
Subject: Law enforcement?
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:32:32 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To City Council,

Regardless the fate of monuments, civil laws already on the books are not being enforced. To name just a few we in the 'war zone' around the Lee Monument have endured for past 5 weeks...

1. Parking regulations until 9:00 pm in decal zones not enforced
2. Speed limits and stop sign Disrespect
3. 11:00 pm Noise Ordinance
4. Fireworks prohibition
5. Destruction & defacement of public and private property (graffiti tagging & break in)
6. Current regulation to clear Lee Circle and surrounds by sunset- last evening crowd was there until 2:00am
7. Perhaps most of all - a total fear that civil discourse, lawful assembly & protest has deteriorated to mob action almost every evening. As one resident of RVA for the past 45 years- My family & I am now afraid to be in our home- sad situation for a law abiding, tax paying resident who sees no end in sight to restore civil order.

I hope that sums up the current conditions- do please visit any evening to experience it for yourselves and share with other city residents.

Janet Heltzel



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Wolf Joffe](#)
To: [Garden Place](#)
Cc: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Law enforcement?
Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 7:37:51 PM

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I ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT WHAT JANET SHARED.

People can protest all they'd like during the day, but I find the the vandalism, noise, fireworks etc Unacceptable.

I can't wait for the next round of elections!

-Wolf Joffe - [REDACTED]

> On Jul 2, 2020, at 11:32 AM, Garden Place <janet.heltzel@garden-place.com> wrote:

>

> To City Council,

> Regardless the fate of monuments, civil laws already on the books are not being enforced. To name just a few we in the 'war zone' around the Lee Monument have endured for past 5 weeks...

> 1. Parking regulations until 9:00 pm in decal zones not enforced

> 2. Speed limits and stop sign Disrespect

> 3. 11:00 pm Noise Ordinance

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>

> I hope that sums up the current conditions- do please visit any evening to experience it for yourselves and share with other city residents.

> Janet Heltzel

> [REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Steve Snell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Vote No
Date: Friday, July 3, 2020 3:11:23 PM

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Vote No to remove statues.

Statues always stand for honor of the said person or thing. This is like saying the folks that made these decisions to install the statues were wrong. This is like saying anything Martin Luther King said is wrong because he is not here to defend.

Respectfully, **Steve Snell**

[322 Freedom Blvd.](#)



One thing I can give and still keep: my word.



From: [Alex Caligiuri](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Congratulations for the Pittance You Have Done
Date: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:15:28 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the Richmond City Council and Councilwoman Kimberly Gray,

I must congratulate you on finally *partially* listening to *one* of the demands of Richmond residents. Congrats on removing the few monuments you have removed.

Let it be known that the residents of Richmond have removed more monuments than you far faster than you are willing to go.

Additionally, it is very clear that the recently removed monuments are an attempt to distract from the continuing eviction proceedings against Richmond residents. The continuance of eviction proceedings is violence. Doubly so in the midst of this pandemic when many millions of people in this country have lost their jobs and so have no money to feed themselves or their families, much less pay rent-seekers who don't even live in this city.

And attacking protesters attempting to enter a public building to make their voices heard, **AS IS THEIR RIGHT?**

Have you no shame? In the sheer unlikelihood that you do, below is the list of demands of the residents of Richmond which you have failed to meet thus far:

1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters case
2. Defund the police and fund black futures
3. Drop all charges against every protester
4. Remove all monuments to white supremacy
5. Establish an independent civilian review board with subpoena power that is separate from the RPD
6. Establish and fully fund the Marcus Alert System
7. Release the names of ALL RPD officers currently under investigation for Use-Of-Force misconduct

You have the power to fulfill most if not all of these demands. Why have you not done so?

Alex Caligiuri

From: [Sean](#)
To: [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Concerned Richmond Voter Police Reform Solution
Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 7:54:45 PM
Attachments: [1594248049266_Sean's Remarks 2.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello my name is Sean

I'm a long time Richmond resident and avid voter who wants to change the culture and interactions between our neighbors and law enforcement agencies. Please read the following proposal as I think it has a lot of unique and valid support for change. Thank you for all the work that you guys do.

Sean Baskerville BS,MS, RBT



Sean Baskerville BS,MS,

Good Evening.

Madame Council President Newbille and Members of the Richmond City Council:

My name is Sean Baskerville. I am a voter and resident of the 7th District. I am also a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) certified to implement behavior interventions, and I have a Masters Degree in Applied Behavior Analysis.

I am proposing the following measures to address the de-escalation of police behaviors which often result in the death of Black men and women during police interactions.

First, I propose that a team be developed to work with the Police Department to develop appropriate social interactions with citizens and define mandatory training goals for all officers. The team should meet on a regular basis and consist of the following personnel: a community relations person, a social worker, a mental health person, a conflict resolution specialist, a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA), and Precinct Psychiatrist/Psychologist, and Representative from the officers assigned Precinct

Secondly, as a way to use non-violent intervention strategies, I propose that 911 calls go to social services first response teams to assess mental health, behavioral health or substance abuse issues, instead of those calls going directly to the Police. Those citizens needing a mental health representative or consult should have immediate contact with a therapist. An individualized conflict resolution plan for the citizen would then be directly coordinated with officers. All de-escalation strategies and measures

must **first** be used and **no** life threatening holds can be used. Efforts should be increased for the community to know who community officers are and not see police only in times of conflict. This strategy would need to be implemented during the times before and during detainment.

Thirdly, the previously mentioned team should develop behavioral contracts with officers and recommendations in collaboration from the qualified individuals along with the officer to achieve reasonable and measurable behavior goals as deemed by the city, community, and police department. This Behavioral contracts would be created by the officer's previously mentioned team.

Fourth, family members of the person detained will have direct contact with social services team members to receive updates on behavior changes, and on whether or not the officer has mastered community social interaction goals. The Team will discuss and formalize incentive and disciplinary actions, I recommend individualized service plans (ISP) for officers as well as Behavior Intervention Plans(BIPs) identified by the team and for any departments where the team deems necessary.

Fifth, to change the negative perception and increase positive relations with the local police departments, police representatives should provide random “safety checks” or “coupons” available for licensed drivers or residents redeemable by merchants for goods or services. In addition, programs for kids 5 to 17 with parents consent can have a police escort to their proms, birthdays, or family special event, or they can participate

in police ride a long programs. Programs geared to mentor students and increase gender diversity for those who want to become police officers should be developed. There will be a police officer unit trained and available for individuals with disabilities. The officers in this program will assist officers in the needs of dealing with citizens with disabilities when the event of a violation of the law. Topics from behavior strategies and protocols to helping other officers in how to interact with people with mental health issues should be covered.

These are my broad recommendations. I would be happy to give further details or answer any questions.

Sean Baskerville, BS, MS (ABA), RBT

From: [Chrissy Boesen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:13:06 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi I am a resident of Richmond and I have great love for our city. We have had peaceful protests every *single* day here: a violin vigil, skate in solidarity, car rallies, a documentary screening, marches for awareness to name a few. I have spent a great deal of time at the Marcus David-Peters circle. The sense of community there means everything. Every day people peacefully gather there, without police presence during the day. I feel safer with no police there, because that means I don't have to worry about being gassed for exercising my freedom of speech. Taking down statues and renaming streets is good, but we need systematic change. There is still violence being committed by the police against the citizens living here.

These are some of the changes we need:

1. Reopen Marcus David-Peters case
2. Defund police, fund black futures
3. Drop all charges against all protesters
4. Remove monuments to white supremacy
5. Establish an independent civilian review board with subpoena power that is fully separate from the RPD
6. Establish and fully fund the Marcus Alert
7. Release the names of all RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct

Thank you for your time.
Christine Boesen

From: [Em](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:28:22 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Here's what I emailed this morning if y'all want to copy and paste!! It has to be in by 10 am to be considered

Good Morning

Today is a good day to listen to and address the demands of our movement!!

-re open the Marcus David Peters Case

-defund RPD

-Drop all charges against protestors

-remove all monuments to white supremacy

-civilian review board SEPARATE from RPD

-fully fund and implement a Marcus David Peters Alert system

-Release names of RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct

I would like to personally add RPD needs to stop use of force immediately. RPD need to also immediately stop the use of tear gas it is illegal in times of war and is infesting the entire city and I still have to go in to work everyday- during this pandemic that is the last thing we need polluting the air. These demands are not asking too much I'd say we are almost asking too little. Do you want the protests and unrest to stop? You need to stop pandering with little things and start making actual change we have been asking for this entire time!

Sincerely Emma

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kendra Hudson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for Tonight's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:46:39 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Richmond is becoming a sundown town, a police state. I fear for my LIFE walking down the street. Will I be carted away to jail, detained without bail, for simply existing, or carrying a sign stating my mind?

We repeat "I can't breathe" and you gas us. We chant "Black lives matter" and you charge us with crimes, and take us to jail, to remind us that black lives have never mattered to the city of Richmond.

You are being sued by the ACLU. THE ACLU. For infringing our rights to protest, to demonstrate, to speak, to assemble. Do you not see that you are on the wrong side of history? How are you justifying this to yourselves?

The demands are simple.

STOP GASSING US.


FREE PROTESTORS & DROP THE CHARGES AGAINST THEM. The charges are pumped up and frivolous, and designed to quell free speech.

FUND BLACK FUTURES instead of Police.

Root out crime from it's inception (poverty, lack of opportunity, broken education systems) by funding education, public housing, jobs programs and drug rehabilitation. RPD is a monument to white supremacy. It is passed time we dismantle it.

Police are reactionary. Let's be proactive.

Kendra M. Hudson, J.D.



From: [Daniel Lee](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting 7-27 - Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:51:58 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I would like to submit the below as a public comment for today's meeting.

"Good Evening Members of City Council:

As a graduate of VCU, I am familiar with the frequent use of Monroe Park as a thoroughfare and gathering spot for students and residents at all hours of the day. As a graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law, I am somewhat familiar with the constitutional rights afforded to all civilians in our community. Last night's actions in Monroe Park by the Richmond PD, and whatever unmarked unidentifying organizations they are conspiring with, showed a blatant attack on and disregard for those rights. Both journalists and civilians were violently detained and arrested while clearly complying with instructions from officers. The video evidence is there. Civilians are being arrested for being on sidewalks.

It is clear that our mayor is too cowardly to stand up for the residents of this city, so I am asking you, our elected councilmembers, what are you doing to reign in the terror that the RPD is bringing down on our communities?"

Daniel Lee


From: parrish.michelle1
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council citizen participation
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:51:59 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern:

In regards to the protests happening in the city and the escalation of violence towards property and people, increase in arrests and actions by the RPD that appears to coincide with a increased physical presence of RPD and the arming and presentation of the RPD as defensive agents - **What tools and strategies does the mayor have that differs from his current actions which have been an increased RPD presence and increased arming of RPD officers?** The current strategy do not appear to focus on de escalation but rather intimidation by an increased RPD presence not only in numbers but how RPD officers are armed and presented. **What data is the mayor using to show that his chosen tactics will lead to de escalation of the current climate centered around police reform and community involvement?**

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Parrish



[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]



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From: [Thomas Owens](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:56:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning

Today is a good day to listen to and address the demands of our movement!!

-re open the Marcus David Peters Case

-defund RPD

-Drop all charges against protestors

-remove all monuments to white supremacy

-civilian review board SEPARATE from RPD

-fully fund and implement a Marcus David Peters Alert system

-Release names of RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct

I would like to personally add RPD needs to stop use of force immediately. RPD need to also immediately stop the use of tear gas it is illegal in times of war and is infesting the entire city and I still have to go in to work everyday- during this pandemic that is the last thing we need polluting the air. These demands are not asking too much I'd say we are almost asking too little. Do you want the protests and unrest to stop? You need to stop pandering with little things and start making actual change we have been asking for this entire time!

-Thomas Owens

From: [Gabby Brost](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:57:16 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

The Richmond police department needs to be defunded and those funds reallocated today community programs, homeless services, and education initiatives. The Richmond police continually enact violence on their citizens while facing zero accountability and repercussions. They, and Levar Stoney, are more concerned with damaged property than a white supremacist who shot at a citizen on Saturday night. Their total disregard for their own procedures, laws, and basic humanity serve to uphold a system that is currently evicting people during a pandemic, trying to force kids to return to school, and keeping citizens living in poverty. The gross negligence and outright displays of disregard for human life from the Richmond Police Department, it's chief, and Levar Stoney are appalling.

Reopen the Marcus-David Peters case.

Defund RPD.

Fully fund the Marcus alert system.

Establish a civilian review board with subpoena power.

Drop all charges against all protestors.

Remove ALL monuments to white supremacy.

Release the names of RPD officers undergoing investigation for use of force misconduct.

Hold RPD accountable for their use of force via chemical weapons, violent arrests, and systematic targeting of press, medics, and information providers.

From: [Harrison Moenich](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Remarks for Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:11:01 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

There is video evidence all over Twitter of our police department accosting the press for documenting the protests last night. They made them take their masks off and photographed them and took their social security numbers. This city's police department should be ashamed of how its treating people doing what is constitutionally afforded to them, DURING A PANDEMIC. The officers should be fired and the Richmond Police Department should formally apologize via local news sources.

- Defund the RPD
- Enact the Marcus Alert System
- fund a civilian review board with subpoena power and ZERO POLICE AFFILIATION
- release all protestors and cancel any charges currently against them
- reopen the Marcus David Peters investigation.

From: [Kayla Berry](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting comments
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:34:58 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Thank you for holding this important meeting and for taking public comments on the issue. I would like for Richmond's police force to be demilitarized. I do NOT want to see the police using weapons against civilians, including chemical weapons. No more tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, real bullets, tasers, batons, etc.

Thank you,
Kayla Berry

[REDACTED]

--

Kayla Berry

[REDACTED]

From: [Cheryn Rapp](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for tonight's city council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:38:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My name is Cheryn Rapp and I live in Richmond museum district, a few blocks away from Monument Avenue. Thank you for reading my comments for tonight's city council meeting. I ask that you listen to our community organizers who are asking the following:

- Reopen the Marcus-David Peters case
- Defund the police and invest in our communities. Listen to community leadership and protestors for guidance.
- Ask Colette McEachin to drop all charges against every protestor.
- Establish an independent civilian review board with subpoena power that is separate from the RPD
- Establish and fully fund the Marcus Alert system
- Release the names of all RPD officers currently under investigation for use-of-force misconduct
- Remove all monuments to white supremacy; from confederate generals to daughters of the confederacy
- Listen to our community leaders who have been asking for these things since day one.

Thank you for your time.

Cheryn Rapp

From: [Brooke Allen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Concerning the riots/remarks for tonight's meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:39:56 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I'm a resident of the fan/cary town and these past few months have been very enlightening. I've always assumed the police were here to protect and serve the citizens of this city not treat them like enemy combatants while they exercise their 1st amendment right. It's baffling to me that if there are only a few bad cops that the rest of the police department would push back against a civilian review board that would make sure no bad apples spoil the bunch. I've taken no part in the riots but have been paying attention to the differences in what is being reported and what is being captured on camera. It's clear the police have no oversight and citizens are being terrorized with no recourse for justice. This isn't freedom and this isn't the America I was brought up to love. These things need to happen now to restore trust in our city and government:

- cut the RPDs bloated budget and reallocate the funds to social programs (they look like an army- we already have an army in the US we don't need one in Richmond)
- reopen Marcus David Peeters case. If you had a mental crisis and we're murdered by police wouldn't you want justice?
- create a civilian review board with subpoena power that has absolutely no ties to Richmond law enforcement
- drop the charges of the protesters who were brutalized by police while exercising their first amendment right to protest police brutality.
- create and enact the Marcus Alert with the help of local leaders and Marcus's family
- stop escalating protests by beating and gassing citizens in the street. Gassing people in normal times is immoral but during a pandemic? Shocking.

Thank you for taking the time, I hope you take these words to heart.

From: twhitleyg@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:41:05 AM

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Simply put: I want the Richmond Police Department to be de-militarized.

—Tess Guthrie

From: [Brad hemp](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting 7.27.20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:44:21 AM
Attachments: [Brenner Pass City Council Meeting Letter 7.27.2020.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Candice D. Reid,

Attached is my public comment concerning proposed legislation for the City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I have also included the comment in the body of the email below if that is more convenient. Please acknowledge receipt of the comment, and let me know if I need to provide anything further.

All the best,
Brad Hemp

Richmond City Council,

My name is Brad Hemp, I am an owner of two restaurants in Richmond: Brenner Pass in Scott's Addition and Metzger Bar and Butchery in Church Hill. I would like to request that the City Council adopt an ordinance that would require the Richmond City Department of Finance to apply all ALM tax payments as specified by the taxpayer business in their monthly return, whether submitted online or by hard copy. In other words, if a restaurant makes a \$5000 tax payment for July 2020 Meals Tax liability, the Department of Finance would be required to apply that tax payment only to July 2020 Meals Tax liability.

I am requesting that such an ordinance be created because the Department of Finance currently applies tax payments in a manner that can create thousands of dollars of tax penalties and fees without the knowledge of the business that is subject of these penalties. This happens in the following manner. On occasion the Department of Finance may assess a tax liability against a business, then fail to notify to business of that liability (there appears to be no requirement that businesses be notified of an assessment in a timely manner). After the assessment, subsequent ALM tax payments will be applied first to the assessment, then to ALM tax liability for the month submitted. The result is that business will unknowingly underpay its ALM tax liability and incur a 10% penalty for underpayment immediately. For instance, the Department of Finance might assessment a \$100 tax liability against a business and not notify that business. When that business submits its \$5000 ALM tax payment for July 2020, \$100 will go to pay the assessment first, then \$4900 will go to pay for the July 2020 ALM tax liability. Since the tax liability for July was \$5000, the Department of Finance will then assess a \$500 penalty against the business. In turn, the Department of Finance will not notify the business of this assessment so that the business can pay (or dispute) the tax penalty prior to the next ALM payment. As a result, when the business makes its next ALM tax payment, the Finance

Department will apply the payment to the assessment first and the business will again unknowingly incur a penalty for 'underpayment' of their ALM tax liability. This can continue month after month without the knowledge of the business owner. I recently fell victim to this flaw in the ALM tax payment system, and incurred about \$10,000 of penalties and fees without my knowledge or the opportunity to prevent the accumulation of penalties.

The Department of Finance claims that they apply tax payments in this manner per the Code of Virginia 58.1-3913, which directs that tax payments will be first applied to the oldest liability. This section of the Code of Virginia does allow for modification by local ordinance, so I know of no legal impediment to an ordinance requiring the Department of Finance to apply ALM tax payments to the month specified in the tax return. This would prevent the creation of exorbitant fees without the knowledge of the business. If the Department of Finance makes a tax assessment, they can still notify the business and collect it in the usual manner.

Thank you very much for your attention on this matter. If I can be of any help in providing more information please do not hesitate to call or email me.

All the best,

Brad Hemp

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Richmond City Council,

My name is Brad Hemp, I am an owner of two restaurants in Richmond: Brenner Pass in Scott's Addition and Metzger Bar and Butchery in Church Hill. I would like to request that the City Council adopt an ordinance that would require the Richmond City Department of Finance to apply all ALM tax payments as specified by the taxpayer business in their monthly return, whether submitted online or by hard copy. In other words, if a restaurant makes a \$5000 tax payment for July 2020 Meals Tax liability, the Department of Finance would be required to apply that tax payment only to July 2020 Meals Tax liability.

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The Department of Finance claims that they apply tax payments in this manner per the Code of Virginia 58.1-3913, which directs that tax payments will be first applied to the oldest liability. This section of the Code of Virginia does allow for modification by local ordinance, so I know of no legal impediment to an ordinance requiring the Department of Finance to apply ALM tax payments to the month specified in the tax return. This would prevent the creation of exorbitant fees without the knowledge of the business. If the Department of Finance makes a tax assessment, they can still notify the business and collect it in the usual manner.

Thank you very much for your attention on this matter. If I can be of any help in providing more information please do not hesitate to call or email me.

All the best,
Brad Hemp



From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Public Safety Committee 7/28/20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:46:06 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I would like to share my support for RES 2020-R048 and thank you to Delegates Lynch and Jones for this important legislation. All over the nation, we have seen protestors gather daily to protest police brutality and violence; and they have been met with - police brutality and violence. Our medical community has repeatedly shared that tear gas is incredibly harmful - especially during a pandemic. We have seen the impact of non-lethal rounds and the injuries they cause.

I am a social worker of 20+ years. In the beginning of my career I worked in multiple residential settings with youth with mental health and behavioral needs who were deemed unsafe to live in the community. I worked primarily with teenage boys. They were often several inches taller than me and had at least 50lbs on me. They became angry. They would sometimes act in aggressive ways towards others or property (heaven forbid). I came to work everyday armed with..... NOTHING. I did not carry pepper spray. I did not have a weapon or wear any protective gear. I wore casual clothes and sneakers. No one suffered serious injuries and no one was murdered. I share this personal experience because I feel it demonstrates that we can interact with others and support safety without weapons or escalating violence. The secret to success every single time was relationship. I genuinely liked those kids - and believed in their goodness - and they (most of the time) liked me. I know that there are better ways to create and sustain safety. Behaving violently and using tactics of intimidation and fear escalate violence, they do not stop it.

Thank you.

Jennifer Surratt



From: [Erin Crettier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Weekend arrests and police violence
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:47:25 AM

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I'm wondering how Mayor Stoney and city council members would like to explain why RPD arrested multiple journalists, protesters, and were pulling residents off of their porches over the weekend, while an armed man was able to discharge a weapon at protesters, unprovoked, and drive away freely?

Why were the Boogaloo Boys able to come into Richmond for one night, leave, and suddenly now a period of relatively low police presence has now erupted into a weekend of police violence and unlawful arrests?

Why haven't the charges been dropped for protesters?

Why hasn't the Marcus-David Peters case been reopened?

Why hasn't a single one of our demands been met?

Why is the city directing their money and efforts towards increasing police presence and oppression of our citizens rather than listening to them and working with them to create a safer city for ALL Richmond residents?

Defund the RPD NOW.

Sincerely,
Erin Crettier



From: [Stephanie Millholland](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 7/27 City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:30 AM

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Good morning,

Wanted to submit a public comment to request that the Richmond Police Dept be demilitarized.

Thanks,
Stephanie Millholland

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amber Fox](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for Tonight's (7/27) City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:49:52 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Council members,

As a community member of Richmond, living in Shockoe Bottom, I am deeply disturbed by and concerned about the repeated police violence in our city.

Protest groups, community members, and marginalized communities in our city have made their demands clear and I urge you to use your position to support, protect, and serve your constituents in the ways that they have advocated for.

In order to actively support your constituents and to develop Richmond as a whole toward a more equitable, equal, prosperous, healthy, and safe community, I urge you to take action toward the following:

1. Re-open Marcus David Peters case
2. Defund the police
3. Drop all charges against every protestor
4. Remove all monuments to white supremacy delusion in this city
5. Establish an independent civilian review board with subpoena power that is separate from the RPD
6. Establish and fully fund the Marcus Alert system
7. Release the names of all RPD officers currently under investigation for use-of-force misconduct
8. Extend rent relief during the COVID pandemic

As elected representatives of this city and your constituents, it is your duty serve the needs and interests of EVERYONE in your districts, especially those who are the most vulnerable.

Your constituents are watching how you choose to represent them in these important decisions and will remember your actions and inaction during elections.

Best,
Amber

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sims, Alexandra Neil](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting, 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:51:20 AM

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My name is Alexandra Sims and I am a voter in the 1st District. I would like to strongly voice my support of defunding the Richmond Police Department. The overwhelming power the police department has over the city and its budget is disturbing and symptomatic.

We need to focus on building our communities up, particularly communities that are vulnerable. By applying some of the vast budget the police department has historically been awarded to the education system, public housing, and other social services in the city, we can combat crime by using preventative measures rather than punitive. We not only need to use that money for investment in communities, but also to build programs that would actually have trained professionals respond to situations, such as the Marcus Alert system. And while other people who are trained for such emergencies handle those situations, the police department can more effectively focus on pertinent crimes rather than unnecessarily criminalizing their citizens.

I think the police department has more than shown that they are out their depths and defunding them will actually be beneficial to their team and the community at large. For the past two months they have overused tear gas, munition, and police force, including last night, Sunday July 26th when they arrested and harassed people, as well as press who had their credentials, before a protest even began. They have shown their incompetency and how much they truly waste the city's money. I implore you to imagine our city without this militarization and in which people actually feel safe, because we sure don't feel safe with police lurking. Thank you.

From: [Zero Eure](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:54:16 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Zero Eure and I wanted to contribute a comment on the city council meeting.

I am a resident and concerned 37 year old who wants to stand in solidarity with the protestors who are going out every night risking their lives to assist in garnering your attention council members. I have seen the harms of the aberrant use of the RPD and beyond and demand that this be changed, truly changed. I want to get your attention to create a community of compassion and harm reduction that is trauma informed beyond paltry training for RPD to be trauma informed for *themselves* they need to be trained as to the communities traumas, which they have not received training for. we want reforms that work to defund the massive and shameful money amounts thrown at the RPD and policing at large in VA. This is why we need to work towards defunding, because there are other ways, which you have ignored that can relive our hurt and pain caused by the council and state. Fund Vlack futures, Defund the police, reopen the Marcus Daivd Peters case. Independent review board is necessary. Drop charges against all protesters, release the names of RPD officers under investigation, remove every last monument to white supremacy!!!

From: [Jalaj Sawhney](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Meeting Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:56:14 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

This question is for Levar Stoney. During Saturday, many people have reported guns being used by civilians to threaten protesters, rounds were fired near the ground of protesters and the license plate number of the person responsible has been floating around the internet. Your police force is hunting down press and medics, yet have taken no actions or acknowledged anything about the actual white supremacists looking to seriously harm your citizens. As the videos clearly show, the culprit discharged his weapon, willfully, within grounds of the VCU campus, and on a public road. According to VA law code section 18.2-280 this calls for a Class 1 misdemeanor. There is also video evidence of the same individual discharging his weapon from his moving motor vehicle which means, according to VA law code section 18.2-261.1, the individual would be guilty of a class 5 felony. You have the license plate number of his vehicle (UYW-1533), it should be ridiculously easy to track him down and hold him responsible. What are you going to do about this?

From: [Jasmine Leeward](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:30 AM

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To city council,

My name is Jasmine Leeward and I am a resident and voter in the 7th district. As a result of the terror and the fatal harm and trauma caused by the police, I support the call to demilitarize the police. I want to see a future filled with more compassion and more care for our community. I stand alongside and in support of fellow Richmonders protesting in defense of Black lives and Black futures day and night. The police must be demilitarized to protect us. If we are striving for a just Richmond and against the harmful systems that have oppressed us all, especially Black people, queer people, disabled people, people without wealth, indigenous people, women, and those living at these intersections for far, far too long, we must take this action.

Please use your power for good and be on the right side of history.

From: [Alex Oxford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for 2020-07-27 council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:50 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I live in Charlottesville, not Richmond, but I frequently commute to Richmond, and as such feel the need to comment here. My friend and neighbor, a reporter, was aggressively arrested last night, for "trespassing", while on a public sidewalk. She was imprisoned unnecessarily for 10 hours, and went through the trauma of being tackled, arrested, and imprisoned, despite breaking no law. This is absolutely outrageous. RPD needs to, at the very least, respect the rights of the press, and the right of the people to assemble and protest

Alex Oxford


From: [Sofia Desrosiers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: DO BETTER RVA
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:58:37 AM

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1. RE OPEN THE MDP CASE
2. DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST PROTESTORS AND THOSE ARRESTED UNLAWFULLY WITHOUT PROBABLE CAUSE
3. RELEASE THE NAMES OF THE ABUSIVE FEDS
4. FULLY FUND THE MDP ALERT

DEFUND THE POLICE
FUND PUBLIC HOUSING AND EDUCATION

As a future educator I am utterly disgusted at the use of taxpayer money to constantly harass and assault the citizens of RVA.

BLUE LIVES DONT MATTER BECAUSE YOU MAKE A CHOICE WHEN SWORN IN.

My skin, is BROWN. I am PROUD and I will NOT be silenced.

The revolution is coming, so get ready because this is ONLY the beginning.

No more settling, fully fund BLACK FUTURES, BLACK COMMUNITIES, BLACK SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FOR ALL.

Address the homelessness in rva, the displacement stupid VCU has caused.

Do better.

From: [Mary Kate Brogan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Proposed legislation to demilitarize police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:09 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a resident of Richmond in The Fan, writing in to comment on Stephanie Lynch's proposed legislation. I support the demilitarization of the Richmond Police Department. The city's militarized police force serves only to instill fear among the residents of our city.

Last night (Sunday), RPD officers in riot gear arrested several individuals without cause. This weekend, officers threatened journalists with arrest, handcuffing them despite reporters identifying themselves as members of the press and, in at least one case, throwing a reporter to the ground.

This is in addition to numerous other offenses over the past few months, including an officer driving a police car into a crowd and police tear gassing peaceful protesters more than 20 minutes before that evening's curfew.

If city council and Mayor Levar Stoney do not act to protect the city's residents from a police force that has shown it cannot exercise necessary restraint in situations that require de-escalation, rest assured, you will be held accountable at the polls on Nov. 3, 2020. Hold RPD accountable for the sake of this city. Demilitarize Richmond's police force.

Sincerely,
Mary Kate Brogan



From: [Sam Mladen](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:00:00 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sam Mladen** <snmladen@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 9:59 AM
Subject: Public comment
To: cityclerksoffice@richmond.gov <cityclerksoffice@richmond.gov>

My name is Samantha Mladen and I am a resident of the third district. Many others will speak and write in more thorough and eloquent support of the specific police reform legislation that you will debate tonight. I would thus like to call specific attention to the actions of RPD last night in detaining, threatening, and arresting members of the press and individuals standing on a public sidewalk recording the actions of police (as is their right). These actions continue to reflect the deep corruption in RPD and its desire to censor and silence any active monitoring, oversight, or reform of its power. I urge the council to speak directly to the actions of these officers and to seek appropriate disciplinary action for the officers directly involved, as well as their command structure, to include the Chief and the Mayor.

From: [Haleh Pedram](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Ord 2020-117
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:56:41 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

My name is Haleh Pedram and I live and work in Oregon Hill, in Richmond's beautiful 5th district, conveniently located to the ever expanding Monroe park campus at Virginia Commonwealth University.

I do not want the scope of VCU PD to be widened, I do not want the transfer of medical records between RPD and VCUPD and I do not want to see more police presence in my neighborhood. These students are mostly minors and should be protected and guided as such. VCU needs to increase funding to educate students on how to live in a city and how to be respectful of their neighbors, however increasing patrolling will not aid in these endeavors.

I am in close contact with my neighbors and we protect each other. I do not believe that increased police presence will lower crime in our neighborhood and I recognize that increased police presence will likely target Black and Brown individuals at a higher rate as this is the history of policing.

I am sick of the overarching power of the RPD and I do not think it's right for VCUPD and RPD to gang up on residents of Richmond more than it already does. Please vote against Ord 2020-117.

I expect that ya'll will do the right thing. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Haleh Pedram



Haleh Pedram

From: [Charles F](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 2126 rosewood special permit comment
Date: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:59:03 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

to whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the special use permit for [REDACTED]. I own a nearby house at [REDACTED].

I support this project. Accessory dwelling units are good for the city and help keep neighborhoods socioeconomically mixed.

I see no harm resulting to neighbors such as myself and a great deal of good.

Charles Frankenhoff

From: [Elizabeth Redford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Kelsey Dunn](#)
Subject: City Council - please share for 7/27 6 pm meeting supporting the SUP at 1707 Westover Hills Boulevard
Date: Friday, July 17, 2020 2:39:34 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-1wnhisyc.png](#)
[Outlook-fzkbkuxn.png](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon,

I would like to reach out and share my support of the Tablespoons Bakery project at 1707 Westover Hills Boulevard in the parsonage house, owned by Westover Hills United Methodist Church.

I represent Next Move Program, a nonprofit in Central Virginia that provides vocational education and job training to young adults with developmental disabilities. Our organization created and operates the baking program that will move into this space, Tablespoons Bakery.

We work each day to combat the almost 70% unemployment rate for this population in our state. Our programming has been endorsed by the Virginia Department of Education and we have been able to create inclusive internship experiences in 13 area businesses for our young adults since 2015, both benefiting our students and promoting inclusion within those organizations and the greater community.

We will be taking that same model and curriculum that we have so successfully implemented in other organizations, and now will be implementing it within our own bakery – providing onsite educational internships to high school students with developmental disabilities through our existing school system partnerships and even some employment opportunities for our graduates.

We have been so fortunate to build out this specific program over the last four years – selling out each week at the SOTJ Farmer's Market, filling community and corporate catering orders, and even venturing into wholesale partnerships with local restaurants like Laura Lee's and Perk.

We hope to not only support our students, but to support the larger community by providing a welcoming space to celebrate inclusion and related educational resources/programming that is open to all.

We greatly appreciate the support of our City Council Representative, Kristen Larson, and the

support of the Westover Hills and Forest Hill Homeowners Associations.

Together, we can give all young people a bright future.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Redford

Elizabeth S. Redford

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted block]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted block]

From: [Elisabeth](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Tablespoons Bakery/Westover Hills Church
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:57:19 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing in regard to addition of the Tablespoons Bakery to the church. It is an absolutely wonderful addition to the church and all the community for a number of reasons! The biggest one is that this will provide and include education, jobs, mentoring, learning every day life and people skills for individuals with disabilities. My son has been involved with this amazing and life changing organization for about 6 years. The plans that they have for the bakery will enrich the great Forest Hill community as much as the employees!!

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Elisabeth Brennan

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8+.

From: [Louise Lockett Gordon](#)
To: [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment - City Council / RES 2020-R044
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:28:48 AM
Attachments: [RES 2020-R044 Letter of Support Bike Walk RVA.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I would like to submit the following comment regarding RES 2020-R044 on the July 27 City Council agenda.

I support this resolution supporting the Director of Public Works' administrative directive "Protected walkways and crosswalks, bicycle lane, and shared use paths" requiring certain pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and pathways within construction work zones.

Walking and bicycling are foundational modes of our transportation system and the most economical. People walking and biking are also our most vulnerable roadway users. It is important to prioritize and maintain these pathways during construction work in the roadway. I thank the Director of Public Works for making this abundantly clear through this directive, to both construction contractors submitting work zone plans and staff reviewing such plans. I ask that the Council members uphold this directive and support this resolution. Thank you.

Kindly,

Louise Lockett Gordon, MPH

Director of Bike Walk RVA | [Sports Backers](#)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]





July 27, 2020

Richmond City Council
Re: RES 2020-R044

Dear members of Council:

I wish to express my support for this resolution supporting the Director of Public Works' administrative directive "Protected walkways and crosswalks, bicycle lane, and shared use paths" requiring certain pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and pathways within construction work zones.

Walking and bicycling are foundational modes of our transportation system and the most economical. People walking and biking are also our most vulnerable roadway users. It is important to prioritize and maintain these pathways during construction work in the roadway. I thank the Director of Public Works for making this abundantly clear through this directive, to both construction contractors submitting work zone plans and staff reviewing such plans. I ask that Council members uphold this directive and support this resolution. Thank you.

If you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at louise@sportsbackers.org or 804-334-8684.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Gordon', written in a cursive style.

Louise Lockett Gordon
Director of Bike Walk RVA
Sports Backers

From: [Travis Smith](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: Council Meeting @7pm for ORD. 2020-141
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:46:26 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Additionally, I would like to submit my comments for tonight's meeting.

Please see below:

-30' lots are common in that neighborhood. The lot next door (1112) was platted as two 30' lots and recently received a variance.

-The property currently at 1110 35th Street has off street parking available. The new property will have room for off street parking as well.

-There is another pair of 30 foot lots at the east end of the block.

-The address numbering was assigned back in the day in anticipation of lot splitting.

-My house was built up close to the east lot line rather than centered presumably in anticipation of subdivision.

-My house can still meet all yard setbacks when subdivided.

-The house will fit the aesthetics of the neighborhood

-Staff sent notifications out via certified mail within the prescribed time. My case was advertised in the Times-Dispatch. A sign was placed in the yard advising of the potential zone change

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time.

On Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 8:28 AM Travis Smith <tds804@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning.

My name is Travis Smith and I am the owner of 1110 N 35th Street, Richmond VA, 23223.

I am requesting to sign up to comment tonight, if needed. Please let me know if there is anything else needed. Thank you!

--

Travis Smith


--

Travis Smith

From: [Eryn Alloway](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Regarding City Council Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:27:13 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Once implemented, this program will potentially save lives of people going through mental health crises. This will divert people away from prison and instead provide them with the mental health care that they need. It also will reduce the case load on the police and instead allow for mental health professionals to care for people who need their services.

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

We need an oversight board with citizens (not other police) to review the actions of the police and hold them accountable for their behavior. Any system without outside checks and balances is vulnerable to negligent behavior.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

In this time of COVID-19 our community needs more funding to support eviction diversion and affordable housing. Families should not be put out on the street because of city revenue projections.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Police are allowed to seize private property during the course of arresting/prosecuting for drug crimes through a federal program, and sell these assets to fund Special Funds - we should have access to detailed information on from whom these assets are seized or how the special funds are used. Again, power without checks and balances can easily be

corrupted. The incentive to seize personal property for departmental gain is too enticing and should be mitigated by oversight.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

As I mentioned in the Marcus Alert program, I believe mental health crises should be handled by mental health professionals, not police officers. I also believe substance abuse issues should be handled by substance abuse counselors and professionals and that social services should be handled by professionals in that field. The police should not be catch-all for community issues. **We don't need more arrests - we need help!** Please re-direct funds from the police to fund city and community programs that specialize in these fields.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and I urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Eryn Helene Alloway



I represent no organizations and have no economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation mentioned above.

From: [Chris Ercolano](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Council Meeting today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:49 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

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Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Eugene Oregon has a mental health group that responds to 911 calls and has diverted a lot of situations away from police intervention. This saves the police time and resources as well as giving community members in need direct access to the resources they need. According to their own police chief, many violent interactions or uses of force have been avoided because of this program. Developing this plan is crucial to the safety and integrity of our community.

<https://whitebirdclinic.org/services/cahoots/>

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.7/public-health-theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police>

<https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/stories/when-mental-health-experts-not-police-are-the-first-responders>

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

This is incredibly important. We need to have local voices and oversight on police activity. Officers acting with impunity is what creates a culture of violence. Getting this plan started as soon as possible is crucial.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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Please relocate these funds. The civil unrest and uprising you have witnessed is a direct result of an inequitable distribution of resources given to people who should not be militarized. Policing is a reaction to crime. Remember the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? By redistributing funds and resources directly to communities, you will help to reduce the causes of crime. Police should be welcomed by the community as members of that community. Right now, they are feared. They are the other. They are an anonymous force of destruction. Reallocating these funds enables communities to take care of their most vulnerable members. Equitable access to healthcare, housing, nutrition, employment, and education will eliminate the need for criminal pursuits. By providing more possibilities for people to choose, they are less inclined to fall into illegal actions. It's basic Maslow's pyramid. Right now, some members of our city are struggling to survive. How are they supposed to make healthy, informed decisions? How are they supposed to access their best selves? Redistributing the resources from the police into community programs will make a tremendous difference.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Christopher Ryan Ecolano
Richmond's 4th district

Montessori Elementary Teacher
Outdoor Educator

From: [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#)
To: [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Henry Moore](#)
Subject: FW: Hi-Rise.pdf
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:11:38 AM
Attachments: [Hi-Rise.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Candice:

Henry Moore with Superior Signs has been calling your office to register to speak on behalf of the 1722 Arlington Road SUP Ordinance on tonight's agenda.

Can you confirm that he is registered?

Also, he would like to submit the attached drawings for distribution to Council members.

Thanks,

Craig

Proposed

**45' above
I-95
Road Bed**

**104.875" x 192" Cabinet
140 Sq. Ft.**



2510 willis road, richmond, virginia 23237
phone: 804-271-5685 fax: 804-743-9250
SuperiorSignsRVA.com

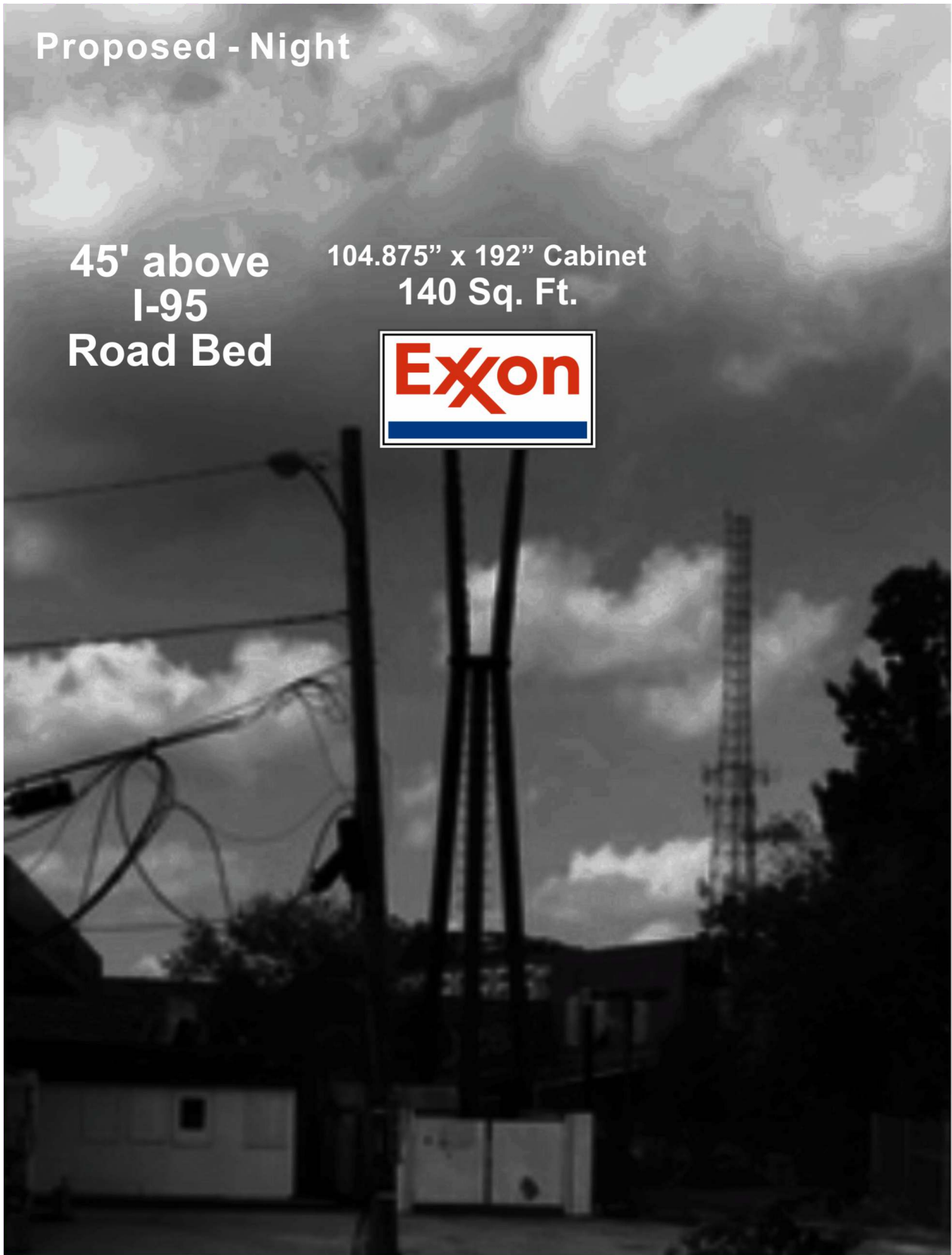
Customer: Exxon - Synergy	Job Location: 3200 North Boulevard			
Date: 5-18-20	Salesperson: H M	Drawn By: C M	Revisions:	Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"
Type of Signage: Hi-Rise				
File Name: 3200 North Boulevard / Hi-Rise	Customer Approval:			

This drawing must be approved and signed by the customer before production can begin. Any changes made after the drawing has been approved will be done at the customers expense. This drawing is the property of Superior Signs, LLC and may not be shown to anyone outside of the customers own organization. Duplication or distribution of this drawing without the written permission of Superior Signs, LLC is prohibited by law and will be taken very seriously.

Proposed - Night

45' above
I-95
Road Bed

104.875" x 192" Cabinet
140 Sq. Ft.

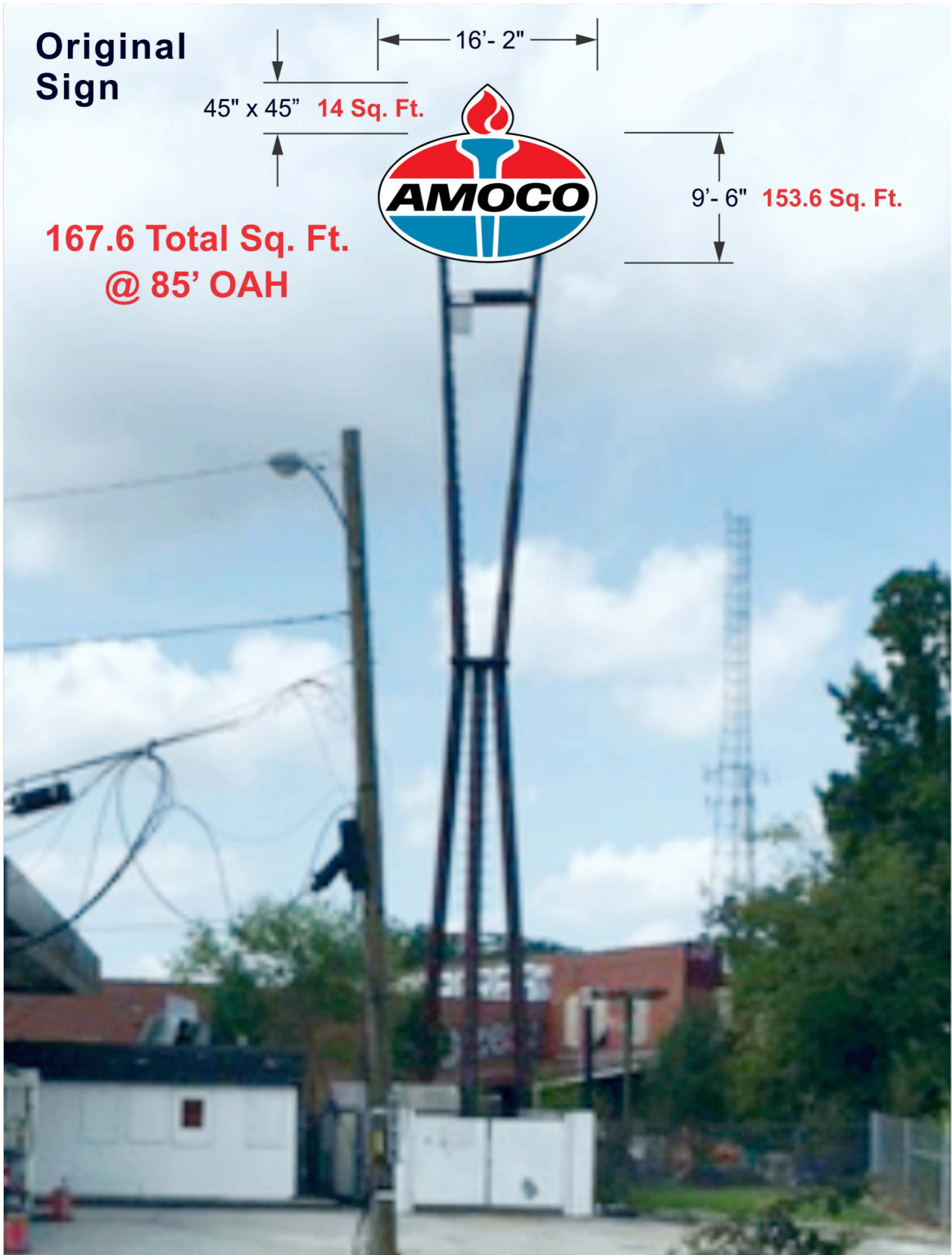
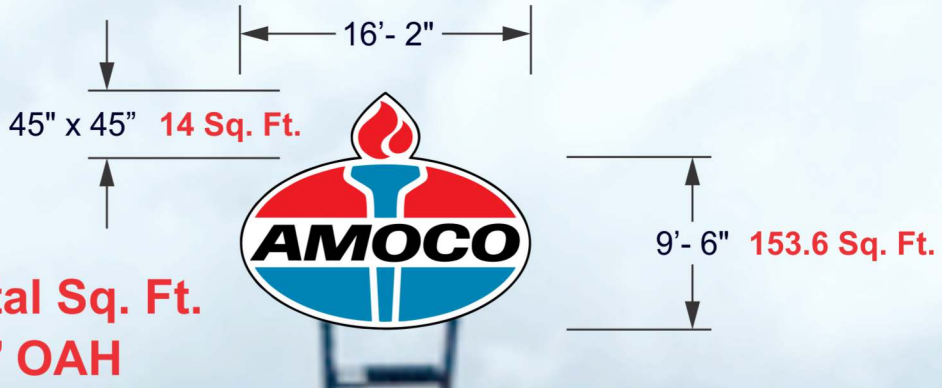


2510 willis road, richmond, virginia 23237
phone: 804-271-5685 fax: 804-743-9250
SuperiorSignsRVA.com

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Date: 5-18-20	Salesperson: H M	Drawn By: C M	Revisions:	Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"
Type of Signage: Hi-Rise				
File Name: 3200 North Boulevard / Hi-Rise	Customer Approval:			

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Original Sign



2510 willis road, richmond, virginia 23237
 phone: 804-271-5685 fax: 804-743-9250
 SuperiorSignsRVA.com

Customer: Exxon - Synergy		Job Location: 3200 North Boulevard		
Date: 5-18-20	Salesperson: H M	Drawn By: C M	Revisions:	Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"
Type of Signage: Hi-Rise				
File Name: 3200 North Boulevard / Hi-Rise			Customer Approval:	

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From: [Sean O'Hern](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for ORD 2020-155
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:09:11 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sean O'Hern <taphouse.sean@gmail.com>
Date: July 23, 2020 at 10:09:40 AM EDT
To: cityclerksoffice@richmondgov.com
Subject: Support for ORD 2020-155

Hello,

My name is Shawn O'Hern and I live in Richmond's 1st District.

I am writing to support ORD 2020-155 to establish a civilian review board. I believe that a civilian review board is an important step in police accountability. Without police accountability the concept of public safety rings hollow. It is no secret that police power is misused and abused. Sometimes these incidents are deadly, but even if they don't result in physical harm they are tragic for the people victimized.

A civilian review board needs to be independent and have subpoena power. It will have to make tough decisions and rely on the support of the community and city council.

Thank you for your time. Please support ORD 2020- 155.

Shawn O'Hern

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jenny Thomas](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: I support ORD 2020 - 155
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:24:09 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Clerks Office,

I support ORD 2020 - 155 and hope that the city of richmond will take seriously this opportunity to establish a transparent and professional civilian review board to prevent such unnecessary atrocities from happening in the future.

I believe in a peaceful Richmond where we can support our police presence and delegate the responsibility of peacekeeping to them, while we relocate/allocate funds and resources into mental health cooperatives and social workers to handle cases of mental illness and traumatic episodes and other instances necessitating unarmed deescalation.

A civilian review board can help to facilitate these conversations and give power back to the citizens who feel abused and violated by police brutality. We can fund systems like the Marcus Alert with the help of this kind of civilian review board. Marcus-David Peters's death, and many like his, could have been prevented if we had the means to voice our opinions about police abuse in a safe and professional forum, without fear of retaliation or persecution.

I believe our justice department, legal department, health system can all work hand in hand to help prevent careless deaths from happening in our community.

The time is now to end police brutality. Black lives matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Thomas



From: [K Shnide](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support of ORD 2020 - 155
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 10:28:44 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

My name is Kelsey Schneider and I am a resident of Henrico County. I am emailing to express my support for ORD 2020 - 155 and the creation of a civilian review board. The city of Richmond owes this to its citizens who have suffered at the hands of the police department. It will give voice to those who have been silenced, and begin the process of healing in our community.

Regards,
Kelsey Schneider

From: [Meghan Mercer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for ORD 2020 - 155
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:37:44 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As a Richmond resident I am offering my support of the creation of a task force to develop a Civilian Review Board and provide recommendations concerning the creation of a board of this nature, specifically ordinance 2020-155.

I am hoping that this email is accompanied by countless other emails, calls and messages of support all of which convey a concise message from RVA citizens - we want this board and we need this board to help ensure the safety of ALL living in this city.

Ignoring the calls for a CRB is a clear message that this committee and this government do not recognize their role in the endangerment of the Black community in Richmond. Or in a more sinister vein, they recognize their role but do not want to make any lasting change or confront the institution responsible.

I implore you to begin the process of establishing a Civilian Review Board in Richmond today.

All the best,
Meghan Mercer

From: [justinpiaoan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Civilian Review Board
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:49:51 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

My name is Justin Piaoan. I am a Richmond, VA native who stands behind the idea of a Civilian Review board. I believe that there should be checks and balances with unjust policing, accountability, and a way to improve relations with the community. It hurts to watch our people suffer night after night, day after day because of over policing.

If we're all trying to make a better future for us, our children, or the generations to come, do you want all of this extra baggage to leave them? That baggage of an old America that has done so much damage, that doesn't have to represent us, and continues because of not listening, acknowledging, having that conversation, and doing something about it.

We are under the worlds scope, and if we are to be the example, why not show what we've got to give and be? If we can make change for the better, why don't we? I hope my words reach someone who cares and have a great day.

Best,

Justin Piaoan

--

Justin Piaoan


From: [Eryn Alloway](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Regarding City Council Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:27:13 PM

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Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

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Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

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Once implemented, this program will potentially save lives of people going through mental health crises. This will divert people away from prison and instead provide them with the mental health care that they need. It also will reduce the case load on the police and instead allow for mental health professionals to care for people who need their services.

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

We need an oversight board with citizens (not other police) to review the actions of the police and hold them accountable for their behavior. Any system without outside checks and balances is vulnerable to negligent behavior.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

In this time of COVID-19 our community needs more funding to support eviction diversion and affordable housing. Families should not be put out on the street because of city revenue projections.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Police are allowed to seize private property during the course of arresting/prosecuting for drug crimes through a federal program, and sell these assets to fund Special Funds - we should have access to detailed information on from whom these assets are seized or how the special funds are used. Again, power without checks and balances can easily be

corrupted. The incentive to seize personal property for departmental gain is too enticing and should be mitigated by oversight.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

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As I mentioned in the Marcus Alert program, I believe mental health crises should be handled by mental health professionals, not police officers. I also believe substance abuse issues should be handled by substance abuse counselors and professionals and that social services should be handled by professionals in that field. The police should not be catch-all for community issues. **We don't need more arrests - we need help!** Please re-direct funds from the police to fund city and community programs that specialize in these fields.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and I urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,



I represent no organizations and have no economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation mentioned above.

From: [devon | cavanagh](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Written Comments for 7/27/2020 Council Meeting (ORD. 2020-155)
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:24:44 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

City Clerk Reid,

In lieu of speaking, please find below written comments for distribution to Council and inclusion in the public record of the July 27, 2020 Richmond City Council meeting.

==

Councilmembers,

I'm writing today in support of ordinance 2020-155 To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board. I'm a longtime resident of the 5th district and a citizen of Richmond for 21 years.

Over the past two months I've watched our city's police act with the professionalism and grace of fraternity boys on spring break. They have brazenly and repeatedly taunted, assaulted, and used disproportionate force on citizens of the city, including press. I will not recount the stories, as I know you have heard them many times. However the fact that RPD officers are doing this openly, while being filmed, goes to the heart of the callous and narcissistic authoritarianism that has broken our community's trust. If Richmond Police believe they can act with impunity on camera, I shudder to think what they are doing when they are not being actively monitored on their beats. When an organization designed to protect and serve the community misuses its authority, and when that same organization has demonstrated an unwillingness to provide transparency to its actions and hold accountable those who do not uphold the highest bar of professional conduct, it is imperative to create direct accountability to the community.

In debating civilian review boards, the arguments against generally fall into three categories:

1. *Some form of "it's simply not needed" (they can monitor themselves, that's the chief's job, that's Internal Affairs job, the Commonwealth's Attorney provides governance).*
We have seen clearly that the police are **not** monitoring themselves effectively. They are **not** providing transparency. They are **not** acting professionally. And they are not being held accountable. Providing checks and balances to power in situations where the citizenry cedes authority is the essence of who we are as a country
2. *Such boards will somehow create a means for individual citizens to politicize and act upon personal grudges.* Any such concerns are resolvable through implementation details (how long people may sit on the board, who the board ultimately recommends action to / how much influence it has, etc.)
3. *Creating this level of accountability may make it harder to recruit officers to the city.*

On this point I say loudly, Good. If the argument against creating accountability is that it will be harder to find people who are confident their actions will withstand scrutiny, then let it be harder. We should be trying to hire the best, most committed, and most empathetic talent we can find

I see no rational argument against voting in favor of this ordinance. Arguments to the contrary amount to little more than noise created by a system that understands that if they were subjected to scrutiny and held to account for their behavior, they would have to behave differently, more carefully, more morally - ie better. This ordinance is basic common sense; and moreover, creating simple accountability is really the least we can do to start to reform policing in Richmond in this moment of time.

Devon J Cavanagh
Resident, 5th District

From: [Mr Jennings](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for July 27th City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:40:14 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thanks for your time! Sincerely,

Conway Jennings (7th district resident)

From: [Grant Collier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Urgent: Public Comment for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:52:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. [SEP]
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Once again, I urge you all pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

--

Grant Collier

From: [Kyle Dosier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment 7-27 Kyle J Dosier 1308 N 33rd St RVA 23223
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 6:57:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

From Kyle J Dosier


Councilperson Cynthia Newbille and all Members of City Council,

I am writing to urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

ORD 155 - Civilian Review Board. I think that it will be vital to have no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force, or the final board. This ensures a truly independent body that can create structures to provide adequate checks and balances in our criminal justice system. Please directly involve local Richmond activists such as those involved with the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project as well as Princess Blanding of the Justice and Reformation Project. These folks have been workshopping ideas related to community-police accountability for a long time and there is every reason to begin with the experience and blueprints they already have for our city. Subpoena power is a necessary part of a working civilian review board. And also, I was happy to see that you have some criteria for task force and review board members. Please include at least 50% voices from the outlined marginalized groups in both the task force and the eventual board.

RES R045 - Marcus Alert. Please use the same criteria outlined above for the civilian review board to help create the Marcus Alert. Initial voices should be fully independent from the Richmond Police Department. It is very important to me that organizers and activists from the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project and the Justice and Reformation group are involved in this project, which is their brainchild and for which they have a clear blueprint ready for the city.

3. RES R047 - Defund the Police. Our police just spent over \$2 million to enforce temporary curfews; to use chemical weapons on protestors; to militarize our streets; to arrest city residents and members of the press; and to stifle free speech and assembly in less than 60 days. This, while city tenants are threatened with eviction; people are unhoused; families are struggling with food insecurity; and students and educators struggle to prepare for virtual learning. Let's get our priorities straight! Reduce the police budget immediately and fund Black futures; fund Richmond futures. This resolution can go further; please push for a demilitarization of our department. I want to see a sell-off of equipment like LRADs and MRAPs that do not ever belong in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for beginning to address important issues of criminal justice reform in our city. We will see fundamental changes over the next year, and I am pleased that this City Council

wants to be a part of that. Be bold and push forward; your constituents have your backs!

-Kyle J Dosier



From: [Hannah M](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting on 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:22:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice D. Reid,

My name is Hannah McHugh. As a disturbed Richmond citizen who has witnessed a complete lack of leadership in my elected officials over the last few months—I am commenting on today's City Council meeting in order to refocus your attention to some key concerns. Echoing the public demands of many other Richmond citizens and protesters, I strongly encourage you all to:

- 1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters Case, and *vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R045*, which would almost immediately implement the “Marcus Alert” program.**
- 2. Defund the Richmond Police and Sheriff's Office.** Please help revitalize a Care Economy in a city that so desperately needs it. *Please vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R047*, which would begin to better utilize our taxpayer dollars, allowing for the reallocation of funds from the RPD to other, far more important city departments—namely those focused on community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs.
- 3. Drop all charges against every protester, regardless of the charges' nature.** There can be no rightful or even lawful arrests when our officers have in-mass brutalized and agitated the general public so severely over the last few months. They cannot be trusted, and therefore, you cannot punish citizens for their unique responses to these terrorizers and the wrongful legislation that further condoned their gestapo-esque behavior.
- 4. Establish a Civilian Review Board with subpoena powers, separate and completely independent of the Richmond Police Department and Sheriff's Office.** It goes without saying that these officers are trained to be afraid, violent, and essentially useless at their once core-duty: to protect and serve the community. Therefore, we need complete community oversight of their policing. Please *vote in favor of ORDINANCE No. 2020-155* to get this done.
- 5. Give complete and total rent amnesty to those facing evictions, and suspend all future rent/mortgage payments for the duration of this global pandemic.** Despite popular belief, the coronavirus is not over. There is no vaccine. Going forth with **any** evictions right now, and forcing clearly vulnerable people into even more precarious financial and living situations during an epidemic is a health-risk to **everyone**. Please protect the people of Richmond. Stop punishing citizens who cannot even afford to live right now.

All that being said, there are a few other items on this meeting's docket which vaguely intersect with the demands above:

I am also strongly *urging that city council oppose ORDINANCE No. 2020-117,* which would allow VCUPD to become an operational user of the RPD's records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the two departments. There is obviously already a dangerous lack of civilian oversight on RPD. It is completely unnecessary, and a violation of public trust, to share records and tax-funded resources with what is essentially a private police agency that is almost entirely unaccountable to taxpayers - and which employs unknown, private contract security officers who are unregulated by city government. I vehemently oppose city council allowing RPD to share taxpayer funded resources and information on our city's citizens with a private police force over which we have no control and which is not required to operate transparently.

Similarly, *I am urging council to oppose ORDINANCES No. 2019-275 and No. 2019-276*—establishing a Technology Zone and giving bizarre tax breaks to these future tech workers—essentially outsourcing Richmond's current economy to profit-hungry businesses that have absolutely no interest in bettering our communities. It feels redundant to say that this is a sloppy, quick-fix attempt at economic revitalization. We already know what happens to cities just like Richmond that use this approach—paving the way for gentrification. No matter how well-intentioned this approach might be, how can you reconcile the outcome which will likely mirror that of Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, Houston, etc...? If your intentions are to revitalize our economy, why not invest in the business sectors and workers that already carry Richmond? Why not raise the minimum wage? Why not invest in affordable housing? Why not provide better safety nets for the Richmond citizens that are statistically most likely to be pushed out by this hasty decision? If what you view as a successful Technology Zone involves negatively impacting and displacing **any** percentage of the RVA population, where do your priorities truly lie as elected officials? I encourage city council to do much better, and find a different approach to this problem.

Thank you.

-Hannah McHugh

From: [Cassandra Cossitt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Policing In Richmond
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:45:26 AM

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Dear Madame Clerk and Members of the Council:

It is time to police the police. The Richmond Police Department and Virginia State Police are indiscriminately pulling protestors out of non-violent protestors, cuffing and detaining members of the press who are covering protests, and stoking discord individually and as a force. The police have over-reached their powers, and their bullying is expensive and inhumane. They show up in riot gear at a family oriented parade celebrating Pride. They enter the Marcus David Peters Circle to intimidate its visitors. They spoil for fights at every turn. I see the videos - check your social media feeds. This is not public safety. Richmonders need a civilian review board. The civilian review board must not include elected officials, corporate or institutional representatives, law enforcement professionals or retirees. We need a civilian review board that looks like the community it represents. It needs full subpoena power and access to information that law enforcement officials currently keep hidden under the guise of "qualified immunity." And the civilian review board should report directly to City Council. Please.

If riot is the language of the unheard, then it's time for Richmond to give the unheard a formal platform in the halls of justice.
The Mayor's task force is NOT the solution.

Riot gear and police overtime budgets will never heal this wounded city.

Thank you,

Cassandra Cossitt


From: [Lisa D'Alessio](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for today's council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:11:51 AM

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Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa D'Alessio



From: [Natalie K. Stickel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:14:53 AM

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Good morning,

I urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Why?

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.
2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Thank you for your time.

Natalie Stickel


From: [Thalia Hernandez](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for July 27 Richmond City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:15:46 AM

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Dear Clerk,

I hope you are well. Please submit my public comment for the the July 27 meeting of the Richmond city council meeting to the city council. Thank you so much!

Public Comment -

My name is Thalia Hernandez and I am a resident of the 5th district in Byrd Park. I would like to express my support ORD 2020-155. I support the demand of countless community organizations and the family of Marcus-David Peters for the creation of a civilian review board, with subpoena power, that is fully independent from law enforcement and prosecutors, and run by the community, particularly those who are most impacted by over-policing. It should receive adequate funding to run its operations that come from the pre-existing budget of the Richmond Police Department, with at least 1% of RPD's current budget. We know the police cannot police themselves and it's time to entrust and empower the community, which the police are supposed to serve and protect, with the power of accountability.

I would like to express my support for 2020-R045. The Marcus Alert, which would shift the decision-making authority during a crisis call to trained mental health professionals is crucial to ensuring everyone receives help not harm. Currently, law enforcement officers decide which de-escalation interventions to use during a crisis. The Marcus Alert proposal would require law enforcement and behavioral health authorities to establish policies that put behavioral health clinicians in charge in these complex situations. Law enforcement may be present to secure the scene and only use non-lethal force if advised by the mental health clinicians. Black, brown, low-income and LGBTQ+ people experience higher rates of mental health distress due to structural barriers to care and stress of living with a marginalized identity, they are also more likely to be targets of police violence. This model recognizes that public health is public safety in times of behavioral health crises.

I would like to express my support for RES 2020-R047. I support defunding the Richmond Police Department (RPD) by reallocating funds from RPD's large budget to the Marcus Alert, Civilian Review Board, and human services addressing healthcare, employment, public education, and general community welfare. Too many live in poverty, lack adequate access to healthcare, employment, and affordable housing as well as face unique barriers in education. This is especially true for Black and Latinx adults and youth. Last year, RPD's total general fund was 95 million dollars, while

Housing & Community Development's was 3 million dollars. Additionally, Richmond Public Schools have been in crisis - as of 2018, only 19 out of 44 Richmond Public Schools were fully accredited by the state. In order to cultivate a high quality of life and increase public safety, Black communities' futures must be fully funded.

Thank you for your time!

Best wishes,
Thalia Hernandez

--

Thalia Hernandez



From: [Yohance Whitaker](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: RTAP Written Comment, ORD. 2020-155
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:27:14 AM
Attachments: [RTAP CRB Position Statement.pdf](#)

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Ms. Reid,

I hope you are in good spirits. My name is Yohance David Whitaker and I am member of the Richmond Transparency & Accountability Project. On behalf of our organization, I would like to submit our written policy position on ORD. 2020-155.

Take care,
ydw

Yohance Whitaker (he/him)
Organizer, Civil Rights & Racial Justice Program
Legal Aid Justice Center
626 East Broad Street, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804.643.1086, ext. 326
Mobile: 434.422.0057
Email: yohance@justice4all.org

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Richmond Transparency & Accountability Project

Policy Statement: Ordinance Number 2020-155

Background

Civilian oversight remains of paramount importance in Richmond, without which RPD will continue to police itself without any meaningful accountability. Although there is no one-size-fits-all type of civilian oversight, RTAP advocates for a system which helps to enhance public safety, broadly understood; provides meaningful responses to civilian complaints; includes access to and analysis of policing data; the ability to recommend changes to police department policies; authority to access financial information and make budgetary recommendations; promotes trust through continued transparency and open communication between RPD and the Richmond community; and other systemic proactive activities.

Partners

The Richmond Transparency & Accountability Project has worked with numerous community organizations, including New Virginia Majority, Southerners on New Ground, Justice & Reformation for Marcus-David Peters, Legal Aid Justice Center, and many others. We have knocked on hundreds of doors and spoken to countless community members in our most over-policed neighborhoods. As City Council developed Ordinance No. 2020-155, we provided consultation to Councilmembers Stephanie Lynch, Mike Jones, Andreas Addison, Kim Gray, and Kristen Larson. Additionally, we provided two public comments to outline our position at the City Council meeting on June 22, 2020.

Policy Position

As written, Ordinance No. 2020-155 provides adequate time to gather broad based community input that will inform recommendations, a funded task force and the ability to make a budgetary recommendation for the subsequent mechanism of civilian oversight, and is established independently from the police. The ordinance does not fully reflect RTAP's commitment to racial equity. RTAP recommended that the task force include members of communities who are most impacted by policing, as evidenced by RPD data; for example, Black people, members of public housing communities, and those communities that experience the highest rates of policing in the city. The qualifications for the task force do not ensure that these community members will be leading the conversation.

Recommendation

RTAP recommends that § 1-B-2 read as follows: "Qualifications for the task force include members of groups who have experienced historically disparate policing, including Black and Latina/o/x people, people living with disabilities, people who are unhoused, public housing residents, members of the LGBTQ community, and persons under the age of 18."

From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council 7/27/20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:27:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing to voice my support for several items on the agenda this evening. I thank our Patron Delegates for their attention to the ongoing police brutality in our communities and the actions of police that continue to occur with impunity.

I support ORD 2020-155. I am incredibly concerned with the escalating attacks on our press in the previous 2 evenings. There are video recordings of police detaining members of the press and threatening members of the press with arrest. Our First Amendment rights are under increasing attack by the police. While I am in support of this legislation I am also deeply concerned that the escalating tactics of police to silence our press and to attack and intimidate protestors who are peaceably assembled present a picture that suggests that we do not have time to waste to spend time investigating what a CRB could be and instead need to be moving quickly to establish the CRB itself. I am hopeful that if this legislation passes - City Council will move quickly with engagement from our community organizers and those most impacted by police to establish this task force.

I support RES 2020-R045. I ALSO believe that any implementation of a Marcus Alert needs to include his family in its development at every step of the process.

I support RES 2020-R047. I believe that we have better ways to respond and support our community so that police are not needed. If we focus on strengthening the social fabric and network of support, we can create safer communities.

I support RES 2020-R049. No statues to honor white supremacy.

I also support any legislation that will help address the evictions that are happening. It is inhumane to have folks homeless at any time and especially in a pandemic. I believe that we have the money to do what's needed - provided that we stop putting profit over people. I trust you to act in ways that elevate us all and end the needless suffering of our most vulnerable community members.

Thank you.

Jennifer Surratt
3rd District

From: [Mera Carle](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:31:28 AM

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Hello RJ,

Hope you had a great weekend.

I would like to request to address council today on item 34. RES. 2020-RO47

I would also like to request to my share my support of the following with council (written only):

In support of RES. 2020-RO46 (Quarterly report/increased oversight)

In support of RES 2020-RO45 (Marcus Alert)

In support of RES 2020-155 (CRB)

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further from me

Thank you,

Mera Carle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Kris mednikov](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Protesters/Police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:32:51 AM

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Today is good day to listen to protesters. I do not think their demands are outrageous, but truly a necessity after the arrest of so many peaceful protesters. What I am seeing around the country and particularly in Richmond is disturbing!

The Police are proving that they need demilitarizing and reeducated on de-escalating situations instead of the knee jerk reactions we are seeing. We need a civilian review board desperately, to hold in check any unlawful behavior by law enforcement. There is no free pass, even though some laws and our President believe other wise. Release the names of RPD officers under investigation for misconduct!!!

We need to fully fund and implement a Marcus David Peter's Alert System, this is common sense and I am shocked this is not in place already!!! The Marcus David Peter's case needs reopening with an independent reviewer in charge. This will show the city and the police are committed to exhibiting transparency toward our community!!! The police budget needs cutting and those funds put in place for causes that help the city's poor and most in need. Programs for mental illness, drug addiction, and social services. It is past time to start investing in our citizens and not the prison system.

I do not believe the demands of protesters are out of line nor unattainable!! The arrest of peaceful protesters is abhorrent and I expect better of my government!!!

Waiting patiently for change,
Kris Mednikov

From: bawesome.vegan@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for today's City Council meeting.
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:37:00 AM

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I want to express my support for passing ORD:2020-155, RES.2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

I also want to know why police violently and directly targeted and detained known press last night.

I also want to know why police executed militarized attacks against protesters over the weekend but neglected the active shooter threatening protesters throughout Saturday night. The video footage including license plate made its way throughout social media accounts monitored by police, yet the lack of police interest of this grave issue have residents like myself wondering: Who is being protected? Who is being served?

Thank you for your attention,
Bethany Awesome
Richmond 5th district

From: [Alexander Cortes](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:46:50 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am submitting a public comment for the city council meeting today.

The city needs to begin the process of establishing Civilian Oversight Board with subpoena power now! We need the Marcus-Alert in affect now! We need to defund the police, and reinvest in systems of care. For the safety of children we must remove the police from Richmond Public Schools, as to break the cycle of the school to prison pipeline. We need to address city council member Kim Gray's calling of a Black, femme-led non-violent protest "terrorists", which is only fueling the federal and local government to turn Richmond into a sundown town, as non-violent civilians experienced last night. City council must urge CA Colette McEachin to drop the charges of all protestors for their illegal and illegitimate arrests.

In solidarity,
Alex Cortes

From: [Chris Ercolano](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Council Meeting today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:49 AM

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Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Eugene Oregon has a mental health group that responds to 911 calls and has diverted a lot of situations away from police intervention. This saves the police time and resources as well as giving community members in need direct access to the resources they need. According to their own police chief, many violent interactions or uses of force have been avoided because of this program. Developing this plan is crucial to the safety and integrity of our community.

<https://whitebirdclinic.org/services/cahoots/>

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.7/public-health-theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police>

<https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/stories/when-mental-health-experts-not-police-are-the-first-responders>

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

This is incredibly important. We need to have local voices and oversight on police activity. Officers acting with impunity is what creates a culture of violence. Getting this plan started as soon as possible is crucial.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

Please relocate these funds. The civil unrest and uprising you have witnessed is a direct result of an inequitable distribution of resources given to people who should not be militarized. Policing is a reaction to crime. Remember the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? By redistributing funds and resources directly to communities, you will help to reduce the causes of crime. Police should be welcomed by the community as members of that community. Right now, they are feared. They are the other. They are an anonymous force of destruction. Reallocating these funds enables communities to take care of their most vulnerable members. Equitable access to healthcare, housing, nutrition, employment, and education will eliminate the need for criminal pursuits. By providing more possibilities for people to choose, they are less inclined to fall into illegal actions. It's basic Maslow's pyramid. Right now, some members of our city are struggling to survive. How are they supposed to make healthy, informed decisions? How are they supposed to access their best selves? Redistributing the resources from the police into community programs will make a tremendous difference.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Christopher Ryan Ecolano
Richmond's 4th district



From: [Ewan Oglethorpe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comments 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:26 AM

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To whom it may concern -

Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, 34, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, reappropriation of police funding, and removal of Confederate statues.

Regards,

Ewan Oglethorpe

From: [jordan leonard](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Thoughts on City Council meeting items for today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:58:32 AM

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Hi! My name is Jordan Leonard and I live in the Fulton Hill neighborhood in the east end of Richmond.

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Here are some further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. ^[1]_[sep]

2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Jordan A. Leonard

From: [Sarah Brunke](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comment 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:10 AM

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Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, **34**, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, **reappropriation of police funding**, and removal of Confederate statues.

While I do believe that the police have a very difficult job, I believe they are being asked to handle too many issues that are outside of their training. There is also a pervasive culture of brotherhood that prevents police from being held accountable for their actions. They are tasked with enforcing the law, they are not above it.

While I of course do not condone violence, rioting, or smashing windows, I have also been appalled at the way the Richmond Police Department has responded in most cases. I have witnessed them tear gas, pepper spray, drive vehicles through crowds, randomly assault and arrest people without cause, and use other intimidation tactics. I fear that we will look back at these images and compare them to Civil Rights protestors being firehosed. The things I have witnessed are akin to those of police states in other countries across the world. These practices do not align with the values of the United States, and the right to free speech. Of course police are only human, but when they make mistakes they must take responsibility and be held accountable as the rest of society is.

From: [Bridget Stadelmyer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statement
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:04:56 AM

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Here's a sample email!

Hi! My name is Bridget Stadelmyer and my address is [REDACTED].

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. There are many reasons why. To name a few:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. ^[1]_{SEP}
2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Bridget Stadelmyer

From: [Meg Carnahan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: CITY COUNCIL COMMENT
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:06:50 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

You must take action against the police department to stop the continued violence against community members. In case you forgot, let me remind you exactly what the protestors are fighting for:

- Re-open the Marcus David Peters case; you know, the man who was having a severe mental health crisis when a Richmond Police officer murdered him? I remember growing up believing that a police officer only fires their weapon as a last resort, not because they're terrified of a naked black man. I guess our officers aren't as brave and honorable as we try to pretend they are.
- Defund RPD aka take SOME of their RIDICULOUS budget away (I can't even begin to comprehend the amount spent recently on teargas and riot gear alone), and reallocate those funds to services that can improve ALL of our lives! Mental health services, education, housing...I'm sure you all know that these areas that could desperately use a boost in funding.
- Enact the Marcus Alert system so that trained mental health professionals respond to mental health crisis calls. This is not rocket science. This makes sense. How many people killed by police would still be alive if this system were already in place?
- Establish a Civilian Review Board—are you a fan of democracy? Great, you should be totally on board with this.
- Drop the charges against all protestors. Take a look at the points above; this is what these protestors are fighting for. A better, safer, more equitable Richmond. Does it feel right to you that they are thrown in jail for practicing their right to protest, processed through the system for eight long hours in the middle of a pandemic, only to be released and still have to deal with those charges? What about that seems fair or right to you? If you could go back in time, if you were on the city council where Rep. John Lewis was arrested for protesting for his civil rights, would you fight to have the charges dropped? Knowing what you know now?
- Monuments must go—congratulations, the most performative of all the demands has been almost completely met.
- Release the names of the RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct. You know those “bad apples” everyone's always talking about? I'm so sick and tired of the whole structure of local government protecting corrupt and violent officers. There are people sitting in prison on marijuana charges while violent, power hungry individuals on the force are suiting up in riot gear every night hoping, HOPING to use their pepper spray, their flash bangs, their teargas on Richmond residents. What is going to put a stop to this? More force, more force, and more force is not working. Take a look at Seattle. We're heading that way if this doesn't come under control, and the way to get it under control is to STOP using violent force against protestors and Richmond residents and to start working towards fulfilling their demands for justice.

We have to take a hard turn, at some point. We can't continue like this. Let's turn towards justice and peace, not towards ever growing fear and violence.

A very concerned life-long Richmond resident,
Meg Carnahan

From: [Eryn Alloway](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Regarding City Council Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:27:13 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Once implemented, this program will potentially save lives of people going through mental health crises. This will divert people away from prison and instead provide them with the mental health care that they need. It also will reduce the case load on the police and instead allow for mental health professionals to care for people who need their services.

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

We need an oversight board with citizens (not other police) to review the actions of the police and hold them accountable for their behavior. Any system without outside checks and balances is vulnerable to negligent behavior.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

In this time of COVID-19 our community needs more funding to support eviction diversion and affordable housing. Families should not be put out on the street because of city revenue projections.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Police are allowed to seize private property during the course of arresting/prosecuting for drug crimes through a federal program, and sell these assets to fund Special Funds - we should have access to detailed information on from whom these assets are seized or how the special funds are used. Again, power without checks and balances can easily be

corrupted. The incentive to seize personal property for departmental gain is too enticing and should be mitigated by oversight.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

As I mentioned in the Marcus Alert program, I believe mental health crises should be handled by mental health professionals, not police officers. I also believe substance abuse issues should be handled by substance abuse counselors and professionals and that social services should be handled by professionals in that field. The police should not be catch-all for community issues. **We don't need more arrests - we need help!** Please re-direct funds from the police to fund city and community programs that specialize in these fields.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and I urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Eryn Helene Alloway



I represent no organizations and have no economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation mentioned above.

From: [Mr Jennings](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for July 27th City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:40:14 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thanks for your time! Sincerely,

Conway Jennings (7th district resident)

From: [Grant Collier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Urgent: Public Comment for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:52:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. ^[1]_{SEP}
2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

--

Grant Collier

From: [Kyle Dosier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment 7-27 Kyle J Dosier 1308 N 33rd St RVA 23223
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 6:57:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

From Kyle J Dosier


Councilperson Cynthia Newbille and all Members of City Council,

I am writing to urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

ORD 155 - Civilian Review Board. I think that it will be vital to have no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force, or the final board. This ensures a truly independent body that can create structures to provide adequate checks and balances in our criminal justice system. Please directly involve local Richmond activists such as those involved with the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project as well as Princess Blanding of the Justice and Reformation Project. These folks have been workshopping ideas related to community-police accountability for a long time and there is every reason to begin with the experience and blueprints they already have for our city. Subpoena power is a necessary part of a working civilian review board. And also, I was happy to see that you have some criteria for task force and review board members. Please include at least 50% voices from the outlined marginalized groups in both the task force and the eventual board.

RES R045 - Marcus Alert. Please use the same criteria outlined above for the civilian review board to help create the Marcus Alert. Initial voices should be fully independent from the Richmond Police Department. It is very important to me that organizers and activists from the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project and the Justice and Reformation group are involved in this project, which is their brainchild and for which they have a clear blueprint ready for the city.

3. RES R047 - Defund the Police. Our police just spent over \$2 million to enforce temporary curfews; to use chemical weapons on protestors; to militarize our streets; to arrest city residents and members of the press; and to stifle free speech and assembly in less than 60 days. This, while city tenants are threatened with eviction; people are unhoused; families are struggling with food insecurity; and students and educators struggle to prepare for virtual learning. Let's get our priorities straight! Reduce the police budget immediately and fund Black futures; fund Richmond futures. This resolution can go further; please push for a demilitarization of our department. I want to see a sell-off of equipment like LRADs and MRAPs that do not ever belong in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for beginning to address important issues of criminal justice reform in our city. We will see fundamental changes over the next year, and I am pleased that this City Council

wants to be a part of that. Be bold and push forward; your constituents have your backs!

-Kyle J Dosier



From: [Hannah M](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting on 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:22:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice D. Reid,

My name is Hannah McHugh. As a disturbed Richmond citizen who has witnessed a complete lack of leadership in my elected officials over the last few months—I am commenting on today's City Council meeting in order to refocus your attention to some key concerns. Echoing the public demands of many other Richmond citizens and protesters, I strongly encourage you all to:

- 1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters Case, and *vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R045*, which would almost immediately implement the “Marcus Alert” program.**
- 2. Defund the Richmond Police and Sheriff's Office.** Please help revitalize a Care Economy in a city that so desperately needs it. *Please vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R047*, which would begin to better utilize our taxpayer dollars, allowing for the reallocation of funds from the RPD to other, far more important city departments—namely those focused on community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs.
- 3. Drop all charges against every protester, regardless of the charges' nature.** There can be no rightful or even lawful arrests when our officers have in-mass brutalized and agitated the general public so severely over the last few months. They cannot be trusted, and therefore, you cannot punish citizens for their unique responses to these terrorizers and the wrongful legislation that further condoned their gestapo-esque behavior.
- 4. Establish a Civilian Review Board with subpoena powers, separate and completely independent of the Richmond Police Department and Sheriff's Office.** It goes without saying that these officers are trained to be afraid, violent, and essentially useless at their once core-duty: to protect and serve the community. Therefore, we need complete community oversight of their policing. Please *vote in favor of ORDINANCE No. 2020-155* to get this done.
- 5. Give complete and total rent amnesty to those facing evictions, and suspend all future rent/mortgage payments for the duration of this global pandemic.** Despite popular belief, the coronavirus is not over. There is no vaccine. Going forth with **any** evictions right now, and forcing clearly vulnerable people into even more precarious financial and living situations during an epidemic is a health-risk to **everyone**. Please protect the people of Richmond. Stop punishing citizens who cannot even afford to live right now.

All that being said, there are a few other items on this meeting's docket which vaguely intersect with the demands above:

I am also strongly *urging that city council oppose ORDINANCE No. 2020-117,* which would allow VCUPD to become an operational user of the RPD's records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the two departments. There is obviously already a dangerous lack of civilian oversight on RPD. It is completely unnecessary, and a violation of public trust, to share records and tax-funded resources with what is essentially a private police agency that is almost entirely unaccountable to taxpayers - and which employs unknown, private contract security officers who are unregulated by city government. I vehemently oppose city council allowing RPD to share taxpayer funded resources and information on our city's citizens with a private police force over which we have no control and which is not required to operate transparently.

Similarly, *I am urging council to oppose ORDINANCES No. 2019-275 and No. 2019-276*—establishing a Technology Zone and giving bizarre tax breaks to these future tech workers—essentially outsourcing Richmond's current economy to profit-hungry businesses that have absolutely no interest in bettering our communities. It feels redundant to say that this is a sloppy, quick-fix attempt at economic revitalization. We already know what happens to cities just like Richmond that use this approach—paving the way for gentrification. No matter how well-intentioned this approach might be, how can you reconcile the outcome which will likely mirror that of Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, Houston, etc...? If your intentions are to revitalize our economy, why not invest in the business sectors and workers that already carry Richmond? Why not raise the minimum wage? Why not invest in affordable housing? Why not provide better safety nets for the Richmond citizens that are statistically most likely to be pushed out by this hasty decision? If what you view as a successful Technology Zone involves negatively impacting and displacing **any** percentage of the RVA population, where do your priorities truly lie as elected officials? I encourage city council to do much better, and find a different approach to this problem.

Thank you.

-Hannah McHugh

From: [Ted Lewis](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council Meeting Today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:59:16 AM
Attachments: [RVA LGBTQ BLM letter updated 6.19.20.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I'm writing on behalf of Side by Side and partnered LGBTQ+ and allied organization. I'm writing to submit the attached letter (originally sent on June 19th) and this email as public comment for the Richmond City Council Meeting held on Monday, July 27, 2020.

We, the signed LGBTQ+ organizations, support ORD.2020-R045 on the creation of the Marcus Alert System. We also support the creation of a Civilian Review Board that is independent from the police force and has subpoena power. We support and back Black leadership from Justice & Reformation for Marcus-David Peters and their demands for a better more safer Richmond.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Ted Lewis

Ted Lewis

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Friday, June 19, 2020

The Honorable Levar Stoney and Members of the Richmond City Council
900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mayor Stoney and Councilmembers,

We, the undersigned Richmond-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) organizations, join the calls from the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project, Justice and Reformation, Richmond for All, Southerners On New Ground (SONG) and others in supporting the *updated* demands from the family of Marcus-David Peters, which were released on June 9, 2020.

June is the celebration of Pride month, which marks and honors the Stonewall uprising. In 1969, led by Black and Latinx transgender women, our community spoke out and fought against police brutality and violence. Those five days of riots amplified an international movement for LGBTQ+ rights that continues to this day. Pride was born out of efforts to address police brutality and violence and we cannot in good conscience celebrate Pride without addressing the nation's continued police violence and systemic racism.

The anti-Black racist violence happening throughout the country in the last weeks was brought once again to the national stage with the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. In late May, Tony McDade, a Black transgender man, was killed by police in Florida. Just two years ago, Marcus-David Peters was killed by Richmond City Police while he was naked, unarmed, and suffering a mental health crisis. There are clear steps we can take right now to address these injustices and make Richmond a safer place for everyone.

We support the call for Commonwealth Attorney Colette McEachin to re-open the case of Marcus-David Peters. Marcus' family deserves justice. Additionally, Black, Brown, and LGBTQ+ communities have historically lacked trust in our city's criminal justice system, especially due to mistreatment, violence, and indifference from the Richmond Police Department. Re-opening the case will demonstrate Richmond's commitment to justice and start rebuilding trust with the community.

We support defunding the Richmond Police Department (RPD) by reallocating funds from RPD's large budget to the Marcus Alert, Civilian Review Board, and human services addressing healthcare, employment, public education, and general community welfare. LGBTQ+ people are more likely to need essential public services especially since too many live in poverty, lack adequate access to healthcare, employment, and affordable housing as well as face unique barriers in education. This is especially true for LGBTQ+ Black and Latinx adults and youth. Last year, RPD's total general fund was 95 million dollars, while Housing & Community

Development's was 3 million dollars. Additionally, Richmond Public Schools have been in crisis - as of 2018, only 19 out of 44 Richmond Public Schools were fully accredited by the state. In order to cultivate a high quality of life and increase public safety, Black communities must be fully funded first.

We support the Marcus Alert, which would shift the decision-making authority during a crisis call to trained mental health professionals. Currently, law enforcement officers decide which de-escalation interventions to use during a crisis. The Marcus Alert proposal would require law enforcement and behavioral health authorities to establish policies that put behavioral health clinicians in charge in these complex situations. Law enforcement may be present to secure the scene and only use non-lethal force if advised by the mental health clinicians. LGBTQ+ people experience higher rates of mental health distress due to the homophobia and transphobia in our communities, and LGBTQ+ people of color experience these at even higher rates. This model recognizes that public health is public safety in times of behavioral health crises.

We support the creation of a Civilian Review Board, which will be an independent body with subpoena power made up of community members, particularly Black and Latinx. Lambda Legal notes that LGBTQ+ people experience higher rates of harassment, misconduct, and violence from law enforcement. The National Center for Transgender Equality found that 58% of transgender people have been mistreated by law enforcement. Our community deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. An independent Civilian Review Board will hold police accountable for their actions.

We support the dropping of all charges for those arrested in connection with the recent protests against the murder of George Floyd, Marcus-David Peters, and countless other Black individuals. While Richmonders were in mourning, the city mobilized curfews, militarized police and the state national guard against protesters resulting in hundreds of Richmonders getting arrested, many for merely for breaking curfew. LGBTQ+ people face significantly higher rates of incarceration, and once in a prison or jail, they face high levels discrimination and harassment. Black transgender women in particular routinely experience appalling conditions such as denial of health care access, solitary confinement, placement in men's prisons, and sexual assault. The criminal justice system, and in particular prisons and jails, are directly harmful for Black and LGBTQ+ people.

Finally, we support the immediate removal of the five Confederate statues on Monument Avenue and all other statues and memorials to Confederate leaders in the city. These memorials dominate Richmond's landscape and have the effect of honoring pro-slavery leaders whose actions directly harmed the ancestors of many Black Richmonders. Their prominent display sends a terrible message that Black Richmonders do not matter to the city.

We look forward to working with you on adopting these important new policies and procedures to continue to protect all of us.

Sincerely,

Beth Marschak, Richmond Lesbian-Feminists
Bill Harrison, Diversity Richmond

Ebony Kirkland, Virginia Anti-Violence Project
James Millner, Virginia Pride
Karen Legato, Health Brigade
Rev. Lacette Cross and Luise Cheezi Farmer, Us Giving Richmond Connections and Black Pride
RVA
Melissa-Irene Jackson, Virginia League for Planned Parenthood
Natasha Crosby, Richmond LGBTQ Chamber
Phil Crosby, Richmond Triangle Players
Shannon McKay, He She Ze and We
Ted Lewis, Side by Side
Vee Lamneck, Equality Virginia
Zakia McKensey, Nationz Foundation
Zhue Azuaje, Stonewall Sports Richmond

From: [Lisa D'Alessio](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for today's council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:11:51 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa D'Alessio



From: [Natalie K. Stickel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:14:53 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Why?

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.
2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Thank you for your time.

Natalie Stickel


From: [Thalia Hernandez](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for July 27 Richmond City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:15:46 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk,

I hope you are well. Please submit my public comment for the the July 27 meeting of the Richmond city council meeting to the city council. Thank you so much!

Public Comment -

My name is Thalia Hernandez and I am a resident of the 5th district in Byrd Park. I would like to express my support ORD 2020-155. I support the demand of countless community organizations and the family of Marcus-David Peters for the creation of a civilian review board, with subpoena power, that is fully independent from law enforcement and prosecutors, and run by the community, particularly those who are most impacted by over-policing. It should receive adequate funding to run its operations that come from the pre-existing budget of the Richmond Police Department, with at least 1% of RPD's current budget. We know the police cannot police themselves and it's time to entrust and empower the community, which the police are supposed to serve and protect, with the power of accountability.

I would like to express my support for 2020-R045. The Marcus Alert, which would shift the decision-making authority during a crisis call to trained mental health professionals is crucial to ensuring everyone receives help not harm. Currently, law enforcement officers decide which de-escalation interventions to use during a crisis. The Marcus Alert proposal would require law enforcement and behavioral health authorities to establish policies that put behavioral health clinicians in charge in these complex situations. Law enforcement may be present to secure the scene and only use non-lethal force if advised by the mental health clinicians. Black, brown, low-income and LGBTQ+ people experience higher rates of mental health distress due to structural barriers to care and stress of living with a marginalized identity, they are also more likely to be targets of police violence. This model recognizes that public health is public safety in times of behavioral health crises.

I would like to express my support for RES 2020-R047. I support defunding the Richmond Police Department (RPD) by reallocating funds from RPD's large budget to the Marcus Alert, Civilian Review Board, and human services addressing healthcare, employment, public education, and general community welfare. Too many live in poverty, lack adequate access to healthcare, employment, and affordable housing as well as face unique barriers in education. This is especially true for Black and Latinx adults and youth. Last year, RPD's total general fund was 95 million dollars, while

Housing & Community Development's was 3 million dollars. Additionally, Richmond Public Schools have been in crisis - as of 2018, only 19 out of 44 Richmond Public Schools were fully accredited by the state. In order to cultivate a high quality of life and increase public safety, Black communities' futures must be fully funded.

Thank you for your time!

Best wishes,
Thalia Hernandez

--

Thalia Hernandez



From: [Haleh Pedram](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Res 2020-R045
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:16:01 AM

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Good Morning,

I am so pleased that the council is planning to vote on implementing the Marcus alert. This will be a life saving service for so many people and I am proud that it will begin here in Richmond, Va.

My concern is that the Marcus alert ONLY be implemented with the input of the organizations who have been calling for it. Please be sure that members of the family of Marcus-David Peters, Justice and Reformation for Marcus-David Peters, Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project, Chelsea Higgs Wise, or Rebecca Keel are involved of the implementation of the Marcus alert. These people have been doing the work and are also trained social workers and have necessary insights into this matter.

I'm truly looking forward to this world being safer and more hospitable to people in need of help. Thank you for your consideration and your work.

Best,
Haleh Pedram



From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council 7/27/20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:27:17 AM

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I am writing to voice my support for several items on the agenda this evening. I thank our Patron Delegates for their attention to the ongoing police brutality in our communities and the actions of police that continue to occur with impunity.

I support ORD 2020-155. I am incredibly concerned with the escalating attacks on our press in the previous 2 evenings. There are video recordings of police detaining members of the press and threatening members of the press with arrest. Our First Amendment rights are under increasing attack by the police. While I am in support of this legislation I am also deeply concerned that the escalating tactics of police to silence our press and to attack and intimidate protestors who are peaceably assembled present a picture that suggests that we do not have time to waste to spend time investigating what a CRB could be and instead need to be moving quickly to establish the CRB itself. I am hopeful that if this legislation passes - City Council will move quickly with engagement from our community organizers and those most impacted by police to establish this task force.

I support RES 2020-R045. I ALSO believe that any implementation of a Marcus Alert needs to include his family in its development at every step of the process.

I support RES 2020-R047. I believe that we have better ways to respond and support our community so that police are not needed. If we focus on strengthening the social fabric and network of support, we can create safer communities.

I support RES 2020-R049. No statues to honor white supremacy.

I also support any legislation that will help address the evictions that are happening. It is inhumane to have folks homeless at any time and especially in a pandemic. I believe that we have the money to do what's needed - provided that we stop putting profit over people. I trust you to act in ways that elevate us all and end the needless suffering of our most vulnerable community members.

Thank you.

Jennifer Surratt
3rd District

From: [Mera Carle](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Today's City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:31:28 AM

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Hello RJ,

Hope you had a great weekend.

I would like to request to address council today on item 34. RES. 2020-RO47

I would also like to request to my share my support of the following with council (written only):

In support of RES. 2020-RO46 (Quarterly report/increased oversight)

In support of RES 2020-RO45 (Marcus Alert)

In support of RES 2020-155 (CRB)

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further from me

Thank you,

Mera Carle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: bawesome.vegan@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for today's City Council meeting.
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:37:00 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I want to express my support for passing ORD:2020-155, RES.2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

I also want to know why police violently and directly targeted and detained known press last night.

I also want to know why police executed militarized attacks against protesters over the weekend but neglected the active shooter threatening protesters throughout Saturday night. The video footage including license plate made its way throughout social media accounts monitored by police, yet the lack of police interest of this grave issue have residents like myself wondering: Who is being protected? Who is being served?

Thank you for your attention,
Bethany Awesome
Richmond 5th district

From: [John Clark](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:41:45 AM

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I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create the "Marcus Alert".

I also support RES. 2020-R047 to reappropriate funding from Richmond Police to invest these funds in other city services.

-John Clark

From: [Mikaela Rice](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:44:25 AM

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I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create a mental health crisis response team through the "Marcus Alert".

I also support RES. 2020-R047 to reappropriate funding from Richmond Police this fiscal year and years to follow to invest these funds in social services that better our community.

A bright light is finally shining on RVA and revealing to the wider public the need to reappropriate funding and resources to better serve our community at large. I implore you to consider these requests and more as part of the necessary journey to make RVA a welcoming place for ALL of its citizens.

Thank you,
-Mikaela Rice

From: [Alexander Cortes](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:46:50 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am submitting a public comment for the city council meeting today.

The city needs to begin the process of establishing Civilian Oversight Board with subpoena power now! We need the Marcus-Alert in affect now! We need to defund the police, and reinvest in systems of care. For the safety of children we must remove the police from Richmond Public Schools, as to break the cycle of the school to prison pipeline. We need to address city council member Kim Gray's calling of a Black, femme-led non-violent protest "terrorists", which is only fueling the federal and local government to turn Richmond into a sundown town, as non-violent civilians experienced last night. City council must urge CA Colette McEachin to drop the charges of all protestors for their illegal and illegitimate arrests.

In solidarity,
Alex Cortes

From: [Chris Ercolano](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Council Meeting today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:49 AM

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Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Eugene Oregon has a mental health group that responds to 911 calls and has diverted a lot of situations away from police intervention. This saves the police time and resources as well as giving community members in need direct access to the resources they need. According to their own police chief, many violent interactions or uses of force have been avoided because of this program. Developing this plan is crucial to the safety and integrity of our community.

<https://whitebirdclinic.org/services/cahoots/>

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.7/public-health-theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police>

<https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/stories/when-mental-health-experts-not-police-are-the-first-responders>

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

This is incredibly important. We need to have local voices and oversight on police activity. Officers acting with impunity is what creates a culture of violence. Getting this plan started as soon as possible is crucial.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

Please relocate these funds. The civil unrest and uprising you have witnessed is a direct result of an inequitable distribution of resources given to people who should not be militarized. Policing is a reaction to crime. Remember the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? By redistributing funds and resources directly to communities, you will help to reduce the causes of crime. Police should be welcomed by the community as members of that community. Right now, they are feared. They are the other. They are an anonymous force of destruction. Reallocating these funds enables communities to take care of their most vulnerable members. Equitable access to healthcare, housing, nutrition, employment, and education will eliminate the need for criminal pursuits. By providing more possibilities for people to choose, they are less inclined to fall into illegal actions. It's basic Maslow's pyramid. Right now, some members of our city are struggling to survive. How are they supposed to make healthy, informed decisions? How are they supposed to access their best selves? Redistributing the resources from the police into community programs will make a tremendous difference.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Christopher Ryan Ecolano
Richmond's 4th district



From: [Hannah M. Huddle](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:51:20 AM

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My Name is Hannah Huddle, I live in Richmond City.

I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create the "Marcus Alert" to respond to mental health crises. As someone with close family with mental health issues I see this legislation as something that could protect and literally save the lives of my loved ones. Police do not have the training and should not be expected to respond to mental health crises without first bringing in a trained professional who can escalate the situation.

I am also writing to support RES. 2020-R047 to defund Richmond Police and invest these funds in our community. I work in a nearby public library, and have seen firsthand the power that libraries have when we are able to invest in them and the services they provide.

Furthermore I believe that the police have an excess of money. I was tear gassed by Richmond Police on June 1 at 7:40, 20 minutes before the then-curfew, while peacefully protesting. My first amendment rights were denied. I do not trust a system that routinely and mistakenly uses chemical weapons against its citizens. My tax dollars should go to funding our schools and social services, not to supporting violence by police.

Police have selectively enforced laws in a way that has harmed our community. On Saturday, a firearm was discharged to intimidate people gathered at the former Lee Monument, now known as Marcus David Peters circle. Despite having clear identifying information, no charges were pressed. The city cares about broken windows more than the actual safety of its people.

Last night, July 26, people grabbed off the sidewalk by Monroe Park, as shown in video evidence. No protest activity was occurring, people were gathered in the park after dark, as is regular for this park. To be held in jail overnight with a bond of \$1000 for the crime of trespassing in a public park is absurd and will only increase tensions between protestors and police.

Thank you,
Hannah Huddle

From: [Michele Moffatt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Today's meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:54:54 AM

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I would like to comment that the continued abuse of protestors and press by police is unconscionable and disgusting. There was a man that shot a gun near protestors Saturday night, but police and media aren't talking about that, even though police have his license plates and video showing the altercation. Why are journalists being arrested and held overnight in a pandemic for trespassing but police are not pursuing actual dangerous people? Why are the Richmond city council and Richmond mayor allowing this to continue? If politicians want our support, then you need to take a stand with us. Defund RPD. Fund futures. Stop police violence. Fund a Marcus alert system. Be part of the solution.

Thank you,
Michele

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ewan Oglethorpe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comments 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:26 AM

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To whom it may concern -

Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, 34, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, reappropriation of police funding, and removal of Confederate statues.

Regards,

Ewan Oglethorpe

From: [jordan leonard](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Thoughts on City Council meeting items for today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:58:32 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! My name is Jordan Leonard and I live in the Fulton Hill neighborhood in the east end of Richmond.

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Here are some further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. ^[1]_[sep]

2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Jordan A. Leonard

From: [Sarah Brunke](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comment 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:10 AM

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Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, **34**, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, **reappropriation of police funding**, and removal of Confederate statues.

While I do believe that the police have a very difficult job, I believe they are being asked to handle too many issues that are outside of their training. There is also a pervasive culture of brotherhood that prevents police from being held accountable for their actions. They are tasked with enforcing the law, they are not above it.

While I of course do not condone violence, rioting, or smashing windows, I have also been appalled at the way the Richmond Police Department has responded in most cases. I have witnessed them tear gas, pepper spray, drive vehicles through crowds, randomly assault and arrest people without cause, and use other intimidation tactics. I fear that we will look back at these images and compare them to Civil Rights protestors being firehosed. The things I have witnessed are akin to those of police states in other countries across the world. These practices do not align with the values of the United States, and the right to free speech. Of course police are only human, but when they make mistakes they must take responsibility and be held accountable as the rest of society is.

From: [Michael James-Deramo](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Written comment city council
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:31 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My name is Michael James-Deramo I live in the 1st district.

I am asking council to support the demands of protesters that have been stated for over a month in particular the defunding of the Richmond police as means to reallocate money into caring for communities through the funding of education, and mental health resources including the Marcus Alert. We need systemic change to dismantle the legacy of racism and harm that has been a part of the fabric of this city and maintained and perpetuated by the police.

From: [Allan-Charles Chipman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Re: 2020-Signing up for Public Comment for Ordinance 2020--148, RES. 2020-R039. ORD2020-153, ORD 2020-155
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:51 AM
Attachments: [Res 2020- 045 support.docx](#)

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Here is my letter in support of the Marcus Alert System.

Allan-Charles Chipman
Initiatives of Change USA
[2201 West Broad Street, Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23220](#)
T: 804-387-9131 E: allan-charles.chipman@iofc.org
IoFC: www.us.iofc.org TRHT: www.greaterRVA.org



Initiatives of Change
United States



From: Allan-Charles Chipman
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:10 AM
To: City Clerk's Office <CityClerksOffice@richmondgov.com>
Subject: 2020-Signing up for Public Comment for Ordinance 2020--148, RES. 2020-R039. ORD2020-153, ORD 2020-155

Good Morning,

I am signing up for Public Comment for the following pieces of legislation up for vote tonight in city council. I have attached my public comments from the subcommittee votes Ord 2020-155, Res 202-R046, and Res 2020-R047. I will be submitting before the deadline my written comments on other pieces of legislation.

Ordinance 2020--148, -

Ordinance 2018 -236

RES. 2020-R039.

ORD2020-153

ORD 2020-155

Res 2020-R045

Res 2020-R046

Res 2020-R047

Thank you,

Allan-Charles Chipman
Initiatives of Change USA
[2201 West Broad Street, Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23220](#)
T: 804-387-9131 E: allan-charles.chipman@iofc.org

IoFC: www.us.iofc.org TRHT: www.greaterRVA.org



Madam Speaker,

My name is Allan Chipman. I live in the 6th district I am writing in support of a fully funded Marcus-Alert system. We must fund the futures we want to see. This includes moving responsibility AND resources from police into systems of care. After speaking with my good friend Victor Mckenzie at Substance Use & Addiction Recovery Alliance of Virginia, I believe it is important that we include our neighbors who struggle with substance abuse as well as those who need mental health support. We know that these are not always separate issue but also not always the same. Instead of using a toxicology report or a mental breakdown as justification for police to give death & trauma, let us use it as a reason to provide help & healing. As someone who studied Human Development through a multi-systemic lens, it is well known that trauma + trauma does not = healing. It is well past time that we move past a model of policing that turns potential points of intervention into points of incarceration. We must fund & support the model of the future. And we certainly cannot leave the reimagining of this model to the very police system that took the life of Marcus David Peters. Marcus David Peters needed help not death and he is not the only one in our community. Triggers & tasers will never heal trauma, addiction, or issues of mental health. Let us fund & expand existing systems of care that can. We can begin this process today by voting yes to the Marcus Alert System.

From: [Bridget Stadelmyer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statement
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:04:56 AM

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Here's a sample email!

Hi! My name is Bridget Stadelmyer and my address is [REDACTED].

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. There are many reasons why. To name a few:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. [REDACTED]
2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Bridget Stadelmyer

From: [Meg Carnahan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: CITY COUNCIL COMMENT
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:06:50 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

You must take action against the police department to stop the continued violence against community members. In case you forgot, let me remind you exactly what the protestors are fighting for:

- Re-open the Marcus David Peters case; you know, the man who was having a severe mental health crisis when a Richmond Police officer murdered him? I remember growing up believing that a police officer only fires their weapon as a last resort, not because they're terrified of a naked black man. I guess our officers aren't as brave and honorable as we try to pretend they are.
- Defund RPD aka take SOME of their RIDICULOUS budget away (I can't even begin to comprehend the amount spent recently on teargas and riot gear alone), and reallocate those funds to services that can improve ALL of our lives! Mental health services, education, housing...I'm sure you all know that these areas that could desperately use a boost in funding.
- Enact the Marcus Alert system so that trained mental health professionals respond to mental health crisis calls. This is not rocket science. This makes sense. How many people killed by police would still be alive if this system were already in place?
- Establish a Civilian Review Board—are you a fan of democracy? Great, you should be totally on board with this.
- Drop the charges against all protestors. Take a look at the points above; this is what these protestors are fighting for. A better, safer, more equitable Richmond. Does it feel right to you that they are thrown in jail for practicing their right to protest, processed through the system for eight long hours in the middle of a pandemic, only to be released and still have to deal with those charges? What about that seems fair or right to you? If you could go back in time, if you were on the city council where Rep. John Lewis was arrested for protesting for his civil rights, would you fight to have the charges dropped? Knowing what you know now?
- Monuments must go—congratulations, the most performative of all the demands has been almost completely met.
- Release the names of the RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct. You know those “bad apples” everyone's always talking about? I'm so sick and tired of the whole structure of local government protecting corrupt and violent officers. There are people sitting in prison on marijuana charges while violent, power hungry individuals on the force are suiting up in riot gear every night hoping, HOPING to use their pepper spray, their flash bangs, their teargas on Richmond residents. What is going to put a stop to this? More force, more force, and more force is not working. Take a look at Seattle. We're heading that way if this doesn't come under control, and the way to get it under control is to STOP using violent force against protestors and Richmond residents and to start working towards fulfilling their demands for justice.

We have to take a hard turn, at some point. We can't continue like this. Let's turn towards justice and peace, not towards ever growing fear and violence.

A very concerned life-long Richmond resident,
Meg Carnahan

From: [Steven Ferretti](#)
To: [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Police Defunding - Westover Hills Resident
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:50:40 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To: Richmond City Council Members
Subject: Police Defunding

City Council Members:

I am a resident of Westover Hills. Please do not vote to defund our police department. I do not think pulling funds from the police department does anything but reduce morale in a police force that's doing its very best in a very challenging job. We need our police force fully funded and feeling appreciated for the work they perform. If anything, support a training collaboration between the police force and mental health, substance abuse (etc.) organizations to address these issues of concern to all of us. Working together and supporting each other is what all of us need during this difficult time in our city and the nation.

I highly respect our police force and recognize the difficult work they perform each day to keep Richmond city safe. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Steve Ferretti

STEVE FERRETTI • [REDACTED]



From: [Judy Castleman](#)
To: [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#)
Subject: Resolution No 2020-R047
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:50:01 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To Richmond City Council:

I write in opposition to Resolution No. 2020-R047, which requests the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a report by October 1, 2020, identifying which functions and monies can be moved from the 20-21 RPD budget to various alternative mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs.

Although the intention of this resolution is something I, and I believe, most of the community supports, the method and time frame make this an impossible and hollow effort for many reasons. No one would disagree that over the years, police have been required to handle an ever increasing list of non-police functions, and need relief so that they can concentrate on keeping all citizens safer. But fixing this is a complicated process.

Let me enumerate my reasons:

1. It is inappropriate to move money in the current RPD budget when it is unknown what their costs will be in light of the current pandemic and widespread racial protests.
2. It will surely take several months to identify what programs in these fields would not only be appropriate, but also able to accommodate such an increase in workload, even with additional funds. Some programs, and the professionals therein, may be a perfect fit, while others may not. Exploring this delicate information will take considerable study and time.
3. What may in fact come out of the study of these functions is that it may be most appropriate to add personnel from another agency to the member of RPD on any given call. For example, a mental health provider accompanying an officer may be the best way to de-escalate and appropriately handle a citizen in a mental health crisis. Or sending a social worker, along with an officer on a domestic violence or child abuse crisis. These situations would still require RPD to utilize their staff (and their money) to address the problem. Also, this requires not only identifying a program to perform a function, but also a specifically trained individual to accompany an officer on these type of calls. Would that alternative provider need to be an employee of RPD? How long would it take to find and contract with providers willing to do this?

4. The Resolution only requires one opportunity for public input. That is totally inappropriate in such a complicated and entirely different manner of handling the issues concerned.
5. It needs to be researched as to how these issues are being handled by other localities across the country. Various professional organizations will surely need to be consulted as to Best Practices in each field. Will this require action by the General Assembly? Will it require a Charter change? Will MOUs need to be worked out with hospitals and other health care facilities?
6. A thorough and thoughtful study of all of this will (and should) take several months to be done appropriately. We need to get it right! The worst thing that could happen is to institute a set of programs that do not address, but only exacerbate the problems that need to be addressed.
7. By spending the time between now and the 21-22 Budget cycle, a solid alternative plan could be developed.

I urge all members of Council to vote NO on this resolution as presented.

Regards,
Judy Castleman

Judy Castleman



From: [Eryn Alloway](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Regarding City Council Meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:27:13 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Once implemented, this program will potentially save lives of people going through mental health crises. This will divert people away from prison and instead provide them with the mental health care that they need. It also will reduce the case load on the police and instead allow for mental health professionals to care for people who need their services.

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

We need an oversight board with citizens (not other police) to review the actions of the police and hold them accountable for their behavior. Any system without outside checks and balances is vulnerable to negligent behavior.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

In this time of COVID-19 our community needs more funding to support eviction diversion and affordable housing. Families should not be put out on the street because of city revenue projections.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Police are allowed to seize private property during the course of arresting/prosecuting for drug crimes through a federal program, and sell these assets to fund Special Funds - we should have access to detailed information on from whom these assets are seized or how the special funds are used. Again, power without checks and balances can easily be

corrupted. The incentive to seize personal property for departmental gain is too enticing and should be mitigated by oversight.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

As I mentioned in the Marcus Alert program, I believe mental health crises should be handled by mental health professionals, not police officers. I also believe substance abuse issues should be handled by substance abuse counselors and professionals and that social services should be handled by professionals in that field. The police should not be catch-all for community issues. **We don't need more arrests - we need help!** Please re-direct funds from the police to fund city and community programs that specialize in these fields.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and I urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Eryn Helene Alloway



I represent no organizations and have no economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation mentioned above.

From: [devon | cavanagh](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Written Comments for 7/27/2020 Council Meeting (RES. 2020-R047)
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 8:25:48 PM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

City Clerk Reid,

In lieu of speaking, please find below written comments for distribution to Council and inclusion in the public record of the July 27, 2020 Richmond City Council meeting.

==

Councilmembers,

I'm writing today in support of resolution 2020-R047. I am a longtime resident of the 5th district and a 21 year citizen of the city of Richmond. Having listened to the discussion in committee, it seemed that neither Councilmembers nor community members speaking in that meeting fully understood the intent of this resolution.

This resolution does not reduce funding for the police, although if it did I would support it. This resolution does not reallocate dollars to other city services departments, although if it did I would support it.

This resolution does not in any way affect the way policing happens in Richmond.

All this resolution does is request a report. It requests a report of what line items in the RPD budget are earmarked for social services (and therefore potential candidates for future discussion on reallocation), of what the effects of redesignating those funds to social services departments might be, and also of what aspects of the RPD budget would likely be impacted if funding were reduced.

There is absolutely no reason that this resolution should not pass unanimously, as it is simply a resolution requesting information. Any member of Council that votes against this resolution is voting against having the knowledge to engage in future discussions on an important topic in our community.

I stand with knowledge. I stand with being informed on matters of potential future policy. I encourage all members of Council to likewise support this resolution.

Devon J Cavanagh
Resident, 5th District

From: [Mr Jennings](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for July 27th City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:40:14 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thanks for your time! Sincerely,

Conway Jennings (7th district resident)

From: [Grant Collier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Urgent: Public Comment for City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:52:19 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. [SEP]
2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

--

Grant Collier

From: [Kyle Dosier](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment 7-27 Kyle J Dosier 1308 N 33rd St RVA 23223
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 6:57:17 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

From Kyle J Dosier


Councilperson Cynthia Newbille and all Members of City Council,

I am writing to urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

ORD 155 - Civilian Review Board. I think that it will be vital to have no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force, or the final board. This ensures a truly independent body that can create structures to provide adequate checks and balances in our criminal justice system. Please directly involve local Richmond activists such as those involved with the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project as well as Princess Blanding of the Justice and Reformation Project. These folks have been workshopping ideas related to community-police accountability for a long time and there is every reason to begin with the experience and blueprints they already have for our city. Subpoena power is a necessary part of a working civilian review board. And also, I was happy to see that you have some criteria for task force and review board members. Please include at least 50% voices from the outlined marginalized groups in both the task force and the eventual board.

RES R045 - Marcus Alert. Please use the same criteria outlined above for the civilian review board to help create the Marcus Alert. Initial voices should be fully independent from the Richmond Police Department. It is very important to me that organizers and activists from the Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project and the Justice and Reformation group are involved in this project, which is their brainchild and for which they have a clear blueprint ready for the city.

3. RES R047 - Defund the Police. Our police just spent over \$2 million to enforce temporary curfews; to use chemical weapons on protestors; to militarize our streets; to arrest city residents and members of the press; and to stifle free speech and assembly in less than 60 days. This, while city tenants are threatened with eviction; people are unhoused; families are struggling with food insecurity; and students and educators struggle to prepare for virtual learning. Let's get our priorities straight! Reduce the police budget immediately and fund Black futures; fund Richmond futures. This resolution can go further; please push for a demilitarization of our department. I want to see a sell-off of equipment like LRADs and MRAPs that do not ever belong in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for beginning to address important issues of criminal justice reform in our city. We will see fundamental changes over the next year, and I am pleased that this City Council

wants to be a part of that. Be bold and push forward; your constituents have your backs!

-Kyle J Dosier



From: [virginia samsel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:16:59 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hello,

My name is Virginia Samsel and I have been a resident of Richmond for 30 years.

I attended Richmond Public Schools, and Virginia Commonwealth University. I have watched the city and neighborhoods change, and grow. The expectation of growth in a community is for that change to be positive, and while much of the change is apparently positive for some, there are many that have been left out. The people that we are leaving out, are the ones who have been here longest, the ones who have stayed, whether they wanted to or not, through the ups and downs of Richmond. Why are we not better supporting our black communities? Why are we not supporting our communities in need? Why are we instead putting money into new comers who have no ties except what they can get from us, and into a police department with a long history of harassment and no expressed intent to aid?

Our budget should go to OUR community. It should go to housing, to education, to health and welfare. We should build systems to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of a depressed and traumatized community. We should build systems that expand our connectivity, that encourage a breadth of vision and communication. Why does the city choose to misunderstand and ignore the voices of their community.

The call for support, the request for policy change is not new, I have heard it in this city for 30 years.

Stop paying large businesses (VCU, Dominion, etc) to displace and drain our communities. Stop funding the police department that chooses not to work for our communities. Stop killing our communities.

Defund RPD.

Black Lives Matter

This is a Black Liberation Movement.

Thank you,
Virginia

From: [kt.m](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:19:21 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear City Council,

I am writing to you as a concerned Richmond resident and constituent of the council. I have always been proud to be a Virginian and care deeply about our community.

Now is the time to work with the community to re-imagine the role of policing and public safety. Now is the time to divest from police and reinvest in solution-oriented community programs.

We are facing a housing crisis locally and nationally. The money being used to violent police our community could and should be reallocated to address systematic housing exclusion and inequality. Access to stable and affordable housing is ESSENTIAL to one's life, education, health, community, and job opportunities.

The militarization of the RPD only continue the violence and division in the Richmond community. We NEED to prioritize education, housing, and the true needs of the community with the city council budget.

The community has made their demands clear. Defund and demilitarize the Richmond police.

Sincerely,
Katherine

From: [John Clark](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:34:40 AM

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The actions of the past few weeks continue to show us that a civilian review board will not be enough to solve the issues between Richmond and the police force. The city needs to find ways to empower other services by defunding the police if it ever hopes to find the peace and social justice that the council and mayor claim to want

John Clark

From: [Emily Bell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund the RPD
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:06:18 AM

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Hello,

I live in the city's 7th district, and I am writing to say I want the city's police department to be completely defunded and abolished. The violence that they have exacted against our residents is unconscionable, and I refuse to believe we even need them. We could and should reinvest the \$100 million we spend on them on our communities, health, and schools.

Defund and abolish RPD.

Emily Bell

From: [Kaitlin Heath](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting comments
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:17:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning Clerk Reid,

I am writing to express my strong support for city council to prioritize funding HUD and other housing support, as well as reallocating funds from the police to mental health and substance abuse support.

It is clear to me that the people in this city need support, not more policing. The positive impacts that these sorts of changes would make seem obvious to me. When you look after people and give them affordable, stable housing and support for their mental and physical well-being, the whole community becomes more stable. This is what we desperately need in Richmond. It's time to stop throwing people aside for the sake of the status quo. I look forward to seeing these changes implemented.

Best,
Kaitlin Heath
First district resident

From: [cayla.carruthers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund, demilitarize, disband
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:20:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am a constituent from the 2nd calling for the defunding and demilitarization of RPD. Last night (07/26/2020) RPD detained and arrested local journalists (including student journalists from VCU) and amateur/ freelance journalists, among many other community members. The night before (07/25/2020) RPD physically attacked and intimidated even more local journalists. Without an independent civilian review board or journalists who can safely report the news, who will publish true accounts with integrity?

C. Carruthers

From: [Hannah M](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council Meeting on 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:22:29 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Candice D. Reid,

My name is Hannah McHugh. As a disturbed Richmond citizen who has witnessed a complete lack of leadership in my elected officials over the last few months—I am commenting on today's City Council meeting in order to refocus your attention to some key concerns. Echoing the public demands of many other Richmond citizens and protesters, I strongly encourage you all to:

- 1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters Case, and *vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R045*, which would almost immediately implement the “Marcus Alert” program.**
- 2. Defund the Richmond Police and Sheriff's Office.** Please help revitalize a Care Economy in a city that so desperately needs it. *Please vote in favor of RESOLUTION No. 2020-R047*, which would begin to better utilize our taxpayer dollars, allowing for the reallocation of funds from the RPD to other, far more important city departments—namely those focused on community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs.
- 3. Drop all charges against every protester, regardless of the charges' nature.** There can be no rightful or even lawful arrests when our officers have in-mass brutalized and agitated the general public so severely over the last few months. They cannot be trusted, and therefore, you cannot punish citizens for their unique responses to these terrorizers and the wrongful legislation that further condoned their gestapo-esque behavior.
- 4. Establish a Civilian Review Board with subpoena powers, separate and completely independent of the Richmond Police Department and Sheriff's Office.** It goes without saying that these officers are trained to be afraid, violent, and essentially useless at their once core-duty: to protect and serve the community. Therefore, we need complete community oversight of their policing. Please *vote in favor of ORDINANCE No. 2020-155* to get this done.
- 5. Give complete and total rent amnesty to those facing evictions, and suspend all future rent/mortgage payments for the duration of this global pandemic.** Despite popular belief, the coronavirus is not over. There is no vaccine. Going forth with **any** evictions right now, and forcing clearly vulnerable people into even more precarious financial and living situations during an epidemic is a health-risk to **everyone**. Please protect the people of Richmond. Stop punishing citizens who cannot even afford to live right now.

All that being said, there are a few other items on this meeting's docket which vaguely intersect with the demands above:

I am also strongly *urging that city council oppose ORDINANCE No. 2020-117,* which would allow VCUPD to become an operational user of the RPD's records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the two departments. There is obviously already a dangerous lack of civilian oversight on RPD. It is completely unnecessary, and a violation of public trust, to share records and tax-funded resources with what is essentially a private police agency that is almost entirely unaccountable to taxpayers - and which employs unknown, private contract security officers who are unregulated by city government. I vehemently oppose city council allowing RPD to share taxpayer funded resources and information on our city's citizens with a private police force over which we have no control and which is not required to operate transparently.

Similarly, *I am urging council to oppose ORDINANCES No. 2019-275 and No. 2019-276*—establishing a Technology Zone and giving bizarre tax breaks to these future tech workers—essentially outsourcing Richmond's current economy to profit-hungry businesses that have absolutely no interest in bettering our communities. It feels redundant to say that this is a sloppy, quick-fix attempt at economic revitalization. We already know what happens to cities just like Richmond that use this approach—paving the way for gentrification. No matter how well-intentioned this approach might be, how can you reconcile the outcome which will likely mirror that of Seattle, San Francisco, Boston, Houston, etc...? If your intentions are to revitalize our economy, why not invest in the business sectors and workers that already carry Richmond? Why not raise the minimum wage? Why not invest in affordable housing? Why not provide better safety nets for the Richmond citizens that are statistically most likely to be pushed out by this hasty decision? If what you view as a successful Technology Zone involves negatively impacting and displacing **any** percentage of the RVA population, where do your priorities truly lie as elected officials? I encourage city council to do much better, and find a different approach to this problem.

Thank you.

-Hannah McHugh

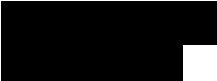
From: [Alexandra Sward](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: RES. 2020-R047 Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:45:59 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

I support res. 2020-R047 as a method of beginning the process of diverting mental health care from police to other city workers. There are trained mental health professionals who should be leading the response to mental health crises, with police in a more supporting role. The case of Marcus David-Peters is one tragic example of police responding with excessive force to someone in crisis. RPD has proven that they do not have the capacity to effectively perform everything we ask of them, so let's lighten their load and divert this important mental health work to other groups.

Thank you,
Alix Sward



From: [Emily Bradley](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment—Letter of Support
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:56:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing this email in support of City Council legislation that would defund/demilitarize the Richmond Police Department. I would like to thank Councilwoman Lynch and Councilman Jones for their leadership in pushing forward and advocating for this legislation. I want to reiterate how imperative it is that we move forward with this legislation. The removal the confederate statues was a nice symbolic change, but the passing of the proposed legislation would provide strong first steps in creating systemic change. I have heard multiple council members state that they have “heard what the community wants...they want to defund the police...” if you have truly heard us, then I urge you LISTEN to us and pass this legislation of defunding/demilitarizing the police. I am asking you all to please fulfill your elected job role of listening to your constituents and creating a Richmond that supports ALL of it’s citizens.

Thank you for your time,

Emily Bradley-Kane, 3rd District

--

[Emily Bradley](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Alex Caligiuri](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Richmond City Council Meeting for 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 8:59:25 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

To the Mayor Levar Stoney and Richmond City Council,

It seems very puzzling that this Council continues to allow the police to do violence on protesters who are **protesting police violence**. Your continued inaction to defund, disarm, and dismantle this over-funded, over-equipped, and over-protected jackboot gang makes you complicit in their violence.

You have the power to, **RIGHT NOW**, cut their budget. You have the power to, **RIGHT NOW**, deny any further expenditures for overtime or resupply on their munitions. (Munitions which, by the way, we do not have full knowledge of what they do to the human body. There are reports of civilians who menstrate having bleed for **TWENTY DAYS**. Continuing to allow them to enact their violence and signing off on their purchases of these weapons is complicity in that violence.)

Last night the police protected a grassy lot known as a 'park', a building, and an intersection. Those things are not a city, those are places or things. A city is its people. This is why you on the City Council are people and not decorative slabs on concrete, though for all the good you do you might as well be.

You have the power to defund and disarm and dismantle the Richmond Police Department and to cease paying for their violence on our community. **USE THAT POWER**. If you don't, we'll get someone who will.

With whatever respect you may find,
Alexander Caligiuri

From: [Lisa D'Alessio](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for today's council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:11:51 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi! I'm strongly urging you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. I have further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.

2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I most definitely do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Once again, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa D'Alessio



From: [Jennie Daley](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Defund police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:13:17 AM

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Good morning. I'd like to submit a public comment in support of Councilmember Stephanie Lynch's bill tonight aiming to redistribute city funds by reducing the Richmond Police Department budget. Another weekend with city residents tear gassed and shot at is a painful and chilling reminder how our city's priorities have skewed. It's past time we use our dollars to fund schools and infrastructure, not the criminalization of our neighbors.

Thank you,
Jennie

Jennie Daley


From: [Natalie K. Stickel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for City Council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:14:53 AM

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Good morning,

I urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Why?

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is IMPERATIVE that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force OR the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves (for example Derek Chauvin's 15+ complaints with ZERO disciplinary or legal consequences). And while your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the member should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined.
2. RES.2020-R045 - Marcus Alert. Full support EXCEPT, I don't believe anyone from Richmond Police Department should serve on this group. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but I do not trust police to envision and create the Marcus Alert.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community program that lift people up instead of beating them down.

Thank you for your time.

Natalie Stickel


From: [Thalia Hernandez](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for July 27 Richmond City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:15:46 AM

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Dear Clerk,

I hope you are well. Please submit my public comment for the the July 27 meeting of the Richmond city council meeting to the city council. Thank you so much!

Public Comment -

My name is Thalia Hernandez and I am a resident of the 5th district in Byrd Park. I would like to express my support ORD 2020-155. I support the demand of countless community organizations and the family of Marcus-David Peters for the creation of a civilian review board, with subpoena power, that is fully independent from law enforcement and prosecutors, and run by the community, particularly those who are most impacted by over-policing. It should receive adequate funding to run its operations that come from the pre-existing budget of the Richmond Police Department, with at least 1% of RPD's current budget. We know the police cannot police themselves and it's time to entrust and empower the community, which the police are supposed to serve and protect, with the power of accountability.

I would like to express my support for 2020-R045. The Marcus Alert, which would shift the decision-making authority during a crisis call to trained mental health professionals is crucial to ensuring everyone receives help not harm. Currently, law enforcement officers decide which de-escalation interventions to use during a crisis. The Marcus Alert proposal would require law enforcement and behavioral health authorities to establish policies that put behavioral health clinicians in charge in these complex situations. Law enforcement may be present to secure the scene and only use non-lethal force if advised by the mental health clinicians. Black, brown, low-income and LGBTQ+ people experience higher rates of mental health distress due to structural barriers to care and stress of living with a marginalized identity, they are also more likely to be targets of police violence. This model recognizes that public health is public safety in times of behavioral health crises.

I would like to express my support for RES 2020-R047. I support defunding the Richmond Police Department (RPD) by reallocating funds from RPD's large budget to the Marcus Alert, Civilian Review Board, and human services addressing healthcare, employment, public education, and general community welfare. Too many live in poverty, lack adequate access to healthcare, employment, and affordable housing as well as face unique barriers in education. This is especially true for Black and Latinx adults and youth. Last year, RPD's total general fund was 95 million dollars, while

Housing & Community Development's was 3 million dollars. Additionally, Richmond Public Schools have been in crisis - as of 2018, only 19 out of 44 Richmond Public Schools were fully accredited by the state. In order to cultivate a high quality of life and increase public safety, Black communities' futures must be fully funded.

Thank you for your time!

Best wishes,
Thalia Hernandez

--

Thalia Hernandez



From: [Haleh Pedram](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)
Subject: Res 2020-R047
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:25:52 AM

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Good Morning,

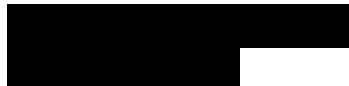
I am so pleased that the council will address allocating money from the RPD special fund budget into social services. I am in favor of this transfer and I appreciate my council person who proposed this resolution with others. I am not sure what amount of funds are available in the special budget fund but I am hoping it is a decent amount of money to offer real assistance to those who need it. Thank you for working to make Richmond a better place for all.

Thank you,

Haleh Pedram



Haleh Pedram



From: [Jennifer Surratt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for City Council 7/27/20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:27:17 AM

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I am writing to voice my support for several items on the agenda this evening. I thank our Patron Delegates for their attention to the ongoing police brutality in our communities and the actions of police that continue to occur with impunity.

I support ORD 2020-155. I am incredibly concerned with the escalating attacks on our press in the previous 2 evenings. There are video recordings of police detaining members of the press and threatening members of the press with arrest. Our First Amendment rights are under increasing attack by the police. While I am in support of this legislation I am also deeply concerned that the escalating tactics of police to silence our press and to attack and intimidate protestors who are peaceably assembled present a picture that suggests that we do not have time to waste to spend time investigating what a CRB could be and instead need to be moving quickly to establish the CRB itself. I am hopeful that if this legislation passes - City Council will move quickly with engagement from our community organizers and those most impacted by police to establish this task force.

I support RES 2020-R045. I ALSO believe that any implementation of a Marcus Alert needs to include his family in its development at every step of the process.

I support RES 2020-R047. I believe that we have better ways to respond and support our community so that police are not needed. If we focus on strengthening the social fabric and network of support, we can create safer communities.

I support RES 2020-R049. No statues to honor white supremacy.

I also support any legislation that will help address the evictions that are happening. It is inhumane to have folks homeless at any time and especially in a pandemic. I believe that we have the money to do what's needed - provided that we stop putting profit over people. I trust you to act in ways that elevate us all and end the needless suffering of our most vulnerable community members.

Thank you.

Jennifer Surratt
3rd District

From: [Lindsay Parnell](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: DEFUND THE POLICE
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:30:08 AM

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Hello,

My name is Lindsay Parnell and I am a Richmond resident in the second district. I am reaching out to demand the following:

1. Re-open the Marcus-David Peters case (I am asking city council to use their power to urge Colette McEachin to re-open the case!)
2. DEFUND THE POLICE
3. Drop all charges against every protester (I am asking city council to use their power to urge Colette McEachin to drop all charges!)
4. Remove ALL monuments to white supremacy in this city from Confederate generals to United Daughters of the Confederacy
5. Establish an independent civilian review board with subpoena power that is SEPARATE from RPD
6. Establish and FULLY FUND the Marcus Alert system
7. Release the names of all RPD officers currently under investigation for use-of-force misconduct

Overall, I am urging you to listen to the community and DEFUND THE POLICE and INVEST IN BLACK FUTURES (through means such as the Marcus Alert System!)

Thank you,
Lindsay Parnell

--

Lindsay Parnell


From: [Eileen Mellon](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: city council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:30:18 AM

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Hi,

I am sending an email in regards to the upcoming city council meeting. I work as a local journalist and want to express my concerns for the current state of affairs in Richmond. I have been on the grounds reporting, as well on my own not representing the media, and have been appalled by recent events. As someone that has lived here for the past decade, graduated from VCU and then have remained in the city since, it disgusts me to see how cops and leadership have been moving forward. There are protesters being picked up by police in unmarked vans, people brutalized, tear gas and rubber bullets expelled. I have fallen asleep to the sounds of helicopters and planes overhead far too long. It sounds and feels like we are in a militarized state. The Richmond Police Department needs to be defunded, or at minimum, have funds allocated to other sectors of the city. There is no reason that schools should be failing to get by, that we should be letting down our youth, the future of our city and this country, to instead give funds to a system that is so inherently broken, that it requires defunding and starting over for change to be made. Hear our voices, listen to the people, reopen the Marcus David-Peters case and wake up.

-Eileen

From: [Lewis Matthews](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund rpd
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:30:28 AM

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For over two months now I have been disgusted to the very core of my being with the performance of RPD. Constantly the RPD has escalated tensions and violated civil rights all in the midst of the worst pandemic the world has ever seen. Levar stoney has done not done nearly enough to protect the safety of the majority of the citizens . Instead fueling police violence and encouraging said violations of civil liberties all to protect n property of the political and upper class in this city. I Came to this city desperately in search of opportunity as an artist I thought it would be a wonderful city. Now that I live here I am just as disgusted as I was in my small town home of Fredericksburg with the lack of accountability in rpd and the city has done Nothing but encourage violent behavior from rod and even brought in VSP to join in the violations. I don't know how any one of you can sleep at night. Taking down statues was never on the protesters clear demands list. Stop twiddling your thumbs . Stop pretending this can ever end with out completely abolishing the Police and reallocation of every cent in their Budget to public education ,housing, food ,mental health programs... We could fund all this for years off just one year's budget from the rod. Quit pretending to care and Actually Care about the children and the women and men and every kind of in-between that has always existed and been denied equity . Stop pretending that you are right to deny the world you live in the chance to breathe with ease. Defund RPD . We have no need for the RPD and Every need imaginable to take all of their budget. Hunger , homelessness, mental health and so much more can be resolved with this one action.thank you for your time.

From: [Kris mednikov](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Protesters/Police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:32:51 AM

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Today is good day to listen to protesters. I do not think their demands are outrageous, but truly a necessity after the arrest of so many peaceful protesters. What I am seeing around the country and particularly in Richmond is disturbing!

The Police are proving that they need demilitarizing and reeducated on de-escalating situations instead of the knee jerk reactions we are seeing. We need a civilian review board desperately, to hold in check any unlawful behavior by law enforcement. There is no free pass, even though some laws and our President believe other wise. Release the names of RPD officers under investigation for misconduct!!!

We need to fully fund and implement a Marcus David Peter's Alert System, this is common sense and I am shocked this is not in place already!!! The Marcus David Peter's case needs reopening with an independent reviewer in charge. This will show the city and the police are committed to exhibiting transparency toward our community!!! The police budget needs cutting and those funds put in place for causes that help the city's poor and most in need. Programs for mental illness, drug addiction, and social services. It is past time to start investing in our citizens and not the prison system.

I do not believe the demands of protesters are out of line nor unattainable!! The arrest of peaceful protesters is abhorrent and I expect better of my government!!!

Waiting patiently for change,
Kris Mednikov

From: [Rebecca Keel](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: 7/27 public comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:36:39 AM

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Greetings,

I would like to submit the following comment:

This city will move forward leaps and bounds if we reallocate funding from a harmful agency to helpful ones. The leadership of Richmond City Police Dept have for years shown that they will prioritize property over people, surveillance over relationships and violence over deescalation. The recent events of use of force with the chemical agent tear gas is unreasonable and unconscionable. Richmonders are protesting the defund and transform the police and are met by police violence. Does city council not see the irony there?

The proposal to defund and demilitarize the police is a step in the right direction to make amends for the historic and current harms caused by RPD. Policing in the United States has been flawed for a long time and we have the opportunity here locally to make change. Please vote to defund and demilitarize the police. Our future is in your vote.

Rebecca Keel Richmond City Resident 2nd district

From: bawesome.vegan@gmail.com
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for today's City Council meeting.
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:37:00 AM

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I want to express my support for passing ORD:2020-155, RES.2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047.

I also want to know why police violently and directly targeted and detained known press last night.

I also want to know why police executed militarized attacks against protesters over the weekend but neglected the active shooter threatening protesters throughout Saturday night. The video footage including license plate made its way throughout social media accounts monitored by police, yet the lack of police interest of this grave issue have residents like myself wondering: Who is being protected? Who is being served?

Thank you for your attention,
Bethany Awesome
Richmond 5th district


From: [Ashleigh Lum](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for City Council Meeting 7/27/20
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:37:16 AM

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Good morning,

My name is Ashleigh, I've lived in the city of Richmond for 15 years, specifically I've been a resident in the Washington Park neighborhood of Northside's Ginter Park area for 3 years now. I wanted to make a comment on the topic of defunding the Richmond Police Department. I've been to over a dozen marches/rallies/protests in the past two months and I've been observing the actions and responses of the RPD, and I've been very disgusted and disheartened. I've not only witnessed, but also experienced firsthand, tear gassing, flash bombs, and rubber bullets. All of these were deployed against citizens exercising their right to protest. The RPD response has been unacceptable. Seeing the costs of these weapons and chemical agents they've used against Richmond citizens using OUR tax dollars is absolutely abhorrent. Especially seeing the Mary Scott School right down the road from me that is falling apart, when the heat broke there last year and they still had children going there, WITH NO HEAT IN THE WINTER. When John Marshall High, another school right down the road from my home, has holes in the ceilings, it is falling apart. Yet this city is spending tens of thousands of dollars for the RPD to harm it's citizens. It's not right. Funds need to be allocated to other departments that truly do the work to provide education, safety, and community for Richmond's people. The budget for RPD is FAR too high, it is unnecessary. I urge the city council to do the right thing and defund RPD.

Thank you,

Ashleigh Lum


From: [Magdalen Karrs](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:37:24 AM

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Dear City Council members,

As a long time Richmond resident, it is my belief that RPD should be defunded and those funds reallocated to educational, mental health, and other community services.

Thank you,

Magdalen Karrs
Richmond's 5th district

From: [John Clark](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:41:45 AM

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I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create the "Marcus Alert".

I also support RES. 2020-R047 to reappropriate funding from Richmond Police to invest these funds in other city services.

-John Clark

From: [Brian Graff](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund RPD
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:44:23 AM

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Hello, my name is Brian Graff. I live in the 5th district, own a business in the 8th district, and own a food truck that vends in every city district. Instead of giving close to \$100 million dollars to RPD, it is my hope that you will disinvest in RPD like this city has disinvested in education, road repair, facilities upkeep, affordable housing, etc. I have seen first hand what your priorities are, i.e bulldozing Cathys Camp, permitting gambling halls that extracts resources from the working class, removing bus stops from black communities, expanding VCU police's footprint further into this city. Shame on you. I'd like to share a quick story of one experience I've had with RPD. I already mentioned I own a food truck. One day a woman walked up and said she was hungry and asked if she could have something to eat. I have never turned someone away due to their ability to not pay. We made her some food and got her a cold drink and she went on her way. Not 10 minutes later I had a cop at my window telling me it was illegal to feed her, because she was homeless and a problem in the neighborhood, had been seen testing car doors earlier, etc. I pushed back and said I could feed whoever I wanted. When I asked what sources I could point her too for a place to sleep, a bite to eat, a social worker anything, he refused to answer and then told me to call the cops if I saw her again. I told him I would never do that, and I never will. His unwillingness to help someone coupled with the almost complete lack of resources this city has to its most marginalized people is the evidence needed to defund RPD. Thank you for your time.

Brian "Spaceman" Graff

From: [Mikaela Rice](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:44:25 AM

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I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create a mental health crisis response team through the "Marcus Alert".

I also support RES. 2020-R047 to reappropriate funding from Richmond Police this fiscal year and years to follow to invest these funds in social services that better our community.

A bright light is finally shining on RVA and revealing to the wider public the need to reappropriate funding and resources to better serve our community at large. I implore you to consider these requests and more as part of the necessary journey to make RVA a welcoming place for ALL of its citizens.

Thank you,
-Mikaela Rice

From: [charles bolling II](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Please demilitarized and defund RPD
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:47:22 AM

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My name is Charles Bolling II. I lived in churchhill for all of my life. Please demilitarized and defund RPD

Charles Bolling II

From: [Chris Ercolano](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Council Meeting today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:49 AM

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Hello Candice Reid and all Members of the Richmond City Council,

I am writing in advance of the City Council meeting that will be held on Monday, July 27th at 6pm to express my support for the following ordinances and resolutions.

Marcus Alert Program

RES. 2020-R045 (item 32)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Eugene Oregon has a mental health group that responds to 911 calls and has diverted a lot of situations away from police intervention. This saves the police time and resources as well as giving community members in need direct access to the resources they need. According to their own police chief, many violent interactions or uses of force have been avoided because of this program. Developing this plan is crucial to the safety and integrity of our community.

<https://whitebirdclinic.org/services/cahoots/>

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.7/public-health-theres-already-an-alternative-to-calling-the-police>

<https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/stories/when-mental-health-experts-not-police-are-the-first-responders>

Civilian Review Board

ORD. 2020-155 (item 30)

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

This is incredibly important. We need to have local voices and oversight on police activity. Officers acting with impunity is what creates a culture of violence. Getting this plan started as soon as possible is crucial.

Affordable Housing and Eviction Diversion

RES. 2020-R039 (item 22)

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget as may be necessary to restore funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program to the amounts proposed in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget introduced on March 6, 2020, in the event that City revenues exceed current projections for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Oversight of Civil Asset Forfeiture Special Funds

RES. 2020-R046 (item 33)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Re-Appropriation & Transfer of Funds from Police to Community Providers

RES. 2020-R047 (item 34)

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

Please relocate these funds. The civil unrest and uprising you have witnessed is a direct result of an inequitable distribution of resources given to people who should not be militarized. Policing is a reaction to crime. Remember the old saying, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure? By redistributing funds and resources directly to communities, you will help to reduce the causes of crime. Police should be welcomed by the community as members of that community. Right now, they are feared. They are the other. They are an anonymous force of destruction. Reallocating these funds enables communities to take care of their most vulnerable members. Equitable access to healthcare, housing, nutrition, employment, and education will eliminate the need for criminal pursuits. By providing more possibilities for people to choose, they are less inclined to fall into illegal actions. It's basic Maslow's pyramid. Right now, some members of our city are struggling to survive. How are they supposed to make healthy, informed decisions? How are they supposed to access their best selves? Redistributing the resources from the police into community programs will make a tremendous difference.

I believe that the adoption of these resolutions and ordinances will benefit our community and urge you to support these items in Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,

Christopher Ryan Ercolano
Richmond's 4th district

[REDACTED]

From: [Ellen Heberling](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:57 AM

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Hello,

I'd like for RPD Chief Smith to respond to videos of a white supremacist discharging his firearm in the faces of protesters. RPD continues to arrest citizens who are peacefully protesting - not to mention those who are walking on PUBLIC sidewalks, not trespassing on park grounds, and attacking the press...yet refuses to address this scary, intimidating behavior by a white supremacist. RPD needs to be demilitarized, and eventually defunded. The millions of dollars given to our city's police force can do so much more good elsewhere (schools, homeless shelters, housing, helping those with insecurities, the list could go on forever).

Thank you,
Ellen

From: [Abigail Robinson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund RPD
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:50:34 AM

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Hello, my name is Abigail Robinson. I'm a Richmond city resident residing in the 6th district. I'm writing you today to demand the defunding of the Richmond police department. The nearly \$100 million budgeted to RPD could be redirected into funding social programs that prevent violence from even starting in the city. Everyone knows police do not prevent crime, they are supposed to put a stop to it before it escalates. RPD, VCU PD, and VSP have not done that and have only escalated the safety issues in our city. RPD needs to be defunded and a civilian review board must be established. It is clear what Mayor Stoney and other city officials prioritize: creating more homelessness through eviction, endangering the current homeless (a clear example being bulldozing Camp Cathy in March), and endangering BIPOC through displacement and gentrification. The violence MUST STOP. We the people of Richmond city have set clear, consistent demands since the beginning of the protests in June. The unrest in Richmond will not go away until the people's demands are met. Defund RPD. Establish a civilian review board. Every single cop is not bad but corruption spreads faster than any virus. We must abolish, and start over from scratch.

Thank you for your time,

Abigail Robinson

From: [Madeline Grey](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: submitting public comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:50:49 AM

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My name is Maddie Grey and as a Richmond resident I do not feel safe knowing that Richmond PD has been arresting peaceful protestors. I feel that our freedom to peacefully assemble is being taken away from us by those in power that want to silence us. The only way to restore balance and regain the citizens' trust at this time would be to reduce the RPD budget and reallocate funding to much needed social services, housing support, and mental health support.

From: [Hannah M. Huddle](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public comment for city council
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:51:20 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My Name is Hannah Huddle, I live in Richmond City.

I am writing in support of RES. 2019-R057 to create the "Marcus Alert" to respond to mental health crises. As someone with close family with mental health issues I see this legislation as something that could protect and literally save the lives of my loved ones. Police do not have the training and should not be expected to respond to mental health crises without first bringing in a trained professional who can escalate the situation.

I am also writing to support RES. 2020-R047 to defund Richmond Police and invest these funds in our community. I work in a nearby public library, and have seen firsthand the power that libraries have when we are able to invest in them and the services they provide.

Furthermore I believe that the police have an excess of money. I was tear gassed by Richmond Police on June 1 at 7:40, 20 minutes before the then-curfew, while peacefully protesting. My first amendment rights were denied. I do not trust a system that routinely and mistakenly uses chemical weapons against its citizens. My tax dollars should go to funding our schools and social services, not to supporting violence by police.

Police have selectively enforced laws in a way that has harmed our community. On Saturday, a firearm was discharged to intimidate people gathered at the former Lee Monument, now known as Marcus David Peters circle. Despite having clear identifying information, no charges were pressed. The city cares about broken windows more than the actual safety of its people.

Last night, July 26, people grabbed off the sidewalk by Monroe Park, as shown in video evidence. No protest activity was occurring, people were gathered in the park after dark, as is regular for this park. To be held in jail overnight with a bond of \$1000 for the crime of trespassing in a public park is absurd and will only increase tensions between protestors and police.

Thank you,
Hannah Huddle

From: [Sofia Desrosiers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comments
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:51:23 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

DEFUND THE POLICE
DEMILITARIZE THE POLICE

From: [Kaitlan Lawrence](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for City council meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:54:36 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a resident of the 1st district (Andreas Addison). As a lifelong Richmond resident (and especially as a homeowner/taxpayer), I am disgusted at the police department's egregious use of force against protestors. What I am particularly appalled at is the city council, Commonwealth's Attorney, and mayor's apparent unwillingness to listen to the reasonable demands the protestors are making. There isn't even a public conversation- just pepper spray and tear gas.

I admit when I first heard the term "Defund the police," I was afraid and thought no one could actually mean that. But here's what I've started to learn- our public schools are desperate for funding. Programs that support housing, mental health, childcare and other social services - all woefully underfunded. I support moving funds out of policing and into community support because I want a better future for my neighbors and their kids. I'm sick of our streets being turned into war zones and our supposed leaders being silent and unwilling to seriously listen.

Kim Gray, I am especially disappointed in you for calling protestors terrorists and saying you support MORE policing when our streets already look like a war zone because of the overzealous police response.

I acknowledge the Mayor's task force and I'm glad he included community leaders like Sheba Williams in the committee. But I hope this is not an empty gesture or a false promise, and I'll be watching to see the outcome. We need to spend less money on rubber bullets and tear gas, and more money on our residents' futures- school, mental health, housing, etc. I also appreciate Councilman Addison's support of some of the protestors demands on his website/blog.

I would love to see all of the members of City Council - including my councilman, Andreas Addison - being more publicly willing to have conversations with the public. Don't just shut us down or ignore us. Let's talk- I'm willing to listen if you are.

Kaitlan Lawrence

From: [Becki Stenger](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defunding RPD
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:54:43 AM

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Hello, My name is Rebecca M. Stenger (Becki) and I'm a four-year resident of the Northside neighborhood near Battery Park. I'm a homeowner and a transplant from Baltimore City, where I was born and raised. I love Richmond, I love living here, and I love my community.

What I don't love is the heinous brutality perpetrated by the police department. I have been a member of several of the protests that have been disbanded by use of chemical agents and sheer brutal force. I was present during the June 1st gassing, a half hour before curfew and I have to say that bearing witness firsthand to that kind of violence was staggering. It is something I undoubtedly suffer trauma from. It's something that has cemented in my mind the need to defund the RPD.

Living in Northside, I can clearly see the gentrification in process and the poverty that goes ignored. I see how the city prioritizes cleaning parks in mostly white neighborhoods, like Libby Hill while it neglects waste receptacles in and around Battery Park and close to bus stops along Chamberlayne. It is not a surprise, but it is highly disappointing, and is clear evidence of the racial disparity and inequity in our city. If we can take the money that RPD is using to cosplay as soldiers and wage war on its citizens, and redirect those funds to social programs and SCHOOLS to help combat the causes of crimes before they occur, wouldn't this be a better, safer place to exist? RPD has repeatedly shown a lack of care or concern for the people on the other sides of their riot shields. They consistently harass Black people and other people of color during what should be routine traffic stops, etc etc. What safety or service are they providing? When they are spending \$2Million in a month to combat mostly peaceful protests? And why are we so focused on the destruction of property, which can easily be REPLACED while overlooking the harm and loss of HUMAN LIFE? And we can focus on a burnt out dump truck used as a barricade around the police precinct, but the RPD has given zero attention to a white supremacist firing off a gun at a Black man's feet in the Fan of all places? Absurd. Infuriating. Defund the RPD. The safety of the city and it's people depends on it.

Thank you,
Becki Stenger

From: [Michele Moffatt](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Today's meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:54:54 AM

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I would like to comment that the continued abuse of protestors and press by police is unconscionable and disgusting. There was a man that shot a gun near protestors Saturday night, but police and media aren't talking about that, even though police have his license plates and video showing the altercation. Why are journalists being arrested and held overnight in a pandemic for trespassing but police are not pursuing actual dangerous people? Why are the Richmond city council and Richmond mayor allowing this to continue? If politicians want our support, then you need to take a stand with us. Defund RPD. Fund futures. Stop police violence. Fund a Marcus alert system. Be part of the solution.

Thank you,
Michele

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Isabella Ragazzi](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Demilitarize and defund the police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:55:12 AM

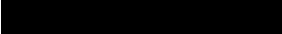
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Hello,

I would like for the Richmond City Council to vote to demilitarize and defund the police. I have seen with my own eyes how the police have terrorized civilians and have been tear gassed by the police myself while peacefully protesting. I've watched officers breaking the law themselves as they do so, with NO accountability. The police do not offer me or many of my friends, family, and community any feelings of safety or protection, in fact they only serve to harm our community. I call on you to defund our police department and invest that money in mental health professionals and education. Remove the police from schools to eliminate the school-to-prison pipeline and fully fund the Marcus Alert system.

Thank you.

Isabella Ragazzi



From: [alexandra.mccue](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City council meeting 7/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:55:23 AM

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Richmond, Virginia needs to defund the Richmond Police. I want the city council to vote to defund the police.

Alexandra McCue

From: [Ewan Oglethorpe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comments 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:26 AM

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To whom it may concern -

Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, 34, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, reappropriation of police funding, and removal of Confederate statues.

Regards,

Ewan Oglethorpe

From: [Jessica Shim](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 7/27 6pm City Council Meeting
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:57:45 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Hi there!

I would like to submit a written public comment for the 7/27 6pm City Council meeting. Here it is:

Hi, my name is Jessica Shim and I am a teacher in Richmond Public Schools. I am writing to you today to ask Council to vote to defund and demilitarize RPD. The deplorable actions from last night, and the many prior nights before that, are unacceptable. Taxpayers do not want their money spent on police arresting people for exercising their 1st amendment rights. As a teacher, I am constantly spending my own money for basic supplies and teaching in a classroom with the ceiling falling apart, while our tax dollars go to teargassing, firing rubber bullets, arresting and detaining protestors, and harassing folks trying to get home. My students who need therapy (which is everyone, every single person should have access to therapy) do not have a chance to meet with their counselor because we are severely underfunded and counselors are doing five other people's jobs in addition to their own workload. How is this acceptable? How are we spending so much money for cops to harm protestors when the protestors are actually fighting for a safe community that invests in the root causes of violence and harm? Please defund the police and reinvest into the many desperately needed sources of the community. Thank you.

Thanks!

Jessica Shim

-

Jessica Shim

From: [jordan leonard](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Thoughts on City Council meeting items for today
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:58:32 AM

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Hi! My name is Jordan Leonard and I live in the Fulton Hill neighborhood in the east end of Richmond.

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. Here are some further thoughts as follows:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. ^[1]_[sep]

2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.

3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Jordan A. Leonard

From: [Sarah Brunke](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comment 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Please accept this written comment to be included at the Richmond City Council meeting on July 27, 2020. I strongly support and highly recommend that the City Council pass agenda items 30, 32, **34**, and 35 regarding the establishment of a Civilian Review Board, Marcus Alert, **reappropriation of police funding**, and removal of Confederate statues.

While I do believe that the police have a very difficult job, I believe they are being asked to handle too many issues that are outside of their training. There is also a pervasive culture of brotherhood that prevents police from being held accountable for their actions. They are tasked with enforcing the law, they are not above it.

While I of course do not condone violence, rioting, or smashing windows, I have also been appalled at the way the Richmond Police Department has responded in most cases. I have witnessed them tear gas, pepper spray, drive vehicles through crowds, randomly assault and arrest people without cause, and use other intimidation tactics. I fear that we will look back at these images and compare them to Civil Rights protestors being firehosed. The things I have witnessed are akin to those of police states in other countries across the world. These practices do not align with the values of the United States, and the right to free speech. Of course police are only human, but when they make mistakes they must take responsibility and be held accountable as the rest of society is.

From: [Eryn Mann](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Defund RPD, Fund our community
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:59:34 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am horrified and ashamed at the way this city government and RPD have handled the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests.

Two months, and still not a single word about any level of reform or change. Only more brutality from police and inaction from elected officials.

Your community is hurting and this government has responded not with a listening ear, but with callousness, indifference, and aggression. Too much is expected of our police, but it shouldn't be too much to expect them not to attack citizens and journalists who are protesting peacefully. Nothing has been done to reign RPD in or hold them accountable for their brutality. Demilitarize RPD and invest those funds in support services for our community.

Your city demands reform and change and we will not be quiet until we see it. You cannot wait this out. We will not be quiet.

Sincerely,
Eryn Mann

From: [Brogan Rogers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Council Meeting 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:00:12 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Brogan Rogers and I am a citizen of the 2nd district and a small business owner in the Museum District. I am reaching out to express my utmost disappointment and disgust with the actions of the Richmond Police Department and with Mayor Stoney's inability to hold them accountable for their deplorable acts of violence against the citizens they were sworn to protect. We the people are calling for the defunding of the Richmond Police Department and time reallocate those funds back into our schools to boost the futures of Richmond's youth. Reallocate the funds into public safety, improved public transit, and an improved city altogether.

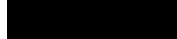
The demands of the people are CLEAR and if the demands are not met, the civil unrest will continue. If toj need a remind those demands are

1. Reopen Marcus David Peters's case
2. Defund the police
3. Drop all charges against all protesterS
4. Remove all monuments to white supremacy
5. Establish independent CRB with subpoena power
6. Establish & fund Marcus Alert
7. Name RPD under investigation for use of force misconduct

Thank you so much for your time,

A Concerned Citizen

Brogan Rogers



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barry O'Keefe](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment: What is True Public Safety?
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:02:02 AM

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Name: Barry O'Keefe

District: 3

[REDACTED]

Comment: I write as a lifelong Richmonder, Teacher, and parent to ask the city council to defund the Richmond Police Department not as a way of punishing the individuals that comprise it, but as a way of investing in a more accurate and effective vision of public safety. My top public safety concern is the strain placed on the economy and social structure of our nation and world by the climate crisis. The climate crisis which impacts poor, majority minority populations in our city first and hardest. At present, the city's Office of Sustainability has a skeleton crew of employees, and no stable funding. With a tiny fraction of RPD's budget, Richmond could become one of the leading cities in the country in proactive climate policies. I ask the city council to recognize that the limits of the possible are far beyond the limits of the what's easy or politically safe. Follow the example of great leaders before you and put your job on the line for justice. Defund RPD. Climate Action Now.

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[REDACTED]

From: [Anne Forrester](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: [spam] comment for 7.27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:04:34 AM

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I am a fifth district resident and I am urging the board to vote in favor of defunding RPD. This moment leaves an incredible opportunity to make transformational change in our city by divesting in Police and reinvesting in care based systems like schools, housing, mental health services, services for those without housing, and community wealth building.

Thanks,

Anne Forrester

From: [Bridget Stadelmyer](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Statement
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:04:56 AM

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Here's a sample email!

Hi! My name is Bridget Stadelmyer and my address is [REDACTED].

I'm writing to strongly urge you all to pass ORD.2020-155, RES. 2020-R045, RES.2020-R046, and RES.2020-R047. There are many reasons why. To name a few:

1. ORD.2020-155 - Civilian Review Board task force. It is absolutely imperative that that there are no police, prosecutors, or judges serving on this task force or on the final CRB. It's also imperative that the CRB has the power to subpoena officers for their crimes and misconduct. Without the teeth of subpoena power this board will be meaningless, and we have seen time and time again that the police cannot be trusted to police themselves. While your criteria for the members are a step in the right direction, I think at least half of the members should be from the marginalized groups you have outlined. [REDACTED]
2. RES.2020-R045 - I am in full support of implementing the Marcus Alert, however I strongly believe that anyone from the Richmond Police Department should NOT serve on this board. Obviously there will be a need to work with the police to integrate this system into dispatching AFTER it's fully imagined and created, but the police should not be engaged to envision and create the Marcus Alert, that should be in the hands of carefully elected people.
3. RES.2020-R047 - Defunding the police. Full support on this, but I would love to see the scope expanded. I sincerely hope that "substance abuse" includes all drug law enforcement. The war on drugs ruins people's lives, rips apart families, and disproportionately affects people of color. There's also plenty of budget to remove from the police beyond what's listed in the resolution. Demilitarize the police. Stop wasting money on riot gear and brutal "less lethal" weapons. Reinvest that money into community programs that lift people up instead of beating them down. We need to support Black futures.

Once again, as a constituent of the city of Richmond, VA, I urge you all to pass these resolutions and ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Bridget Stadelmyer

From: [Meg Carnahan](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: CITY COUNCIL COMMENT
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:06:50 AM

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You must take action against the police department to stop the continued violence against community members. In case you forgot, let me remind you exactly what the protestors are fighting for:

- Re-open the Marcus David Peters case; you know, the man who was having a severe mental health crisis when a Richmond Police officer murdered him? I remember growing up believing that a police officer only fires their weapon as a last resort, not because they're terrified of a naked black man. I guess our officers aren't as brave and honorable as we try to pretend they are.
- Defund RPD aka take SOME of their RIDICULOUS budget away (I can't even begin to comprehend the amount spent recently on teargas and riot gear alone), and reallocate those funds to services that can improve ALL of our lives! Mental health services, education, housing...I'm sure you all know that these areas that could desperately use a boost in funding.
- Enact the Marcus Alert system so that trained mental health professionals respond to mental health crisis calls. This is not rocket science. This makes sense. How many people killed by police would still be alive if this system were already in place?
- Establish a Civilian Review Board—are you a fan of democracy? Great, you should be totally on board with this.
- Drop the charges against all protestors. Take a look at the points above; this is what these protestors are fighting for. A better, safer, more equitable Richmond. Does it feel right to you that they are thrown in jail for practicing their right to protest, processed through the system for eight long hours in the middle of a pandemic, only to be released and still have to deal with those charges? What about that seems fair or right to you? If you could go back in time, if you were on the city council where Rep. John Lewis was arrested for protesting for his civil rights, would you fight to have the charges dropped? Knowing what you know now?
- Monuments must go—congratulations, the most performative of all the demands has been almost completely met.
- Release the names of the RPD officers under investigation for use of force misconduct. You know those “bad apples” everyone's always talking about? I'm so sick and tired of the whole structure of local government protecting corrupt and violent officers. There are people sitting in prison on marijuana charges while violent, power hungry individuals on the force are suiting up in riot gear every night hoping, HOPING to use their pepper spray, their flash bangs, their teargas on Richmond residents. What is going to put a stop to this? More force, more force, and more force is not working. Take a look at Seattle. We're heading that way if this doesn't come under control, and the way to get it under control is to STOP using violent force against protestors and Richmond residents and to start working towards fulfilling their demands for justice.

We have to take a hard turn, at some point. We can't continue like this. Let's turn towards justice and peace, not towards ever growing fear and violence.

A very concerned life-long Richmond resident,
Meg Carnahan

From: [Liz Roberts](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Public Comment 07/27/2020
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:19:49 AM

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Good afternoon,

I am emailing you in regards of public comment for the RPD budget for 2021. As someone who lives in the city I have seen and heard the violence that RPD has inflicted on its citizens, specifically black and brown people. We need to demilitarize the police and take the money that has been used to harass and injure the citizens of Richmond and give it back to the community. I am here to demand that RPD be defunded and that a report of RPDs entire budget be released so there is transparency in the budget and the people can see what our money is being used for.

DEFUND RPD. FUND BLACK FUTURES.

Thank you for your time.

From: [Kristin Lennox](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Cease and desist police violence, defund the police
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:38:15 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I am writing to express my concern about the ongoing state-sanctioned police violence towards protestors and the city at large. The immense, chronic trauma that is currently being experienced by protestors mirrors the centuries-long violent oppression by police on Black and brown communities across Richmond. As a mental health clinician, it is my belief that communities must be prioritized and invested in; police budgets should be re-allocated to better build communities of care, which may include increased mental health supports, culturally-responsive social workers, and improved education and community resources across the city.

Sincerely,

M. Kristin Lennox, LCSW



From: [Clara Peebles](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: comment for city council 7/27
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:38:25 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

City council members,

My name is Clara Peebles and I have been a resident of Richmond, VA for nearly ten years now, currently residing in its 3rd district. To say I have been disappointed in our city's leadership would be a vast understatement. In the past two months, I have watched as our police department has attempted to disrupt protests, flailing desperately to gain a modicum of control over the people. They have deployed tear gas, fired rubber bullets, launched stun grenades, and made countless arrests of people exercising their first amendment rights—and for what? We the people are telling our leaders that there are major problems to be solved and we are met with violence from a force that is meant to “serve and protect.” Well, I can tell you right now I feel neither served nor protected by Richmond's police department. When I have foolishly called them in the past to help me, I was met with shrugs and apathy. That tells me that they are not meant to “serve and protect” but rather to intimidate and destroy communities.

The police budget for fiscal year 2021 is a staggering \$99,354,697. Now, I can admit I do not know much about city budgeting but I will say with confidence that that is far too much money. \$99,354,697 could do a lot to actually build up our community. Why are we giving the police \$99,354,697 while we have the second highest eviction rate in the nation? Why are we giving the police \$99,354,697 when our public schools are in desperate need of building improvements?

I am calling for the immediate defunding of the Richmond Police Department and to reallocate those funds to programs that will strengthen communities rather than tear gas them and intimidate them.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Clara Peebles