



# City of Richmond

## Formal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

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Monday, January 11, 2021

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison  
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and presided.

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 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 December 16, 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, January 11, 2021, 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.

Invocation was offered by Pastor Eric W. Carroll of the Ascension Church RVA, 9507 Hull Street Road, Richmond, VA.

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

### **CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES**

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

*Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.*

*Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.*

## 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 January 11, 2021 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

There were no citizen comment speakers.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting.*

## APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

**Councilor Andreas Addison moved that the following appointments be approved:**

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Terms</u>
<b>Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board</b> (9 members)	Residents of the city who possess a broad range of experience with expertise in policy development, legal, racial, and social justice advocacy, criminal justice education, or human resources	Dr. Eli Coston	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
		Angela Fontaine	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
		Jewel Gatling	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
		Edward Miller	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
		Dr. Erik Nielson	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
		Sylvia Wood	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
	Person with a disability*	Keith Anthony Turner	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties
Youth age 18 or younger*	Oliver Parker Hale	01/11/2021 – Terminating upon the completion of task force duties	

\* Applicants must reside or work in the city.

**The motion was seconded and was unanimously approved.**

## AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no awards or presentations.

## AGENDA REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS

**Vice President Ellen Robertson moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

**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, January 25, 2021**

**ORD. 2019-276**

To amend City Code §§ 26-872, concerning definitions related to license taxes, and 26-989, concerning licenses 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, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-249

To rezone the properties known as 900 North 1st Street, 914 North 1st Street, 916 North 1st Street, 920 North 1st Street, 20 East Baker Street, 24 East Baker Street, and 11 East Charity Street from the B-2 Community Business District to the B-6 Mixed-Use Business District, and 2 East Baker Street, 4 ½ East Baker Street, 6 East Baker Street, 8 East Baker Street, 10 East Baker Street, 1 East Charity Street, 3 East Charity Street, 907 St. James Street, 909 St. James Street, 911 St. James Street, 913 St. James Street, 915 St. James Street, and 917 St. James Street from the R-53 Multifamily Residential District to the B-6 Mixed-Use Business District.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-251

To amend Ord. No. 2020-049, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by re-appropriating a \$5,780,000.00 portion of the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to the Non-Departmental agency “OPEB Trust” line item for the purpose of funding a contribution to the trust established by § 1 of Ord. No. 2018-196, adopted Jul. 23, 2018.

**Moved to Regular Agenda**

ORD. 2020-256

To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 11 (§§ 2-1035-2-1039) for the purpose of establishing a Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-257

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute appropriate documents releasing the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority and its successors in interest from the reversionary right of the City contained in a certain special warranty deed concerning the property known as 30 West Jackson Street for the purpose of allowing the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to sell the property for the development of a rental housing project for low-income residents.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-258

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Access Easement between the City of Richmond and AT Artisan LLC and American Tobacco Holdings LLC, for the purpose of granting an access easement to a portion of City-owned real property located at 400 Jefferson Davis Highway to AT Artisan LLC and American Tobacco Holdings LLC.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-259

To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition from Westmoreland Place Association of an easement of right-of-way over, upon, across, and through the streets located in the Westmoreland Place subdivision and known as Westmoreland Place, Virginia Avenue, Bolling Avenue, Powhatan Avenue, Rolfe Road, a portion of Pocahontas Avenue, and a portion of Charmian Road for public right-of-way purposes, and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on

behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Agreement between the City and Westmoreland Place Association in connection therewith.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-260

To designate the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Idlewood Avenue in honor of Larry Jerome Bland.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

ORD. 2020-261

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-420.1, 30-420.1:1, and 30-420.2, concerning permitted uses in the R-73 Multifamily Residential District; 30-426.1, 30-426.1:1, and 30-426.2, concerning permitted uses in the RO-2 Residential-Office District; 30-432.1, concerning permitted uses in the I Institutional District; 30-434.1 concerning permitted uses in the B-1 Neighborhood Business District; 30-436.1, concerning permitted uses in the B-2 Community Business District; 30-438.1 and 30-438.2, concerning permitted uses in the B-3 General Business District; 30-440.1 and 30-440.2, concerning permitted uses in the B-4 Central Business District; 30-450.1, concerning permitted uses in the OS Office-Service District; 30-452.1, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses in the M-1 Light Industrial District; 30-1045.6, concerning specific conditions applicable to particular uses, and 30-1220, concerning certain definitions; to amend ch. 30. art. VI of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 15 (§ § 30-698-30.698.3), concerning specific conditions applicable to particular uses; and to amend ch. 30, art. XII of the City Code by adding therein new sections 30-1220.32:1, 30-1220.84:1, 30-1220.84:2, 30-1220.95:1, 30-1220.95:2, 30-1220.120:1, and 30-1220.122:1.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

ORD. 2020-264

To authorize the special use of the property known as 111 Spring Street for the purpose of a parking deck, upon certain terms and conditions.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

ORD. 2020-265

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2515 Rear Hanover Avenue for the purpose of a single-family detached dwelling, storage, a parking area, and a community garden, upon certain terms and conditions.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

ORD. 2020-266

To authorize the special use of the property known as 3419 2nd Avenue for the purpose of two single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

ORD. 2020-270

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 509 Libbie Avenue and 511 Libbie Avenue for the purpose of up to 14 single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

RES. 2020-R056

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources to conduct a study of the City's telecommuting workforce to determine if cost savings and other benefits have been derived from the telecommuting policies

adopted by the City in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of potentially continuing or expanding upon such policies after the pandemic.

**To be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021**

RES. 2020-R071

To designate the property known as 3100 Nine Mile Road as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2.

**To be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021**

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, February 22, 2021**

ORD. 2020-217

To close to public travel certain medians located in Monument Avenue and North Allen Avenue at or near General Robert E. Lee Circle, to retain the City's legal interests in such medians, and to designate such medians as official City Parks, upon certain terms and conditions. (As Amended)

**To be stricken**

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding pending legislation 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 January 11, 2021 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**The following ordinances and resolutions were considered:**

ORD. 2020-214

To amend City Code §§ 12-36, concerning the disposition of revenues derived from the expiration of partial exemptions from real estate taxation and from certain sales of tax delinquent properties, and 26-104, concerning the duties of the City Assessor, for the purpose of providing for the accounting of certain real estate tax revenues arising from the phased reduction, expiration, and termination of certain partial exemptions from real estate taxation in such a manner as to facilitate the City Council's future appropriation of those revenues to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

ORD. 2020-227

To authorize the special use of the property known as 320 Hunt Avenue for the purpose of a single-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-228

To authorize the special use of the property known as 414 Milton Street for the purpose of a single-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-239

To amend and reordain City Code § 26-874, concerning a business license incentive program for qualifying businesses, for the purpose of revising the definition of a qualifying business, adding the

incentive of a refund, and requiring a business to apply to qualify for the program within two years from the date the business located in the city.

ORD. 2020-241

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute certain Deeds of Easement between the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of General Services, for the purpose of granting to the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of General Services, certain perpetual, irrevocable easements on, over, under, and across certain rights-of-way located along North 9th Street[, East Franklin Street, East Grace Street,] and East Broad Street for the construction or installation of certain improvements and safety and security enhancements as part of the Capitol Complex Infrastructure and Security construction projects. (As Amended)

ORD. 2020-252

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$2,256.60 from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, and to appropriate the grant funds received to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Four for Life Program Special Fund by \$2,256.60 for the purpose of supporting emergency medical services.

ORD. 2020-253

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 from The Hartford; to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services called The Hartford Special Fund; 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 Fire and Emergency Services' The Hartford Special Fund by \$5,000.00 for the purpose of supporting fire safety education programs.

ORD. 2020-254

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$60,165.09 from the United States Department of Homeland Security; to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services called the Assistance to Firefighter Grant-Supplemental (AFG-S) Special Fund; 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 Fire and Emergency Services' Assistance to Firefighter Grant-Supplemental (AFG-S) Special Fund by \$60,165.09 for the purpose of funding necessary expenditures for personal protective equipment and supplies due to the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ORD. 2020-255

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$74,804.00 from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Emergency Management; to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services called the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant-Supplemental (EMPG-S) Special Fund; 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 Fire and Emergency Services' 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant-Supplemental (EMPG-S) Special Fund by \$74,804.00 for the purpose of funding expenditures for personal protective equipment and supplies needed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ORD. 2020-262

To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition of the parcels of real property owned by Harry and Betty Loving, LLC and Loving's Produce, LLC and known as 200 North 17th Street, 208 North 17th Street, 212 North 17th Street, 214 North 17th Street, 220 North 17th Street, 222 North 17th Street, 103 Ambler Street, 1600 East Franklin Street, 1604 East Franklin Street,

1606 East Franklin Street, 1610 East Franklin Street, and 1601 East Grace Street for the purpose of the planned Enslaved African Heritage Campus in Shockoe Bottom in the city of Richmond.

ORD. 2020-263

To amend Ord. No. 2019-203, adopted Sept. 9, 2019, which authorized the special use of the property known as 3111 Q Street for the purpose of a two-family detached dwelling, to authorize two single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-267

To authorize the special use of the property known as 4016 Newport Drive for the purpose of an existing detached storage shed accessory to an existing single-family dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-268

To authorize the special use of the property known as 406 Rear West Franklin Street for the purpose of a two-unit tourist home within an existing structure, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-269

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 502, 504, 506, 508, 512, and 514 Westview Avenue for the purpose of up to 12 single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions.

ORD. 2020-271

To authorize the special use of the property known as 7048 Forest Hill Avenue for the purpose of a freestanding sign, upon certain terms and conditions.

RES. 2020-R062

To express the City Council's support for the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia and the City of Richmond's Department of Economic Development proposed plan to provide short-term financial relief during the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of deferred payments to borrowers of loan programs administered by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia and the City of Richmond's Department of Economic Development.

RES. 2020-R067

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer consult with the Office of the City Attorney concerning the preparation of an amendment to a conservation and open-space easement on the property generally known as Bandy Field Park to the Friends of Bandy Field, Inc., for the purpose of adding the Capital Region Land Conservancy as a grantee to the Bandy Field conservation and open-space easement, and requesting that the Chief Administrative Officer to cause the planned, but not constructed streets that are currently excluded from the conservation easement to be extinguished, and incorporate these vacated rights-of-way into Bandy Field Park.

RES. 2020-R069

To approve the issuance by the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority of its multifamily housing revenue bonds in an amount up to \$15,215,000.00 for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation and equipping of an approximately 121-unit multifamily residential rental housing project to be known as Holly Springs Apartments located at 801 Holly Spring Avenue in the city of Richmond.

RES. 2020-R070

To approve the issuance by the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority of its multifamily housing revenue bonds in an amount up to \$9,300,000.00 for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation and equipping of an approximately 62-unit multifamily residential rental housing project to be known as Swansboro Apartments located at 3600 East Broad Rock Road and 3601 East Broad Rock Road in the city of Richmond.

RES. 2020-R072

To express support for stronger protections and inclusive policies at local shelters for the care and protection of LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness in compliance with the Virginia Values Act.

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 January 11, 2021 Formal City Council meeting minutes.

**Public Hearing**

**Stephen J. Clarke, Waldo & Lyle attorney, representing Harry and Betty Loving, LLC and Loving's Produce, LLC**, spoke in opposition to ORD. 2020-262, and requested that Council reject the proposed ordinance and instead direct city staff to engage in discussion with the Loving family regarding possible acquisition.

**Joh Gehlbach, Richmond Association of Realtors government affairs manager, on behalf of Laura Lafayette, Richmond Association of Realtors chief executive officer**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that the Richmond Association of Realtors supported the ordinance. Joh Gehlbach also stated that ORD. 2020-214 would help address the affordable housing crisis in the city.

**Zakia McKensey** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and provided information regarding violence experienced by transgender homeless individuals seeking shelter and services provided by the city.

**James R. Millner II, Virginia Pride interim director**, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and stated many transgender homeless individuals seeking shelter are escaping dangerous situations and require shelter that provides a safe environment.

**Michael Anderson, Center for Community Change housing trust fund project director**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that a dedicated source of revenue for the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) would allow the city to better address the challenge of affordable housing.

**Dr. Aubrey Jones, Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC) member, and AHTF Oversight Board member**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that affordable housing helps stabilize family units, while also improving the overall health of individuals in need of stable housing.

**Martin Wegbreit, RISC member, Eviction Diversion Task Force member, and AHTF Oversight Board member**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that current financial resources for affordable housing and eviction diversion were not enough to fully address housing issues in the city.

**Janice Lacy, RISC member, and Ebenezer Baptist Church member**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and addressed the experiences individuals and families encounter when they are evicted.

**Steve Saltzberg, RISC co-president**, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and provided information regarding RISC's history of working with the city's AHTF. Mr. Saltzberg stated that the current funding for the AHTF was not adequate enough to fully address the city's affordable housing issue, and added that ORD. 2020-214 would help fund the efforts needed to better address affordable housing.



**Nancy Kunkel, RISC Executive Committee member, and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church member,** spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that current funding for the AHTF did not go far enough to help provide a solution to the affordable housing crisis. Ms. Kunkle also stated that dedicated funding for the AHTF was necessary to obtain additional housing funds from the state and federal government. Ms. Kunkle further stated that national affordable housing developers require the local community establish a dedicated funding source for affordable housing before a developer will agree to construct affordable housing projects.

**Rabbi Michael Knopf, Temple Beth El rabbi, and RISC member,** spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated it was vital that the city ensure that its citizens have a place to live. Rabbi Knopf also stated that the dedicated funding provided by ORD. 2020-214 would help keep families in their homes.

**Reverend Ralph Hodge, Second Baptist Church senior pastor, and RISC member,** spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that the city must protect individuals who earn 30 percent or less of the area median income (AMI).

**Ted Lewis, Side by Side executive director,** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and addressed the experiences of homeless transgender youth. Ted Lewis also stated that many shelter and service providers are faith based, and there is a fear that a faith based approach to services would lead to discrimination against transgender youth.

**Dr. Alex Wagaman** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and stated that the proposed resolution was necessary to provide equitable care for homeless transgender individuals seeking help and services.

**Jennifer Gallienne, Planned Parenthood transgender health service coordinator,** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and stated that one in five transgender individuals experience homelessness at some point in their lives. Jennifer Gallienne also stated that stable housing provides increased health benefits for individuals in need of shelter.

**Vee Lamneck, Equality Virginia executive director,** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R072, and referenced the Virginia Values Act that went into effect on July 1, 2020. Vee Lamneck stated that the adoption of RES. 2020-R072 would help provide training for shelter providers as to remain in compliance with the Virginia Values Act.

**Allan-Charles Chipman** addressed Council and raised questions regarding the language included within ORD. 2020-214. Mr. Chipman inquired how the proposed ordinance would help individuals in immediate need of affordable housing and stated the ordinance did not do enough to assist individuals who earn 30 percent or less of the AMI.

**Josh Cohen, Beacon Communities Development president,** spoke in support of ORD. 2020-214, and informed Council that Beacon Communities develops affordable housing projects around the country and within Richmond City. Mr. Cohen stated that the adoption of ORD. 2020-214 would send a positive message to the affordable housing development community that the city is serious about producing needed affordable housing.

*President Cynthia Newbille requested additional information from city administration regarding ORD. 2020-262, and the comments made by attorney Stephen J. Clarke.*

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of economic and community development, addressed Council and stated it was the intent of city administration to faithfully negotiate the purchase and sale of the property referenced in ORD. 2020-262.

*Vice President Ellen Robertson stated her support for ORD. 2020-214, and shared her appreciation for those involved in addressing affordable housing in the city. Vice President Robertson also stated that the dedicated revenue source for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was*

necessary to attract affordable housing developers. Vice President Robertson requested to be added to be a co-patron of RES. 2020-R072.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested additional information regarding RES. 2020-R069 and RES. 2020-R070. Councilor Lynch inquired about the protections put in place for residents of properties scheduled to be renovated.

Anne Curtis Saunders, McGuireWoods associate, and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) bond counsel, stated that 40 percent of the residents at the properties referenced in RES. 2020-R069 and RES. 2020-R070, must be individuals who earn 60 percent or less of the area median income (AMI).

Ed Solarz, Genesis Properties, Inc., director of development, confirmed that redevelopment of the properties would take place in stages within units that are unoccupied to avoid displacement of residents.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated she appreciated Genesis Properties, Inc.'s work on the plans for redevelopment of the properties referenced in RES. 2020-R069 and RES. 2020-R070.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated her support for ORD. 2020-214, and requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R072.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested that Council examine salaries and minimum wages within the city, and stated increased wages would help address affordable housing within the city.

Councilor Michael Jones stated his support for ORD. 2020-214, and requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R069, RES. 2020-R070, and RES. 2020-R072.

Councilor Andreas Addison requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2020-214, and stated that Council should continue to address affordable housing issues within the city and surrounding region.

Councilor Kristen Larson confirmed that it was the intent of city administration to offer a fair market value for the property owned by the Loving family referenced in ORD. 2020-262, and that the city would not obtain the property through eminent domain. Councilor Larson requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R072. Councilor Larson stated she would support ORD. 2020-214, but expressed her concerns with dedicating city funds without fully understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on city revenue. Ms. Larson also requested that Council be more involved with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and that quarterly reports regarding affordable housing be presented to Council to keep members informed about the steps taken to address affordable housing.

President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R069, RES. 2020-R070, and RES. 2020-R072. President Newbille noted that Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2020-214.

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

## REGULAR AGENDA

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2020-251

To amend Ord. No. 2020-049, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by re-appropriating a \$5,780,000.00 portion of the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to the Non-Departmental agency "OPEB Trust" line item for the purpose of funding a contribution to the trust established by § 1 of Ord. No. 2018-196, adopted Jul. 23, 2018.

John Wack, Department of Finance director, provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-251.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated she believed the city would be better served by re-appropriating a portion of the surplus revenue referenced in ORD. 2020-251 towards other crises occurring within the city.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Ord. 2020-251 was adopted:** Ayes 6, Addison, Larson, Trammell, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes 3, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch.

**The following ordinance was considered:**

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.

Victoria Pearson, Richmond Police Department (RPD) deputy department director senior, provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-117.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if public opposition to the proposed ordinance was known.*

*City Clerk Candice Reid informed Council that several emails expressing public opposition to ORD. 2020-117 were submitted by the public and referred to Council throughout the year 2020.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison provided additional information regarding the Governmental Operations Standing Committee's review of ORD. 2020-117. Councilor Addison stated the Governmental Operations Standing Committee referred the proposed ordinance to Council with no recommendation, because committee members believed a discussion of the full body of Council was necessary regarding ORD. 2020-117.*

Ms. Pearson stated the full roll-out of the RPD records management system was set to issue in March of 2021.

*Councilor Michael Jones stated he was originally opposed to the expansion of the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department and noted that additional public input should be obtained regarding ORD. 2020-117.*

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested that ORD. 2020-117 be continued to allow for additional discussion and review of the ordinance.*

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell inquired if Police Chief Gerald Smith could provide additional information regarding ORD. 2020-117.*

Police Chief Gerald Smith stated the timeframe of a proposed March launch date for the new records management system allowed for a continuance to accommodate additional discussion.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Councilor Michael Jones moved to continue ORD. 2020-117 to the February 8, 2021 Formal Council meeting and to refer ORD. 2020-117 to the January 26, 2021 Public Safety Standing Committee for recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved**

## MOTIONS

**Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

### RES. 2021-R006

To consent to the Director of Emergency Management's declaration that a local emergency exists in the city of Richmond due to the potential for civil unrest to occur in the city of Richmond in light of the civil unrest that occurred in Washington, D. C., and state capitals across the United States on January 6, 2021.

*Patron: Mayor Stoney*

Fire Chief Melvin Carter provided additional information regarding the proposed resolution and stated the resolution would provide the mayor with the authority to ensure public safety.

*Vice President Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2021-R006 and requested Council be kept informed regarding the protection of public safety.*

*Councilors Ann-Frances Lambert, Stephanie Lynch, Andreas Addison, Michael Jones, Katherine Jordan, Kristen Larson, Reva Trammell, and President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as co-patrons of RES. 2021-R006.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Res. 2021-R006 was unanimously adopted.**

*Councilor Michael Jones confirmed that the emergency declaration did not have an indicated end date and would require additional action by Council to conclude the emergency declaration.*

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

### RES. 2021-R007

To amend Res. No. 2021-R004, adopted Jan. 4, 2021, which designates which Council members shall serve on the Council's Standing Committees and the various boards, commissions, and other collegial bodies on which Council members serve, for the purpose of providing for additional appointments of Council representatives to various boards, commissions, and other collegial bodies.

*Patron: President Newbille*

*President Cynthia Newbille provided additional information regarding RES. 2021-R007.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Res. 2021-R007 was unanimously adopted.**

**Councilor Andreas Addison moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

RES. 2021-R008

To appoint Sven J. Philipsen to the position of Council Liaison.

*Patron: Ms. Jordan*

There were no comments or discussions and **Res. 2021-R008 was unanimously adopted.**

**Councilor Michael Jones moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

RES. 2021-R009

To appoint Kiya A. Stokes to the position of Council Liaison.

*Patron: Ms. Lambert*

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert provided additional comments regarding RES. 2021-R009.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Res. 2021-R009 was unanimously adopted.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the** Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., and Council approved the minutes as presented.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolution on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.:**

ORD. 2021-001

To amend City Code § 26-29, concerning the City's tax amnesty program, for the purpose of providing for a 2021 tax amnesty period for admissions, lodging and meals taxes delinquent as of any date on or before April 21, 2021, and for real estate taxes delinquent as of any date on or before January 15, 2021.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

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

ORD. 2021-002

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Urban Project Construction Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the design and construction of multimodal improvements along U.S. Route 1 from its intersection with Brinser Street to its intersection with Chesterman Avenue, including access improvements at U.S. Route 1 and its intersection with North Hopkins Road and at U.S. Route 1 and its intersection with Harwood Street.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-003

To amend Ord. No. 2020-049, adopted May 11, 2020, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by re-appropriating a \$500,000.00 portion of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 fund balance excess, assigned to the Capital Reserve, to the General Fund Cash Transfer for Capital Projects program, and to appropriate these transferred funds to the Capital Improvements Projects for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget by appropriating such transferred funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the Department of Public Works' City Hall project in the City Facility Maintenance & Improvements category for the purpose of constructing improvements to the southwest quadrant of City Hall necessary to house either an employee health clinic or a relocated credit union office, or both.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-004

To direct the sale of the City-owned real estate known as 809 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, 811 Rear West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, and 4306 Rear Reedy Avenue for \$8,000.00 to Lelia Pendleton and Stuart Halloran.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-005

To declare a public necessity for the acquisition and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept the dedication as public right-of-way of a portion of the properties known as 1801 Richmond Highway and 1805 Richmond Highway, consisting of 524.89± square feet, from TRC Jefferson Davis, LLC; to accept a donation from TRC Jefferson Davis, LLC, of certain services and materials valued at \$20,000.00 for the reconstruction, paving, and future maintenance of a certain City-owned alley located between Webber Avenue and Royal Avenue; and to execute a Right-of-Entry Agreement between the City of Richmond and TRC Jefferson Davis, LLC for the purpose of facilitating the development of the property known as 1801 Richmond Highway by TRC Jefferson Davis, LLC, and providing for the expansion of a certain City-owned alley located between Webber Avenue and Royal Avenue.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-006

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Procurement Services, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute the fourth Contract Modification to Contract No. 16000022041 between the City and Manchester Marketing, Inc. T/A Seibert's Towing for towing-related services and tow lot operation for the purpose of ratifying all acts of the City and Manchester Marketing, Inc. T/A Seibert's Towing that were in accordance with the provisions of Procurement Services Contract Modification No. 3 for Contract No. 16000022041 since the adoption of Ord. No. 2019-128, adopted May 28, 2019.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-007

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a License Agreement between the City of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University, for the purpose of leasing up to 400 parking spaces within a City-owned parking facility located at 501 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**

RES. 2021-010

To designate the properties known as 1218, 1224, 1226, 1228 East Brookland Park Boulevard as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This resolution was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.**

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.:**

ORD. 2021-008

To amend City Code § 30-1220.21, concerning the definition of the term “clinic,” to include certain opioid treatment facilities in such definition.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request) and Ms. Lynch

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-009

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 81-82-68, adopted May 11, 1981, as previously amended by Ord. No. 87-49-74, adopted Apr. 27, 1987, which authorized the special use of the property known as 307 North Robinson Street for the purpose of a veterinary clinic, to increase the number of employees allowed from three to five persons, upon certain terms and conditions,.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-010

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2018-192, adopted Jul. 23, 2018, which authorized the properties then known as 800, 802, and 806 North 32nd Street, and now known as 3112, 3116, 3120, and 3124 N Street, for the purpose of up to four single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions, to modify certain feature requirements.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-011

To authorize the special use of the properties known as 501, 509, and 511 Decatur Street for the purpose of a mixed-use building containing up to 118 dwelling units and commercial uses on the ground floor, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-012

To authorize the special use of the property known as 821 Albemarle Street for the purpose of a personal service business, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-013

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2206 Joplin Avenue 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 Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

ORD. 2021-014

To authorize the special use of the property known as 2700 East Cary Street for the purpose of a freestanding sign, upon certain terms and conditions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.**

**REPORTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK



**From:** [Richmond TAP](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Resident Comment Request  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:58:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Ms. Reid,

Good morning. On behalf of RTAP, my name is Edwuan Whitehead and I am a resident of the 6th District. I am requesting an opportunity to speak during the public comment period at tonight's city council meeting.

I would also like to provide this written comment on behalf of the organization. Ms. Teenora Thurston is an addition to our recommendation list. She is a life-long Richmonder, 14 year resident of Gilpin Court, and an active community leader.

Thank you,  
Edwuan Whitehead (he/him/his)  
[REDACTED]

*The Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) was established in 2017 and works to build safer, healthier communities by disrupting mass incarceration at its source: police policies and procedures. We organize Black and brown people, legal experts, and policy analysts to achieve policing practices that reduce physical, economic, and emotional trauma on the most policed neighborhoods in the city.*

**The Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project enthusiastically recommends that City Council appoint Ms. Teenora Thurston, Dr. Eli Coston, Mr. Keith Turner, Mr. Roger Hunt, and Mr. Ed Miller to serve on the Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board.** Since 2017, we have advocated for meaningful civilian oversight of the Richmond Police Department as a tool to build community power. Historically, civilian oversight has not been a powerful tool in Virginia. When local officials create police oversight systems without engaging the communities most impacted by those systems, they are ineffective. The aforementioned community leaders will play a vital role in gathering broad based community input that will inform the recommendations regarding the model of civilian oversight as well as the powers necessary for the body to meet community identified needs. This diverse group of leaders brings experiences and expertise that will edify the task force and our city. We fully endorse their applications.

**Ms. Teenora Thurston** is a longtime resident of Gilpin Court and is affectionately known as a community mother. She is an active member of the Gilpin Court Tenant Council and helps coordinate meal distributions throughout all RRHA properties with the community group Richmond Youth Peace Team. Ms. Thurston believes that it is part of her mission to seek the healing of her neighborhood and help resolve trauma. Toward this end, she is a student in the program “In Healing Us” which teaches people how to spot trauma and helps protect people. She would like to model this program in other places so that communities will not have to rely solely on the police department to respond to crisis. In many ways, she is a voice for people who have been left out.

**Dr. Eli Coston** is a longtime member of RTAP. As a scholar-activist, Coston’s role in RTAP has been to analyze the publicly available RPD data for racial disparities, prepare policy briefs regarding the findings of those analyses, and to make recommendations regarding future data collection and release efforts. They have also studied the criminalization and policing of LGBTQ+ communities. Dr. Coston’s expertise has been invaluable to RTAP’s work. As the

committee researches the models of civilian oversight and best practices, we know that Dr. Coston will offer the wealth of their experience.

**Mr. Keith Turner** was born and raised in Mosby Court. He remains in close communication and involvement with residents of Mosby. As a formerly incarcerated person and person living with a disability, Mr. Turner understands the ways the criminal legal system criminalizes and punishes poverty. The ordinance also explicitly reserves a seat for someone who lives with a disability. Given the complexity of developing civilian oversight and the need to be responsive to community input, this Task Force must include people who have been most impacted by policing. Mr. Turner is a survivor of police misconduct in Richmond and generously offers practical ideas about how complaints against the police can be handled in legitimate and transparent ways. Currently, he volunteers his time with youth in Mosby Court to ensure that they live lives of integrity and purpose. He is a trusted member of the community.

**Mr. Roger Hunt** first became involved in fighting for transformation of the criminal legal system when his brother was wrongfully incarcerated. His brother served nearly 25 years for a crime he did not commit and this injustice compelled Mr. Hunt to serve in our communities. Mr. Hunt brings many years of experience in community outreach and organizing. With deep roots in Hillside and Gilpin Court, he observed a lack of programs and activities for youth in these neighborhoods. He coaches and organizes sports and other activities to engage youth in enriching programs. His skills and relationships are necessary for meaningful community input. Mr. Hunt is also affiliated with the New Virginia Majority.

**Mr. Ed Miller** is an educator and community activist. As a trained engineer, he operates analytics for a financial technology firm that is one of the fastest growing companies in the nation. He brings a knowledge of business and data analytics to this work. Mr. Miller understands that business is often a neglected partner in conversations on police accountability. He also understands that we must invest in criminal legal system education, policies that reduce harm, and how to support those efforts by identifying new revenue sources.

Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project | RTAP

**From:** [Nancy Womack](#)  
**To:** [PDR Land Use Admin](#)  
**Cc:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance No. 2020-271 - Special Use Permit for 7048 Forest Hill Avenue  
**Date:** Monday, January 4, 2021 10:03:41 AM

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I received your notification. I would like to object to this special use permit and ask that the current aesthetic and size of signage be maintained and preserved. My back yard directly abuts the property (car wash), so I would really prefer not to see an outsized sign there, especially if it is a lighted or neon sign. Thanks for your consideration of resident views.

Nancy Womack

**From:** [Allison Bogdanovic](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** ORD 2020-214 Support Letter  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:31:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Ms. Reid,

Attached please find my support letter for ORD 2020-214 which is on the consent agenda for tonight's city council meeting.

Thank you for sharing my support letter with the council members ~ Allison

Allison Bogdanovic  
Executive Director  
Virginia Supportive Housing  
8002 Discovery Drive, Suite 201, Richmond VA 23229  
P.O. Box 8585, Richmond, Virginia 23226  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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January 11, 2021

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Ms. Candice D. Reid, City Clerk  
900 East Broad Street, #200  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

SUBJECT: ORD 2020-214 Support Letter

Dear Ms. Reid,

Please accept this letter in support of ORD 2020-214, an ordinance providing a dedicated revenue source for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) that will help build and preserve affordable housing in the City of Richmond and provide much-needed funding for homeless services.

The Richmond Regional Housing Framework estimates, "By 2040, the region will need homes for another 29,000 low-income households, including 16,000 who are very low-income"

██████████ The need to invest in housing is more critical than ever. I commend the City for establishing the AHTF and was a part of the City's advisory group when the AHTF was created. Our goal was to show the effectiveness of the AHTF so that a dedicated revenue source could be found.

For over thirty years, Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) has provided supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness by building and managing housing and providing supportive services to more than 1,500 people every year. The AHTF has provided VSH with essential funding. A more reliable revenue source for the AHTF would allow organizations such as VSH to depend and plan on the AHTF as a dedicated resource, not dependent on annual appropriations.

Two recent examples of projects and programs supported by the AHTF include:

1. \$600,000 to create 86 units of supportive housing on Cool Lane – this \$18.5 million development will break ground in the summer of 2021.
2. \$100,000 annually for the Home Link program serving 102 people who have experienced homelessness. The \$100,000 is an essential match to leverage \$1.4 million annually in federal funds, bringing rental assistance and services funding to the City of Richmond.

The Power of Home is clearer than ever during the pandemic when we are seeing a record-breaking number of calls to the Homeless Crisis Line; hundreds of households needing emergency shelter each night through Pandemic Response Programs; and more than \$50 million spent in communities across Virginia to provide rent and mortgage relief and prevent evictions. My church – St. Elizabeth Catholic Church - has seen the demand for rental and food assistance double during the pandemic.

A dedicated revenue source for the AHTF will ensure a long-term investment in housing. Please support ORD 2020-214 and reach out to me at (804) 836-1052 if I can be a resource.

Sincerely yours,

*Allison Bogdanovic*

Allison Bogdanovic  
Executive Director & City Resident

**From:** [Joh Gehlbach](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#); [Laura Lafayette](#)  
**Cc:** [Jordan, Katherine - City Council](#); [Lambert, Ann-Frances - City Council](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - 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:** Realtors Letter of Support Ord 2020-214  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:03:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Madam Clerk,

I'm writing to submit a letter of support from the Richmond Association of REALTORS® for Ordinance 2020-214, docketed for the January 11 City Council meeting. I've attached it here.

I'd also like to register Laura Lafayette to speak on behalf of RAR. Please send her the call info when you get a chance. I've copied her on this email for convenience.

Thank you,  
Joh

**Joh Gehlbach**  
*Pronouns: They/Them*  
Government Affairs Manager

Richmond Association of REALTORS® | CVR MLS  
8975 Three Chopt Rd  
Richmond, Virginia 23229

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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January 5, 2020

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille  
900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Council President Newbille:

On behalf of the Richmond Association of REALTORS®, I would like to offer our support for Ordinance 2020-214, regarding the appropriation of returning revenue from expiring residential property tax abatements to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. We applaud the creative appropriation of these funds and the wise utilization of them to aid in bridging the housing affordability gap. A dedicated funding stream for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund is vital for helping place the American dream of homeownership within reach of our fellow Richmonders.

When the residential property tax abatement was originally adopted, Richmond was a much different place than it is today. The abatements helped draw in and retain residents during a period when Richmond's growth was stagnant. Today Richmond's population is growing faster without annexing land than it has since the Second Industrial Revolution. Although the phenomenon is not unique to Richmond, this growth has nonetheless widened the chasm between rich and poor in our city. We have immense wealth and immense poverty within city limits; however, when nearly half of all people living in Richmond are housing cost burdened, it is clear that there is a fundamental gap in what the market is able to provide. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is essential to bridging this gap and it needs a dedicated funding stream.

We know that safe, stable housing is the foundation of success for almost all of life's outcomes. By investing the recaptured revenue from properties leaving the abatement program into the creation of affordable housing, the city will demonstrate its commitment to a Richmond meant for all people. The Richmond Association of REALTORS® supports the ordinance. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Laura Lafayette", written in a cursive style.

Laura Lafayette  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Vice President Ellen Robertson  
Councilman Andreas Addison  
Councilwoman Katherine Jordan  
Councilwoman Ann-Frances Lambert  
Councilwoman Kristen Larson  
Councilwoman Stephanie Lynch  
Councilwoman Reva Trammell  
Councilman Mike Jones

**From:** [David DeBiasi](#)  
**To:** [Brown, Jonathan W. - PDR](#); [Ebinger, Matthew J. - PDR](#); [City Clerk's Office](#); [PDR Land Use Admin](#)  
**Cc:** [Lynette](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance No. 2020-267: Special Use Permit for 4016 Newport Drive  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 29, 2020 12:00:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Regarding the building in question with Ordinance No. 2020-267, I, David DeBiasi, called the City when the slab was poured without footers. I was concerned, will a structure start to crack and look bad over there? A “storage shed” was then put up in great haste. With glass French doors and multiple south facing windows, it looks to be a dwelling. Will it be lived in? And if so, is building to code all the more important?

The photo (below and attached) was taken this morning from our roof.



We are not against legal construction at 4016 Newport Drive.  
We believe new construction should be held to the same  
standards as everyone else.

Sincerely Submitted,

David DeBiasi

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of David DeBiasi.

Lynette Uzel DeBiasi

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Lynette Uzel DeBiasi.A long, solid black rectangular redaction box covering a signature.