



# Richmond City Council

*The Voice of the People*

*Richmond, Virginia*

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Education & Human Services Standing Committee

January 8, 2026

### Prep Document for Committee Members

**Previous Meeting:** November 13, 2025

**Next Meeting:** February 12, 2026

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Legistar Link: [City of Richmond - Meeting of Education and Human Services Standing Committee on 1/8/2026 at 2:00 PM](#)

#### Presentation:

- Positive Youth Development Fund and Annual Update ~ Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager of the Office of Children and Families

#### Discussion Items

- RPS Updates: Jason Kamras, Superintendent
- DCAO HS Report: Amy Popovich, DCAO for Human Services
- Proposed schedule for January-July 2026 presentations

#### Papers for Consideration

- Ord. 2025-275 (Avula, Transfer \$1.1 million for Safer Communities grants)
- Ord. 2025-276 (Avula, Authorize Boys & Girls Club program at MLK, Jr. MS)
- Ord. 2025-277 (Avula, Authorize regional opioid recovery academy initiative)

#### **Next Meeting Preview (Thu, 2/12)**

#### Presentations:

- OCF on early childhood education

## **Positive Youth Development Fund and Annual Update**

### Notes:

- The PYD was established in 2021 to support youth aged 11-19 through out-of-school-time (OST) programming afterschool and in the summer.
- Part of Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention (GVPI) Framework.
- Managed by NextUp RVA
  - Full list of SY25-26 grantees online: [School Year 2025-26 Positive Youth Development-Supported Programs - NextUp RVA](#)
- \$850,000 in FY26 budget (down from \$1 million in FY25, but +\$350,000 Council amendment helped reduce cuts)

### Potential Questions:

- How many students participate in PYD-funded programs? Where do they live?
- Where are there “programming deserts” and how is PYD working to address them?
- Slide 10 mentions “implementation of comprehensive program evaluation and quality improvement” as opportunities. Please elaborate on each.
- What KPIs are you monitoring to evaluate NextUp as a grants administrator? They have dozens of community organizations they’re working with every year.
- Have any community organizations lost funding or been removed from PYD in recent years? What about new organizations?
- How is PYD integrated or coordinated with Parks Department and/or RPS-funded OST programs?

## **Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration**

### **1. Ordinance 2025-275**

**Patron Mayor Avula**

Title: To amend Ord. No. 2025-057, adopted May 12, 2025, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations thereto, by (i) transferring \$1,100,000.00 from the “Safer Communities” special fund for the Department of Justice Services, (ii) creating two special funds for the Department of Justice Services called “Safer Communities – YWCA” and “Safer Communities – Next Up”, (iii) appropriating \$600,000.00 of the transferred funds to the Department of Justice Services’ “Safer Communities – YWCA” special fund, and (iv) appropriating \$500,000.00 of the transferred funds to the Department of Justice Services’ “Safer Communities – Next Up” special fund, all for the purpose of supporting the City’s Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Framework.

#### Notes:

- Amends FY26 budget to transfer \$1.1 million within DJS to two special funds:
  - \$600,000 to DJS Safer Communities YWCA
  - \$500,000 to DJW Safer Communities Next Up
- Purpose of funds is to support trauma-informed best practices at Family Justice Center (FJC) for survivors of violence at YWCA and supporting high-quality OST programs via Next UP.
- Part of \$3,538,000 from VA Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Safer Communities Grant.

#### Recommended Questions

- Please outline how and why these grantees were selected.
- Please outline the grant monitoring process for these funds.
- Is there a local general fund fiscal impact for this ordinance?
- The grant period ends on June 30, 2026. What happens after that?
- How is the rest of the \$3.538 million grant being spent?

## **Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration**

### **2. Ordinance 2025-276**

**Patron Mayor Avula**

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Outside Agency Contract between the City of Richmond and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond for the purpose of funding the expansion of life skills programming at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

#### Notes:

- Expand life skills programming at MLK Middle School, see attached scope of services (page 12 of 14-page PDF) for details.
- Support conflict resolution, self-regulation and academic planning.
- Engage at least 100 youth during the school year and host at least 3 field trips

#### Recommended Questions

- This is one-time funding, correct? What is the long-term plan for these services?
- Please outline the grant monitoring process for these funds.
- What else are we doing to support this sort of work at MLK, Jr. Middle School and other RPS middle school campuses?
- Please elaborate on to implement “EliteGaming LIVE Academy” as part of this grant.

## **Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration**

### **3. Ordinance 2025-277**

**Patron Mayor Avula**

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Regional Cooperative Partnership Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield for the purpose of supporting a recovery academy initiative funded by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

#### Notes:

- Regional recovery academy initiative funded by VA Opioid Abatement Authority.
- To be accompanied by an ordinance authorizing \$8,519.98 to match Chesterfield County.
- Chesterfield Recovery Academy (CRA) is Virginia's first recovery high school, opened in Fall 2022, in response to adolescent substance use and opioid overdose epidemic.

#### Recommended Questions

- How many students from RPS enroll at Chesterfield Recovery Academy?
- How will outreach and transportation funds specifically help address barriers for Richmond residents?
- How does this work relate to the work of Richmond's Opioid Task Force?