

## Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

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**From:** Susanna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 9:26 AM  
**To:** City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** RVAGreen

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I would like to ask City Council to vote in favor of RVAGreen as it's listed. It's urgent that this get approved and get implemented. How much longer are we going to delay doing climate and sustainability work that is already at crisis levels? We cannot procrastinate and deny that action is needed any longer.

Thank you

Susanna Calvert, [REDACTED]

**From:** [Slattum, Virginia \(VDH\)](#)  
**To:** [Reid, Candice D. - Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Morrison, Ruth \(VDH\)](#)  
**Subject:** RES. 2023-R005 Policy Analysis Letter- Richmond Henrico Health Districts  
**Date:** Monday, January 23, 2023 4:54:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [RHHD Policy Analysis Letter- RES 2-23-R005.pdf](#)

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Hello Miss Reid,

My name is Virginia and I am the Richmond Henrico Health District's interim Climate and Health Subject Matter Expert. On January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 13th, 2023, Council's Land Use Housing and Transportation committee and City Council respectively are scheduled to take up RES. 2023-R005. RES. 2023-R005 covers RVAgreen 2050: Climate Equity Action 2030 adoption as the city's official sustainability plan. We would like to submit the attached policy analysis letter for inclusion at the Committee and City Council meetings. The letters reviews local health impacts associated with climate change, relation to RES. 2023-R005, and relation to public health.

Please share with any staff that should assist or let us know if we should direct this email to others.

Sincerely,

Virginia Slattum, MPH, RN (she/her)  
RHHD Interim Climate & Health Subject Matter Expert  
RHHD Health Equity Fund SME Support  
RHHD PHN- Mpox Vaccination

Candice D. Reid  
Clerk, Richmond City Council  
900 East Broad St, Suite 200  
Richmond, VA 23219

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Re: 1/26 Committee Meeting and 2/13 City Council Meeting, RES. 2023-R005

Miss. Reid,

On January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council's Land Use, Housing & Transportation committee and City Council respectively are scheduled to take up RES. 2023-R005 "To adopt the City of Richmond RVAgreen 2050: Climate Equity Action Plan 2030 as the official sustainability plan for the City of Richmond".<sup>1</sup> As the City's public health professionals, we write to document our assessment of some local public health impacts related to climate change and the impact adopting this resolution would have on local public health.

Our staff at Richmond Henrico Health Districts is monitoring the projected and current health impacts associated climate change in our community. Evidence supports that there are active negative health impacts experienced in Richmond related both to the pollution that contributes to climate change and the environmental factors exacerbated by climate change. Changes in climate are expected to continue, with likely amplification or worsening of associated health impacts already seen. Health-related data to support this assessment include:

- In 2022, the Virginia Department of Health recorded 114 heat-related illness (HRI) visits in the City of Richmond.<sup>2</sup> HRI visits have been increasing on-average since the first report in 2015, with the most HRIs recorded in 2021 at 117.<sup>2</sup> Evidence supports that the health impacts are higher than what HRI data captures, with overall healthcare utilization increasing in Virginia when the maximum daily heat index reaches 26C/79F or higher.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2021, ozone levels were found to contribute to 4 excess mortalities and 15 excess morbidities in Richmond City.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2021, Richmond City ranked #1 in the U.S. by Asthma Capitals for individuals impacted by pollen, with pollen expected to increase with warmer weather and longer warm seasons as a result of escalating climate change.<sup>5</sup>
- Richmond residents experience chronic diseases that can be triggered and/or exacerbated by environmental burdens increased by climate change. This includes 13.6% of Richmond adult residents reporting an asthma diagnosis as of 2020,<sup>6</sup> 12.2% for diabetes in 2019, 35.1% for high blood pressure in 2019, and 17.2% for experiencing mental distress during last 30 days in 2019.<sup>7</sup>
- Lower income communities and communities of color often experience higher environmental burdens that are further exacerbated by climate change. This is seen in Richmond where many historically redlined communities experience higher heat levels and heat vulnerability than other neighborhoods.<sup>8</sup> Also, some residents are more likely to experience negative health outcomes due to exposure and/or increased vulnerability, including children, older adults, those with chronic diseases, those experiencing homelessness, and those working outdoors.

**The proposed Climate Equity Action Plan 2030, for which RES. 2023-R005 asks the Council's support, includes interventions essential towards achieving climate adaptation and resilience necessary to protect public health.** This includes interventions in the categories designed to address pollution that contributes to climate

change and the downstream impacts of climate change. The action plan includes important emphasis on environmental justice to address and reduce inequities exacerbated by climate change. Our staff also supported plan creation and refinement per the Office of Sustainability, including participating in workgroups and providing feedback on the plan draft. Lastly, the adoption of RES. 2023-R005 will align with existing Richmond City work around climate, planning, and the built environment, including alignment with Richmond 300 goals and Council's RES 2021-R049.

Given the health impacts related to climate change, adopting RES. 2023-R005 will be an essential step towards protecting community health and promoting health equity. Our staff will be available to answer questions and provide ongoing analysis as requested. Also, staff plan to participate in RVAgreen 2050 Action Plan Implementation Workgroup(s) as requested by the Richmond Office of Sustainability to continue to provide insights on public health, promote health equity, and utilize expertise in plan implementation.

*Ruth Morrison*

Ruth Morrison  
Policy Director

*Virginia Slattum*

Virginia Slattum, MPH, BSN  
Climate and Health Subject Matter Expert

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<sup>1</sup> "RES. 2023-R005," Richmond City Legistar, created January 10, 2023, <https://richmondva.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5990550&GUID=4E24857C-1C8F-4EFC-BBB6-B760328EBDA6>

<sup>2</sup> "Heat Related Illness Surveillance," Virginia Department of Health, accessed January 12, 2023, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/syndromic-surveillance/hri-surveillance/>

<sup>3</sup> Suwei Wang, Connor Wu, Erin Austin, Meredith Davis, and Julia Gohlke, "Healthcare Visits and Summertime Heat Index in Virginia: An Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance Data Collected from 2015-2020," *National Environmental Health Association* 184.10 (June 2022): 26-32 <https://www.neha.org/virginia-summer-syndromic-surveillance>

<sup>4</sup> "Health of the Air 2021," NYU Marion Institute of Urban Management and American Thoracic Society, accessed January 18, 2023, <https://healthoftheair.org>

<sup>5</sup> Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, "Pollen," in *Asthma Capitals 2021- The Most Challenging Places to Live with Asthma*, 25. 2021, <https://www.aafa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/aafa-2021-asthma-capitals-report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> "Virginia Community Health Assessment," Virginia's Plan for Well-Being, accessed January 18, 2023, <https://virginiawellbeing.com/virginia-community-health-improvement-data-portal/>

<sup>7</sup> "Richmond, Va," City Health Dashboard, accessed January 18, 2023, <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/va/richmond/city-overview?metric=37&dataRange=city>

<sup>8</sup> "Throwing Shade in RVA," Jeremy Hoffman, accessed January 18, 2023, [jeremyscotthoffman.com/throwing-shade](http://jeremyscotthoffman.com/throwing-shade)

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# Oregon Hill

## Neighborhood Association

23 September 2023

Ms. Candice D. Reid  
City Clerk  
900 E. Broad St., Suite 200  
Richmond, VA  
23219 USA  
[CityClerksOffice@rva.gov](mailto:CityClerksOffice@rva.gov)

Re: Support for RES. 2022-R079

Dear Ms. Reid,

It is with great enthusiasm that the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association (OHNA) supports RES. 2022-R079.

At our monthly OHNA tonight, the membership unanimously passed a resolution supporting RES. 2022-R079, drafted and introduced by our Councilmember Stephanie Lynch. RES. 2022-R079 does two significant things of great benefit to our neighborhood. First, it consolidates the various individual parcels which comprise Samuel Pleasants Parsons Linear Park into a single parcel, and second, it calls for the park to be placed under a conservation easement.

These steps will help to preserve and protect Samuel Pleasants Parsons Linear Park for the use and enjoyment of future generations of Richmond residents.

We thank our Councilmember for her support in the drafting and introduction of this legislation, and hope that members of Council will pass this important resolution, which benefits not just residents of Oregon Hill, but all residents of the City of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Bryan Clark Green, President  
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

Ms. Stephanie Lynch, Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Ms. Amy Robins, Council Liaison, 5<sup>th</sup> District