Payment Register Amendment

Ord. 2026-081

Lawson Wijesooriya, Chief of Staff

May 20, 2026; Finance and Economic Development Committee

CITY OF RICHMOND

Everyone agrees:

TRANSPARENCY AND PRIVACY ARE **BOTH** IMPORTANT

The goal of amending City Code 12-16 is to **preserve public access** to meaningful spending information while ensuring the system is **practical, accurate, and compliant with privacy laws**.

HOW WE GOT HERE

2015	Ordinance passed requiring publication of all payments.
2019	The City stopped publishing the payment register due to concerns over data integrity and resource constraints.
2024	The prior administration took down the databases because it was not confident that the published information complied with privacy laws.
2025	The Avula Administration identified that this was a problem that needed to be fixed.
2026	The Administration introduced an ordinance to amend City Code Section 12-16.

Implementation of *City Code §12-16* has been **challenging** for many reasons.

The original ordinance is far broader than other localities and requires a labor-intensive manual redaction process.

Being overly-broad led to resource-intensive, manual redaction processes to comply with privacy laws and confidentiality requirements.

Many contributors across our teams have worked for months to chart a workable path forward.

REDACTION EXAMPLE

VENDOR_NAME	CHECK_NUMBER	CHECK_DATE	CHECK_AMOUNT
Social Services Provider	750527	10/27/2016	$552.00
Social Services Provider	750950	10/28/2016	$568.00
Social Services Provider	749115	10/21/2016	$845.00
Social Services Provider	749789	10/25/2016	$900.00
Social Services Provider	749597	10/24/2016	$165,853.20

JUSTIFICATION:
State law governing social services privacy

INVOICE_NUM	INVOICE_DESCRIPTION	DIST_AMOUNT	DISTDESCRIPTION	FU
PVDSS01091947	Redacted per Section 63.2-104 of the Code of Virgini	$552.00	Redacted per Section 63.2-104 of the Code o	01
PVDSS01092638	Redacted per Section 63.2-104 of the Code of Virgini	$568.00	Redacted per Section 63.2-104 of the Code o	01

REDACTION EXAMPLE

VENDOR_NAME	CHECK_NUMBER	CHECK_DATE	CHECK_AMOUNT
Z_Supplier Redacted by Finance	3578	03/01/2017	$8,346.47
Z_Supplier Redacted by Finance	3579	03/01/2017	$1,263,474.73
Z_Supplier Redacted by Finance	3582	03/01/2017	$124,535.48

INVOICE_DESCRIPTION	DIST_AMOUNT	DISTDESCRIPTION	FU
Employers Rrs (Anonymized)	$8,346.47	Employers Rrs (Anonymized)	10
Combined Rps City Witholdings (Anonymized)	$1,263,474.73	Combined Rps City Witholdings (Anonymized	90
Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	$1,746.16	Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	10
Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	$122,634.32	Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	10
Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	$155.00	Claims & Settlements (Anonymized)	10
Due Rps-Operating (Anonymized)	$1,875,503.30	Due Rps-Operating (Anonymized)	10
Dental Plan Deductions (Anonymized)	$29,352.93	Dental Plan Deductions (Anonymized)	10

JUSTIFICATION:
Personal information & tax information

HOW THE ORDINANCE IS CHANGING

Register of **all payments** made by the City

Register of payments made by the City to **vendors** and **employee reimbursements**

WHAT WILL BE PUBLIC	WHAT WILL BE PROTECTED
✅ Name of vendor or employee being reimbursed ✅ Department issuing payment ✅ Amount paid ✅ Cost Center	❌ Individual assistance payments ❌ Refunds / tax disbursements ❌ Personally identifiable or confidential information

The register will no longer include individual payments (e.g., refunds, assistance).

HOW THE ORDINANCE IS CHANGING

Updates City Code § 12-16 to move from:
Register of *all* payments made by the City → Register of payments to vendors and employee reimbursements

The City will now publish:
Payments to vendors for goods and services and payments to employees to reimburse them for operational expenses

The register will no longer include:
Individual payments (tax and payment refunds, financial assistance, garnishments)

WHY THIS MATTERS

Focuses on how taxpayer dollars are spent and makes it easier to identify spending patterns

Closes the gap between policy intent and day-to-day implementation

- Preserves transparency about spending by clearly identifying vendors and reimbursements
- Decreases the need for resource-intensive manual redaction of information that is subject to privacy laws, freeing up City employees' time to focus on delivery of critical services

Aligns with best practices

Matches approaches used in Henrico County, Chesterfield County and Fairfax County, but **goes one step further** by disclosing employee reimbursements

Protects personal information and ensures legal compliance

- Prevents disclosure of sensitive data (e.g., benefits payments)
- Virginia FOIA + state/federal privacy laws

HOW PEER LOCALITIES REPORT

	Type of Reporting	What Is Published	Individuals Included?	Frequency	FOIA / Privacy Protections	Format / Access
Henrico County	Vendor Payment Register	Vendor payment history by department, vendor, and amount	No	Quarterly (published datasets)	Excludes sensitive data; focuses only on vendor transactions	Downloadable spreadsheets via public data portal (Henrico County)
Fairfax County	Financial Transparency Portal (Vendor-focused)	Budget, expenditures, and vendor payment data	No	Monthly (updated regularly)	Operates within FOIA framework; vendor-focused display avoids personal data	Interactive online transparency dashboard (Fairfax County)
Chesterfield County	Vendor Payment Reports (Government + Schools)	Vendor payments from accounts payable systems	No (explicit exclusions)	Monthly + cumulative annual reports	Explicitly excludes confidential/private info under state & federal law	Downloadable Excel files (Chesterfield County)
Richmond Public Schools	Check Register (Vendor Payments)	Vendor name, payment date, amount, description, fund codes	No	Twice weekly	Structured to show vendor payments only; avoids personal data	Searchable online register (rvaschools.net)

WHAT PEER LOCALITIES REPORT

	Henrico County	Fairfax County	Chesterfield County	Richmond Public Schools	Proposed Richmond City
Vendor Name	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Amount by Vendor (Aggregated)	✅	✅	❌	❌	✅
Payment Amount (Individual)	❌	❌	✅	✅	❌
Agency Making Payment	✅	✅	✅	❌	✅
Cost Center	✅	❌	❌	❌	✅
Account	❌	❌	✅	❌	❌
Amount Paid to Vendor by Each Agency	✅	✅	✅	✅	✅
Date	❌	❌	✅	✅	❌
Fund (e.g., General Fund)	❌	✅	✅		❌
Invoice Description	❌	❌	❌	✅	❌
Employee Reimbursements	❌	❌	❌	❌	✅

HENRICO

Vendors Paid by County Agencies- FY26 thru 03/31/2026

Row Labels	Sum of Sum Of Amount Paid
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD \1547	$ 121,056,946.48
DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY \28814	$ 71,420,138.07
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY \5130	$ 34,736,757.21
KENBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION CO \6222	$ 23,529,270.03
CITY OF RICHMOND \2843	$ 22,471,305.07
DOMINION ENERGY \3761	$ 21,631,774.50
LOUGHRIDGE & COMPANY LLC \24145	$ 20,020,446.06
G L HOWARD INC \4586	$ 19,233,317.59
COOPER TACIA GENERAL CONTRACTING CO \775685	$ 17,404,936.37
GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER \4865	$ 15,801,268.95
SOUTHWOOD BUILDING SYSTEMS INC \9629	$ 15,188,331.15
ATLANTIC EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS INC \55894	$ 15,005,418.66
US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION \23766	$ 13,955,335.80
BLAKEMORE CONSTRUCTION CORP \2067	$ 10,577,048.07
GARNEY COMPANIES INC \325860	$ 8,862,136.58
BRANCH CIVIL INC / 775965	$ 7,818,580.51
COLONY CONSTRUCTION INC \22376	$ 7,577,855.57
J L CULPEPPER AND CO INC \8791	$ 7,218,831.62
NEW FIELD INC \652420	$ 6,387,951.47
DELL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC \21222	$ 5,630,378.80
ADAMS ROBINSON ENTERPRISES INC \460509	$ 5,525,578.27
CLARK CONSTRUCTION GROUP LLC \422697	$ 5,318,221.77
SAGRES CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION \797690	$ 5,171,411.46
US BANCORP GOVERNMENT LEASING AND FINANCE INC \319518	$ 5,167,711.02
KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES INC \39083	$ 5,119,169.12

Three quarterly views:

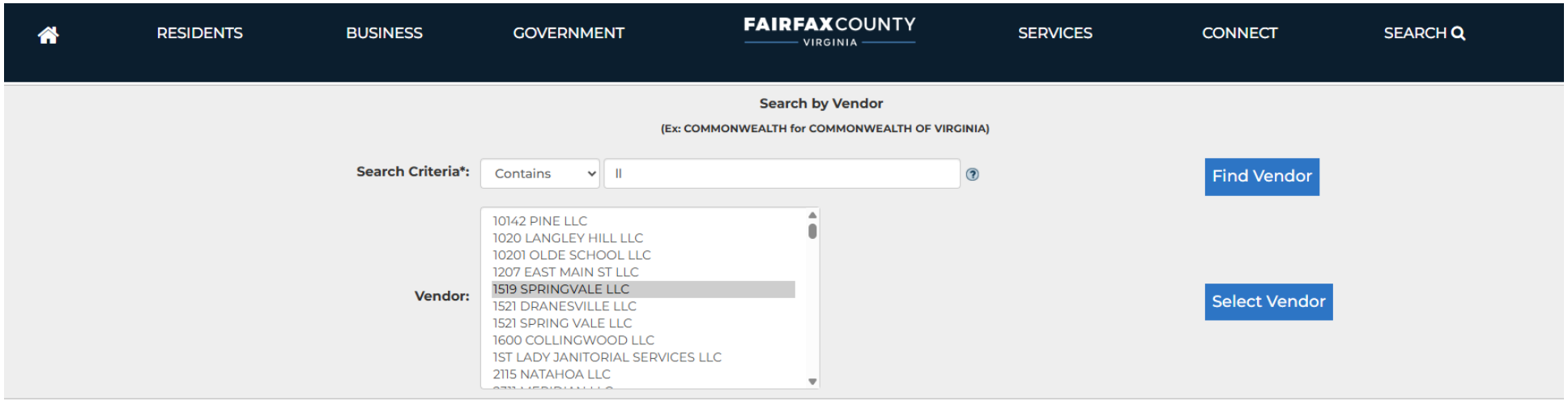
- Aggregate amounts by vendor
- Aggregate amounts by agency
- Aggregate amounts paid to each vendor by each agency

Vendors Paid by County Agencies- FY26 thru 03/31/2026

Row Labels	Sum of Sum Of Amount Paid
General Services	$ 37,318,505.18
Information Technology	$ 8,280,691.74
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District	$ 582,892.55
Mental Health and Developmental Services	$ 6,836,908.96
Planning	$ 427,325.54
Police	$ 13,152,367.77
Public Utilities	$ 140,832,444.74
Public Works	$ 88,234,871.53
Recreation and Parks	$ 31,230,950.73
Agriculture and Home Extension	$ 189,246.96
Board of Supervisors	$ 77,577.80
Commonwealth's Attorney	$ 316,333.65
Community Corrections Program	$ 173,909.26
Community Revitalization	$ 3,042,161.33
County Manager	$ 520,493.72
Economic Development	$ 50,314,564.05
Electoral Board	$ 467,388.17
Fire	$ 26,981,893.88
Healthcare	$ 123,081,464.98
Human Resources	$ 2,588,371.44
Internal Audit	$ 13,780.67
James River Juvenile Detention Center	$ 803,714.12
Library	$ 3,101,011.77
Non-Departmental	$ 7,744,688.05
Debt Service	$ 87,249,482.77
Sheriff	$ 15,919,924.93
Social Services	$ 174,874.14
Technology Replacement	$ 2,458,018.41
The Permit Center	$ 5,066.89
Public Health	$ 2,388,259.50
Sport's and Entertainment Authority	$ 10,187.60
CRWP	$ 3,018,740.38
EMWS-ECC	$ 1,505,448.50
Grand Total	**$ 850,091,641.59**

Agency	Cost Center	Supplier	Sum Of Amount Paid
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	CARTER HUMPHRIES \397685	$9.64
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	COBB TECHNOLOGIES \2904	$2,248.20
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	TREASURER OF VIRGINIA-DCR/SWCD \10495	$260.00
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	VIRGINIA EXTENSION PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATI	$565.00
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	VIRGINIA TECH \10964	$184,169.15
Agriculture and Home Extension	Agriculture and Home Extension	W B MASON CO INC \403004	$1,994.97
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	ACORN SALES COMPANY	$41.90
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	AMAZON	$105.92
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	AWARD COMPANY OF AMERICA LLC \346347	$1,750.35
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	BEST IMAGE PRINTERS LTD \1979	$511.33
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	ChamberRVA \22251	$11,850.00
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	COBB TECHNOLOGIES \2904	$3,647.96
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	COLEMAN BROS FLOWERS INC \2914	$1,697.00
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC \756461	$1,406.15
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA-TREASURER OF \	$45.00
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	DOMINION PROMOTIONS LLC \31606	$247.69
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	ETSY, INC.	$147.49
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	GUERNSEY INC \29679	$964.11
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERK	$320.00
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	MICHAELS STORES 1688	$501.05
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC \571300	$43.05
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	RICHMOND FREE PRESS \8756	$4,039.29
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH \538014	$15,489.66
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	T3 MEDIA LLC \9945	$9,600.00
Board of Supervisors	Board of Supervisors	TRUIST BANK \64217	$25,169.85
Building Inspections	Building Inspections	AMAZON	$449.45
Building Inspections	Building Inspections	BANK OF AMERICA \20173	$1,941.01
Building Inspections	Building Inspections	BEAM DISTRIBUTING INC \29028	$53.72
Building Inspections	Building Inspections	CANADIAN STANDARDS ASS	$409.01

FAIRFAX



Payments to Vendor 1519 SPRINGVALE LLC

Vendor	Payments
1519 SPRINGVALE LLC	$5,116.85

Payments to Vendor by Department
Year-to-Date July 2025 - March 2026

Department Name	Fund	Month	Payments
FINANCE	County Construction	December	$16.85
Payments by FINANCE			**$16.85**
MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS	Land Development Services	December	$5,100.00
Payments by MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS			**$5,100.00**
Total Payments Year to Date			**$5,116.85**

Conclusion: The goal of amending City Code 12-16 is to **preserve public access** to meaningful spending information while ensuring the system is **practical, accurate, and compliant with privacy laws**.

QUESTIONS?