

Formal Awards Ceremony Docket

For Official Presentation: Monday, 22 March 2021 Draft updated 3.22.2021; 1351 hrs/srs

#	TITLE/RECIPIENT	TYPE	SUMMARY/NARRATIVE	MAIN PRESENTER
1	Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, Richmond Office of Public Defender Public Defenders	RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AWARD	To recognize, honor, and celebrate the Richmond Public Defenders and Mitigation Specialists, Investigators, and Staff of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, Richmond Office of Public Defender, and thank them for their work in helping to make our city an even better, more equitable, and more just place to live, love, work, learn, play, visit, enjoy, and raise a family.	Lynch



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

RICHMOND OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

By virtue of the authority vested in the United States of America, Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Code of Laws, and the Richmond City Charter: Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby and officially recognize:

Richmond Public Defenders

Virginia Indigent Defense Commission - Richmond Office of Public Defender

Whereas, Richmond City Council, the governing legislative institution of Richmond, Virginia, in the United States of America, does hereby recognize, honor, and celebrate our nation's judicial system that is based on equity, fairness, equal protection under the law, innocence until proven guilty, and a person's right to have an attorney represent them in criminal prosecution, even if they are unable to afford one; and

Whereas, Justice is the primary virtue and expectation of our public legal institution in helping establish the mighty stream of righteousness, courage, strength, and peace of a thriving community; and

Whereas, Having the right to legal representation and access to the court system in order to provide for the proper defense of people who find themselves under criminal prosecution includes them having an attorney to assist them in preparing their defense, regardless of their ability to afford one themselves, is a fundamental principal in helping maintain fairness and balance in our legal system; and

Whereas, In the United States of America, the federal government and some states maintain offices of public defenders who are full-time attorneys providing legal representation and defense on behalf of people facing criminal prosecution that are not able to afford legal counsel; and

Whereas, In Virginia, the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission is the independent state agency that oversees more than two dozen government public defender offices across the state providing public defense lawyers and manages the certification process of public defense and court-appointed private attorneys; and

Whereas, In Richmond, the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, Richmond Office of Public Defender, which includes Richmond Public Defenders, Mitigation Specialists, Investigators, and Staff employed by the state, serves people unable to afford an attorney during every stage of their case, through trial, appeal, and the Virginia Supreme Court; and

Whereas, The Richmond Office of Public Defender, which currently includes 29 Public Defenders, is known for its exceptional work above and beyond the call of duty, which includes legal defense and assistance with housing, job training, mental health, and substance abuse treatment, has earned an excellent reputation for its outstanding service on behalf of thousands of Richmond residents and families; and

Whereas, As a quantitative example of its work, in 2020, the Richmond Office of Public Defender provided legal assistance on behalf of more than 12,800 charges in Richmond; and

Whereas, In America, public service is considered to be among the most noble and important work a person can do and, due to their compassion, dedication, and honorable service, Richmond Public Defenders, Mitigation Specialists, Investigators, and Staff have proven their dedication to our community and all our residents in providing their valuable time, talent, experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities;

Now, Therefore, Richmond City Council does hereby recognize, honor, and celebrate the Richmond Public Defenders and Mitigation Specialists, Investigators, and Staff of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, Richmond Office of Public Defender, and thank them for their work in helping to make our city an even better, more equitable, and more just place to live, love, work, learn, play, visit, enjoy, and raise a family.

In witness whereof, this pronouncement was prepared for Richmond City Council presentation on the twenty-second day of March, two thousand twenty-one, in the two hundred eighty-third year of the foundation of Richmond in 1737, in the two hundred forty-fourth year of the Commonwealth of Virginia and United States of America.

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
Council President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond East End 7th Voter District

The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson
Council Vice President, Richmond City Council
Councilmember, Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

The Honorable Stephanie A. Lynch
Councilmember, Richmond City Council
Richmond Gateway 6th Voter District

Richmond City Council - Richmond City Hall - 900 East Broad Street - Richmond, Virginia 23219 - U.S.A.