

## **Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipal Activities**

June/July 2018

### ***Portsmouth***

- ✓ On May 8, the City Council adopted a FY 2019 Operating budget leaving the Real Estate tax rate at \$1.30 per hundred; approved the Public Schools Operating Budget, but not additional funding requested by the School Board for a 2% pay increase for teachers. (The School Board subsequently cut other areas of their budget to fund the 2% pay increase.)
- ✓ At their May 22 meeting, City Council approved a zoning ordinance amendment increasing minimum lot sizes for new subdivisions and re-subdivisions: GR/General Residential is 12,500 sq ft & 75-ft width; UR/Urban Residential is 6,000 square ft. and 60-ft width; UR-H/Urban Residential-High is 7,500 sq. ft and 50-ft. width. This will not affect existing lots.
- ✓ The canopy at the Pavilion was removed and structural issues to the frame were detected.

### ***Norfolk***

- ✓ Department of Defense has offered to host the proposed NATO Joint Force Command. It will likely reside on Naval Support Activity (NSA) Hampton Roads. The Navy also announced the reestablishment of Second Fleet, location of command will likely be NSA Hampton Roads. There will be over 250 U.S. officers, sailors and government civilians assigned
- ✓ A short-term rentals report to the City Council concluded a STR registry alone is not a solution & that neither enforcement nor prohibition alone prevents the activity. The proposal is to allow STR homestays where the owner is present, with zoning certificates required, max 2 guests per bedroom. STR vacation homes would be allowed by zoning certificate and conditional use permit and with specific operational conditions & a maximum stay of 29 days; requires a business license and transient occupancy taxes.

### ***Virginia Beach***

- ✓ On May 1, the city council selected Louis Jones as Mayor and Jim Woods as Vice Mayor, pending the Nov. 6 mayoral election.
- ✓ At a May 22 work session, the council discussed Short Term Rentals and agreed in principle to home sharing in homes that are the owner's primary residence and where the owner is present, for periods less than 30 days; city registration and transient occupancy tax payment required. Councilors proposed STR Overlay Districts: Sandbridge, Oceanfront, North End, Ocean Park, & Cape Henry. For properties outside of Overlay District: Proposed – Can opt to have an overlay created with approval of 60% of owners in that established area, or petition Council for a conditional use perm.

### **Chesapeake**

- ✓ Real Estate Reassessments—In July, thousands could see an increase in their real estate value up to 20%.
- ✓ Regional Economic Development Sites Inventory—Study shows that Chesapeake currently has zero shovel ready sites and as a result, the city is losing out on approximately \$6.5 billion in capital investment.
- ✓ Chesapeake School Board—Announced Dr. James A. Cotton as the new superintendent effective July 2018 as a result of the retirement of Dr. Roberts.

### **Suffolk**

- ✓ In North Suffolk, many new businesses have opened on Harbour View Blvd. and a 240-apartment complex is being built adjacent to the new retail. At the end of Harbour View Blvd. and College Drive, 55 acres are being developed for mixed use.