

Government Affairs Reports-in-Brief on Municipal Activities March 2019

Norfolk City Report (February 2019)

Submitted by Louis Eisenberg

- St. Paul's Quadrant, a 115-acre district next to downtown Norfolk, is home to an aging public housing project, cut off from surrounding neighborhoods by hard-to-cross streets and prone to chronic flooding. Working closely with the city and area residents, Goody Clancy developed a plan for strengthening the Quadrant as an inviting neighborhood for residents of all incomes.
- The problem with the plan so far is how the City and its agencies, especially, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority is going relocate the almost 4200 residents that live in 1700 Public Housing Units in the St. Paul's Quadrant.
- Residents of the Public Housing have been petitioning elected City Government Officials asking for more "Bricks and Stick's" rather than housing vouchers.
- The real estate issue is how much rental inventory is available in the city of Norfolk and the surrounding cities. Many of the public housing residents depend on public transportation to get to their jobs and must live near a public transportation line.

Portsmouth City Report (February 2019)

Submitted by Gary Bunting

- City Council adopted a resolution which authorizes the city to proceed with negotiations with AHP Development LLC, who has proposed to build a new City Hall on the current site of a parking garage on County Street. AHP would then redevelop the current City Hall site with approximately 200 apartments.
- Link: www.pilotonline.com

Chesapeake City Report (February 2019)

Submitted by Tom Thrasher

- Chesapeake City Manager James Baker expected to retire after 6 six years in October 2019
- Link: https://pilotonline.com/news/government/local/article_6ad930ce-3a10-11e9-8802-ef3fbac51913.html
- **On 2-19-19** the **Chesapeake City Council approved** a conditional zoning reclassification of approximately 12.46 acres from B-2, General Business District, to R-MF1, Multifamily Residential District (7.23 acres more or less), and O&I, Office and Institutional District (5.23 acres more or less). **PROPOSED COMP LAND USE/DENSITY: Medium Density Residential/12.44 dwelling units per acre.** Development to support age restricted housing.

- Link:
http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/supporting_docs/actions_council/2019/02-19-19/Marked+Agenda.pdf
- On 1-15-19 the Chesapeake City Council approved a zoning reclassification of a portion of 62.7 acres from R-15s, Residential District, and A-1, Agricultural District, to R-8 (17.6 acres), Residential District. PROPOSED COMP LAND USE / DENSITY: Low-Density Residential with 2.56 dwelling unit per acre
http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/supporting_docs/actions_council/2019/02-19-19/Marked+Agenda.pdf
- On 2-19-19 the Chesapeake City Council approved a conditional use permit to construct a solar energy facility on a 234 acre parcel. ZONE: A-1, Agricultural District LOCATION: Approximately 8,000 feet north on West Road from the intersection of West Road and Cornland Road; adjacent (west) to the Chesapeake Regional Airport.
http://www.cityofchesapeake.net/Assets/supporting_docs/actions_council/2019/02-19-19/Marked+Agenda.pdf

Smithfield City Report (February 2019)

Submitted by Margaret Richardson

- On 2/21/2019, the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 in favor of transferring a parcel of land to the state for the purpose of building a juvenile correctional facility near the town of Windsor. The meeting was attended by an overflowing crowd of residents, most of whom were against the county allowing the facility to be built. The county will negotiate the terms of the sale, and the BOS will cast a final vote once that has occurred.
- Link: <https://isleofwight.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView>
- On 2/5/2019, the public attended the Smithfield Town Council Meeting to petition that the bike path, currently under construction from Nike Park to downtown Smithfield be extended from the downtown district to Windsor Castle Park. Residents want the park-to-park path to become a part of the proposed East Coast Greenway, an off-road path from Maine to Florida. The first section of the approved path was officially open on Feb. 28, 2019 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.
- Link: <https://www.smithfieldva.gov/library/view/265/february-2019-town-council-agend>

Suffolk City Report

No events to report

Virginia Beach City Report (February 2019)

Submitted by Linda Harrison

ACTIONS

- On Feb 19, the Council approved city membership in the AFC – American Flood Coalition. This is a show of regionalism and we'd be the 1st city in the Virginia. Williamsburg and Norfolk have been requested and but Va Beach is the 1st one to take up the resolution. HRPDC is to meet in April and this

may be why Norfolk/Williamsburg is sitting on the fence. The Council's consensus is that we are doing what we can at the city and state levels; however, we need a voice at the federal level and the AFC will allow us to join groups (114 and 14 states) at the national level

- The Virginia Beach Sports Center has broken ground. Link: <https://youtu.be/iezwHY112I?t=105>.
- An additional link for keeping abreast of the growth is: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/communications-office/hot-topics/entertainment-district/Pages/Sports-Center.aspx>
- The Pharrell Williams idea for beach week entertainment at the Ocean front is now in production - "Something in the Water"! Link: <https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/pharrell-drops-lineup-of-artists-for-something-in-the-water-festival-in-va-beach/1824854293>