

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 24, 2024

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Tyrone E. Nelson, Chair, Varina District
Daniel J. Schmitt, Vice-Chair, Brookland District
Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Fairfield District
Misty D. Whitehead, Three Chopt District
Jody K. Rogish, Tuckahoe District

Members of the Delegation Present:

Senator Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, District 16
Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, District 81
Delegate David L. Owen, District 57
Delegate Destiny L. Bolling, District 80
Kelly Johnson, Aide to Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg
Caleigh Lynch, Chief of Staff
Morgan Wilds, Aide to Delegate Destiny Bolling
Nkechi George-Winkler, Aide to Delegate Delores McQuinn

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager
Andrew R. Newby, County Attorney
Tanya N. Brackett, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Michael Y. Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Cari M. Tretina, Deputy County Manager/Chief of Staff
Ben A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations

Mr. Nelson welcomed our State Delegation and staff members who were present for the meeting. He also welcomed the residents who had come to listen and engage.

Recovery Home Conversation with State Delegation

Mike Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, gave a presentation titled Recovery Residences in Henrico County, noting the presentation was similar to the one given at the Board's retreat earlier in the month. He began by noting the County's commitment to aiding those in recovery and noted the many County efforts to do so. Then, his presentation discussed (i) what a recovery residence is, (ii) state laws and regulations for recovery residences, (iii) the local presence of recovery residences in Henrico compared to the rest of the Commonwealth and nation, and (iv) ideas for improving the regulation of recovery residences to improve outcomes for the residents and the community as a part of the recovery and treatment process.

Senator VanValkenburg questioned why the County has so many recovery residences compared to other localities and how are individuals finding them. Mr. Feinmel explained the Department of Corrections is sending individuals to these homes that are not accredited, and these individuals are coming from all over the Commonwealth to Henrico. Mr. Nelson asked who maintains the list of accredited homes. Mr. Feinmel explained the list is updated and maintained by the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences (VARR), but the problem is the probation officers are hearing about homes from other probation officers and that is how these individuals are ending up in the homes in Henrico, instead of staying in their localities.

Senator VanValkenburg stated localities should have authority for enforcement of accreditation requirements, in addition to the Attorney General.

Delegate Owen expressed concern that other localities are sending individuals to Henrico to homes that are not accredited or certified.

Delegate McQuinn noted this is a crisis situation in the Commonwealth and stated they can look at the credentialing qualifications and start there.

Mr. Nelson noted how important this issue is to the Board and to the Manager and they are asking for any help and input.

Ms. Whitehead explained her perception in working with the judges as an attorney. They want to help individuals get the help they need to recover and get the resources they need to become an active member of society.

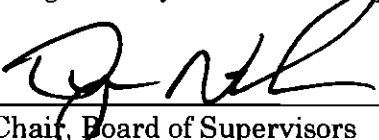
Mr. Rogish thanked the members of the Delegation who were present and came to listen to the presentation and notes the County is looking for help in making these homes work better for communities and any assistance would be appreciated.

Mr. Cooper echoed what Mr. Rogish and the other Board members were stating and thanked the Manager for getting the Board and the Delegation together so quickly after our retreat.

Delegate Bolling noted she listened into several presentations during the Board retreat, and this was one of the presentations she listened to. She stated this matter is very dear to her heart and requested additional information on the individuals Mike has been speaking to and working with state government, because she wants to understand what the issues are and how they can be fixed.

Mr. Nelson thanked the members of the Delegation and explained typically the Board meets with the Delegation in November, but this matter is very important to the Board. The Board wanted to get this information to the Delegation as quickly as possible so that the process of working on solutions could start now before session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.



Chair, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia