The Anti-Poverty Commission
Second Report – July 17, 2018

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.” “YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”

Nelson Mandela – February 2005
The Anti-Poverty Commission Members

Chairperson – Mr. Michael Edwards
Vice Chairperson – Mrs. Wanda Taliaferro
Secretary – Ms. Barbara Hoosier

Dr. Cheryl Riggins      Pastor David Tolbert      Mrs. Florence Rhue
Ms. Joanne Williams    Pastor Michael Shannon    Dr. Rosezelia Weaver-Roy
Mr. Leonard Muse       Ms. Janell Sinclair       Mr. Daniel Todd

*The Honorable Treska Wilson-Smith, Council Representative*
The Anti-Poverty Commission

➢ The Anti-Poverty Commission was established in 2015
➢ Citizens of Petersburg applied and were appointed by City Council.
➢ We adopted the theme:

    “Giving a hand up, not a hand out!”

➢ The Anti-Poverty Commission’s goal is to influence public policy to address poverty and its impact on the city of Petersburg.
➢ Strategies are to address interventions by the local government of Petersburg in conjunction with the community and private sector.
The Anti-Poverty Commission

15-R-41

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

▪ WHEREAS, the Petersburg City council, by the authority vested in them, hereby creates the Anti-Poverty Commission; and

▪ WHEREAS, under the authority, the Anti-Poverty commission is hereby established to develop strategies to address poverty that have demonstrable results for increasing employment and educational attainment, improving transportation, and enhancing healthy communities for Petersburg residents; and

▪ WHEREAS, the City of Petersburg sees to identify the root cause of poverty to the City and develop policies designed to address these causes; and

▪ WHEREAS, according to the US Census 2013 American Community Survey 26.7% of Petersburg residents are below the poverty threshold set by the Federal government compared to 11.3% average for the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

▪ WHEREAS, the US Census, 2013 American Community Survey reports the median household income for residents of the City of Petersburg as $34,424, while the median household income for the Commonwealth of Virginia is $63,907; and

▪ WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, February 2015 data, the unemployment rate in the City of Petersburg is 10.1%, while the rate of unemployment for the Commonwealth is 4.7%;

▪ WHEREAS, the City of Petersburg seeks to promote economic purity and social justice for all of the citizens and residents of Petersburg, Virginia,

▪ NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Virginia, hereby sets forth to develop and Ant-Poverty Commission, and do hereby order that:

▪ The Commission shall, by way of illustration but not limitation, consist of the following work groups; Job Creation, Workforce Development/Education, Policy/legislation, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, and Transportation. The Commission will provide recommendations on strategies to address poverty. The Commission will identify strategies consistent with making Petersburg a Tier One City and develop a report detailing the recommendation within twelve (12) month of the establishment of the Commission.
The Anti-Poverty Commission

Mission Statement

The Anti-Poverty Commission is dedicated to the role of identifying strategies to reduce poverty and to make Petersburg a Tier One City. With focus on the areas of Job Creation, Workforce Development, Education, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, Transportation, and Policy/Legislation, the Commission continues to conduct research, identify available resources, collaborate with neighboring cities, organizations, and the local government of Petersburg. The focus areas are:

- Job Creation
- Healthy Communities
- Policy/Legislation
- Research/Evaluations
- Workforce Development
- Education
- Transportation
The Anti-Poverty Commission

Defining Poverty

• **According to Miriam Webster** - it is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.

• **According to the Business Dictionary** – it is a Condition where people’s basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are not being met. Poverty is generally of two types; (1) Absolute Poverty and (2) Relative Poverty.

• **According to the U.S. Census Bureau** - if a family’s total income is less than the family’s threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty.

• **According to Investopedia** – it is a state of deprivation, lacking the usual for socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions

• **According to Wikipedia** – Poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money. Poverty is a multifaceted concept which may include social, economic, and political elements.
The Anti-Poverty Commission

- Poverty according to the 2016 U. S. Census Bureau
  - The official poverty rate in 2016 was 12.7 percent, down 0.8 percentage points from 13.5 percent in 2015. This is the second consecutive annual decline in poverty. Since 2014, the poverty rate has fallen 2.1 percentage points from 14.8 percent to 12.7 percent.
  - In 2016 there were 40.6 million people in poverty, 2.5 million fewer than in 2015 and 6.0 million fewer than in 2014.
  - The poverty rate in 2016 (12.7 percent) was not significantly higher than the poverty rate in 2007 (12.5 percent), the year before the most recent recession.
  - For most demographic groups, the number of people in poverty decreased from 2015. Adults aged 65 and older were the only population group to experience an increase in the number of people in poverty. (The elderly are living longer and this number does not reflect the needs of the elderly such as medication, special adaptive devices, etc)
  - Between 2015 and 2016, the poverty rate for children under age 18 declined from 19.7 to 18.0 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 18-64 declined from 12.4 to 11.6 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 65 and older was 9.3 percent in 2016, not statistically different from the rate in 2015.
Anti-Poverty Commission
What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg?

Local Department of Social Services Profile Report, SFY 2017
W. Renea Evans-House, MUS, MPA | Interim Director
Petersburg Dept. of Social Services
400 Farmer Street
Petersburg VA 23803
804-861-4720
w.reneaevans-house@dss.virginia.gov
## Anti-Poverty Commission

### Poverty Status of Compared to Surrounding Localities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking From Lowest to Highest</th>
<th>City or County Identified</th>
<th>Poverty Level According to 2016 U.S. Census Bureau</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dinwiddie</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hopewell</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Percent in the state of Virginia</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Anti – Poverty Commission

**Median Household Incomes of Surrounding Localities**

According to the 2016 U.S. Census Bureau

Listed in order of highest income levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Statistics as Reported in 2017</th>
<th>Surrounding City or County</th>
<th>2016 Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$72,972</td>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>$73,869.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data not available at time of report</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>$64,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$52,288</td>
<td>Dinwiddie</td>
<td>$51,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$52,355</td>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
<td>$49,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data not available at time of report</td>
<td>Richmond City</td>
<td>$44,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data not available at time of report</td>
<td>Hopewell</td>
<td>$40,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$32,749</td>
<td>Petersburg</td>
<td>$32,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$64,923</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>$66,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents who received benefits (SNAP, TANF or Medicaid) in CY 2017

18,248 out of a population of 31,882
Anti-Poverty Commission

Total amount spent on Social Services in the locality (SFY 2017) $3,032,728

$133,239,371

Total amount spent on Social Services contributed by the locality (SFY 2017)
### Distribution of Social Services Spending in Locality, SFY 2017

- **Benefits**: 95.8%
- **Services**: 4.0%
- **Administration**: 0.2%

### Total Social Services Spending by Funding Source in Locality, SFY 2017

- **Federal**: 55%
- **State**: 43%
- **Local & NER (comb.)**: 2%

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## Social Services Spending, SFY 2017

**Petersburg**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services purchased for clients</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local &amp; NER (comb.)</th>
<th>All Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$65,318</strong></td>
<td>$158,327</td>
<td>$42,037</td>
<td>$265,682</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Client Benefits Spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local &amp; NER (comb.)</th>
<th>All Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid &amp; FAMIS$^5$</td>
<td>$51,950,930</td>
<td>$50,604,904</td>
<td>$236,982</td>
<td>$102,792,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>$14,849,877</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$14,849,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>$457,682</td>
<td>$684,483</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,142,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Assistance</td>
<td>$795,026</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$795,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster care/adoption$^6$</td>
<td>$1,274,303</td>
<td>$1,476,816</td>
<td>$-46,846</td>
<td>$2,704,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Services (Title IV-E)$^7$</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,667,085</td>
<td>$1,326,887</td>
<td>$3,993,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care$^8$</td>
<td>$613,552</td>
<td>$203,593</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$817,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Benefits$^9$</td>
<td>$-1,205</td>
<td>$433,573</td>
<td>$108,779</td>
<td>$541,147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Benefits - % by Funding Source

- **Benefits**: 95.8%
- **Services**: 25%
- **Administration**: 4.0%

### Benefits - % Total SS spending

- **Benefits**: 0.2%
- **Services**: 0.3%
- **Administration**: 1.4%

### Total SS Spending

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total SS Spending</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local &amp; NER (comb.)</th>
<th>All Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$72,687,998</strong></td>
<td>$57,518,645</td>
<td>$3,032,728</td>
<td><strong>$133,239,371</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SS Funding - % by Funding Source

- **Benefits**: 55%
- **Services**: 43%
- **Administration**: 2%

Source: LASER, Statewide Summary. Local expenses and expenses not eligible for reimbursement (NER) are combined.
Anti-Poverty Commission

Phase One from Jan. 2017-June 2018

- It was the Commission’s task to interview various community organizations who provide services to the impoverished. Commissioners interviewed people who could provide assistance in understanding how poverty was affecting their localities and what was being done regarding poverty. A plethora of people were interviewed from various professions to include, but not limited to, the following:

  - From The Office of Community Wealth Building in Richmond, Va. - Mr. Thaddeus Williamson
  - From The Robert Bobb Group – Mr. Robert Bobb, Mr. Tom Tyrell, Former Acting City Manager and Jack Berry (Former member of the Anti-Poverty Commission in Richmond.
  - From Work Force Development – Learn to Earn - Earlene Jones, Glen M. Jones
  - From Circles of Ashland – Mr. David Cooper
  - From the Petersburg Housing Authority - Mr. Nathaniel Pride and Ms. Yvette Bembry
  - From the Petersburg Transit System - Mr. Charles Koonce, Mr. Darius Mason and Mr. Vincent Seaberry
  - From Petersburg Public School System – Dr. Marcus Newsome, Supt. Of Schools
  - From Petersburg Social Services - Ms. Renea Evans- House and Ms. Wallace from Petersburg Department of Social Services
  - From City Administration - Ms. Darnetta Tyus Deputy City Manager and Work Force

- We, the Commission has interviewed at least 20 different people, collected data from them and had the opportunity to seek additional information.
Phase One Continued:
Collaborating with surrounding communities regarding their efforts to address poverty.

Three members of the Anti-Poverty Commission attended the Community Wealth Building Strategy Sharing Session presented in Partnership with Virginia First Cities......The Honorable Treska Wilson-Smith; Councilwoman, Michael Edwards; Chairperson and Dr. Rosezelia Roy. There was discussion on the role of employment on poverty as well as applying for the “TANF for Employment Grant”.
Phase Two
• Identify Petersburg’s current state of poverty.

• Develop metrics by which to measure, track and report efforts to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.

This is an ongoing process while we review records from the U.S. Census Bureau, United Way, Virginia Employment Commission and Petersburg Social Services and other organizations that address those living in poverty (i.e. CARES, Other Shelter Facilities, Cooling and Warming Stations)

Phase Three
• Collaborate with City Council and the Community to increase awareness about poverty in the City of Petersburg
• Teach the community about the effects of poverty in Petersburg via poverty simulations.
Anti-Poverty Commission

Phase Four

In collaboration with members of the community, private sector and local government, develop and present a strategic plan of action to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.
The Anti-Poverty Commission wishes to thank the members of the City Council of Petersburg for the initiative shown by formulating this Commission. You are to be commended for recognizing that the city of Petersburg is in critical state by having a poverty level at 29.4%, higher than any of our surrounding localities.

The Anti – Poverty Commission is in the process of learning all that we can so that we can develop a strategic plan to share with you.