

2020

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2020

ATTENDEES: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chair, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice-Chair, Ms. Barbara Hoosier, Pastor J. David Tolbert, Mrs. Florence Rhue, Mr. Michael Edwards, Ms. Kietoiya Taylor, Ms. Monica Huddleton-Elrod, Council member Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor.

The meeting commenced at 6:05 p.m. Prayer was rendered by Pastor Tolbert. The agenda was forwarded prior to meeting and was approved at the meeting. Minutes of the prior meeting were not available.

Agenda Items: Selection of Officers 2020; Selection of Sub-Committees, Review Current Resolution, Approval of Agenda for the Year 2020 and Discuss Presentation of Organization.

Selection of Officers 2020

Nominees for officers. Chair: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Vice-Chair: Pastor Michael Shannon and Secretary: Ms. Keitoya Taylor. A unanimous vote to accept officers were rendered.

Sub-committee Designees

Workforce Development/Education – Pastor Shannon, Dr. Roy, Mrs. Rhue, Pastor Tolbert and Ms. Monica Rod

Healthy Community – Ms. Hoosier

Transportation – Mr. Edwards and Ms. Monica Rod

Housing should be added as a category.

Dr. Roy asked members to confirm receiving suggested research information accompanied by websites. All attendees stated that they had received the information.

Pastor Shannon noted that we should focus on best practices based on data.

Dr. Roy volunteered to update the statistical data rendered on poverty as it relates to the city of Petersburg and the state of Virginia.

Suggestions to Enhance Community

Dilapidated building needing renovation - ascertain companies that can repair them. Suggest that a 20% fee be assessed for not completing the task.

Council Member Wilson-Smith – utilize RADD funding. Purchase buildings and have individuals not working to repair the property which adds value to the community. These individuals will learn skills, gain income and possibly reside in the residents. Case managers can monitor progress and ensure goals are met.

Pastor Shannon – Discussed his personal knowledge of HUD. Stated stipulations that he was aware of. How do we see housing development? How do we present to the General Assembly? What procedure should be established as it relates to repeated offenders and penalties? It was suggested to rent a trolley for the purpose of viewing dilapidated homes.

Mr. Edwards – Informed commissioners regarding possible changes to bus routes. He noted recommendations to restructure bus routes--No buses will go through neighborhoods for the purpose of enhancing travel time and extending hours on Sundays. He will email statistics provided to him.

Review Current Resolution

Update data on the Anti-Poverty Resolutions. Dr. Roy volunteered to perform the task. It will be reported at our next meeting.

Dr. Roy – Completed tasks relating to presenting survey questions for a focus group. It was suggested to further review the questions and make the responses in a multiple-choice format. It was also recommended that the survey be disseminated at Ward meetings and TRIAD gatherings. This will garner the community's input.

Mr. Edwards – Suggested to develop badges for the Anti-Poverty Commissioners for the purpose of identifying their official capacity. He will follow-up with the transit manager (Mike) to request that he makes the badges.

Agenda Approval for 2020

Approval of dates, times and locations of meetings for the year 2020.

Note: meeting scheduled 2nd Thursday and 4th Friday of each month at the Transit Station, 2nd floor, 6:00 p.m. until June 2020—then once a month, 2nd Thursday.

Note: The first meeting in March 2020 will be break in groups focused.

Discuss Presentation of Organization

February 28, 2020 is our next meeting, 6:00 p.m. Guest: Representative from the Petersburg Health and Wellness Consortium. Purpose: Ascertain the consortium focus, what strategies the organization have implemented and their outcomes; question duplicated efforts as it relates to the Anti-Poverty Commission.

Meeting Ended: 8:00 p.m. Pastor Tolbert

Recorder

Keitoya Taylor

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION
AGENDA
FEBRUARY 28, 2020

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2020

ATTENDEES: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chair, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice-Chair, Ms. Barbara Hoosier, Pastor J. David Tolbert, Mrs. Florence Rhue, Ms. Monica Huddleton-Elrod. Councilmember Treska Wilson-Smith, advisor, notified commissioners of absence due to illness.

Opening Prayer: Reverend Shannon

Meeting commenced: 6:05 p.m.

Presentation: Chairman informed that Dr. Hart was not available to speak to the commission this evening. Minutes were read from the previous meeting. The quorum was not established; therefore, minutes were not approved.

Old Business:

Provided hand out of current resolution. It was reviewed and updates were rendered; however, additional information is needed related to statistical updates.

Additional focus area was added: Housing.

Survey preparation is not yet complete. Suggested that we have a subcommittee meeting prior to the next regular meeting.

Question asked...What has attributed to a decline in the poverty level in the city?

Chairman will follow up with workforce development to discuss factors relating to poverty decline.

Breakdown sessions: Dr. Roy and Pastor Shannon had a meeting to discuss how information will be presented to commissioners. Handouts were given regarding suggested categories to be explored.

Pastor Shannon elaborated on goals, resources and recommendation. For example: Education, each will have different sources and best practice to proceed.

Ms. Rhue: Are we going to look at adult education?

The commission had a brief discussion regarding crime in Petersburg and how police are addressing it. Pastor Tolbert provided us with updates and information regarding police presence and concerns in our community.

Dr. Roy posed a question as to how will we measure our goals? Description of anti-poverty goals were read by Mrs. Rhue. The commission will address this question by presentation time.

Commissioners discussed and asked questions concerning how to increase educational outcomes in our city. Some strategies were suggested that may be recommended. We need to take a look at school policies and see if they match what we will proposed.

Pastor Shannon asked how do we identify “gaps” in the system in order to reach our goals? Some factors to consider: numerous groups offering the same services, volunteers as tutors, locations and better communication.

Recommendation from members should have clear research components (website for example). The commissioners discussed the need for grants and cited resources that would make Petersburg a grant recipient. This would be a recommendation from commission.

Next meeting: Scheduled for March 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Ended: 8:00p.m.

Prayer: Pastor Shannon

Recorder: Barbara Hoosier

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION
AGENDA
FEBRUARY 28, 2020

**PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
March 12, 2020**

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Ms. Monica Huddleton-Elrod, Ms. Barbara Hoosier, Ms. Deborah Buford, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor.

The meeting commenced at **6:10 p.m.** The agenda items were approved.

Agenda items:

- I. Welcoming of Guest Presenter** - Dr. Alton Hart Jr, MD of Petersburg Health Care Alliance
- II. Questions & Answers Period**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Focus Area Breakdown Session**

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- I. Welcoming of Guest Presenter**
Dr. Alton Hart Jr, MD of Petersburg Health Care Alliance was unable to be present for the meeting tonight. Council member Treska Wilson-Smith will reschedule the presentation for April.
 - II. Questions & Answers Period-** presenter was unable to be present for questions and answers.
 - III. Approval of Minutes-** Minutes approved 2-13-20 and 2-28-20.
 - IV. Focus Area Breakdown Session:** Break out groups
 - Housing – Pastor Michael Shannon
 - Transportation – Mrs. Monika Huddleton-Ford
 - Education/Workforce - Enhance student academic performance, Job readiness – Dr. Rosezelia Roy

Housing:

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith Question: Lawyer from housing group emailed her. She inquired - should we talk with him to discuss housing project?

Pastor M. Shannon stated, he has the card of a woman that works with housing strategies. He will schedule a meeting and invite others from the committee to attend. He will provide committee members the date and time of the meeting in advance.

Pastor M. Shannon attended the (CACH) regional meeting related to homelessness.

Transportation:

Mrs. M. Huddleton-Elrod plan to ride the bus to Richmond to observe the transportation route and ask questions of passengers.

Pastor M. Shannon discussed the problems with bus routes in the community.

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MINUTES
March 12, 2020**

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith discussed the importance of ensuring that individuals are able to get to work by extending bus route to Perdue located in Prince George and factories located in Dinwiddie. It was suggested to research free transportation option that are offered in other localities.

Dr. Roy will research transportation grants that are provided in other localities. What is the current transportation best practices for Urban Transportation/Strategies/Results of surveys in Petersburg?

Pastor M. Shannon will reach out to other companies that serve the Hispanic population to address their transportation goals and new jobs.

Housing:

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith talked about a company purchasing Virginia Avenue Elementary school for a \$10.00 to transform area into an apartment complex. Comments on the organization, disproportion with owning the home and importance of children living in a home instead of a hotel.

Dr. Roy inquired if the purchase of Virginia Avenue would be a tax benefit to the City of Petersburg, low income home owners or improve home ownership.

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith is not sure if this would benefit the home owner. She will need to research the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

Education:

Dr. R. Roy stated that the current concerns of the school systems are high absenteeism, accreditation and academics. Need to increase the partnership with stakeholders and secure suggestions for best practices in these areas.

Pastor M. Shannon suggested to have a meeting with superintendent to talk about what certificates the youth can obtain while in high school, dual enrollment, accreditation of schools and level of education.

Dr. R. Roy proposed goals for education are to enhance student academic performance. To address building positive affects in school, obtaining job opportunities, readiness towards graduation, job training and more collaboration with school for dual degrees. How to reduce trauma and its effect on our children. The importance of educating parents to the needs and recommended solutions are also a concern.

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith suggested to add an office for social service to increase family involvement and improve absentee. Discuss option to look at year-around school, continuing education, adding strategic plan on Petersburg High School's website and implement a 5-year plan. She also expressed the importance of the Petersburg School Board and the City Council to have a better relationship.

Mrs. M. Huddleton-Elrod will attend (FACE) 3-13-20 at 12n-3p at PHS for Community Family Engagement.

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ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
March 12, 2020

Next Meeting: March 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. located on the 2nd Floor of the Bus Station. Pastor Michael Shannon will be unable to be present for the meeting.

Closing Time: 8:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor M. Shannon

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION
Agenda
May 14, 2020

Agenda items:

- I. Approval of Minutes** requested to review March 2020 minutes at the next meeting.
- II. Anti-Poverty Strategic Plan for the City (Research Strategies)**
- III. Questions & Answers Period**

**PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
May 14, 2020**

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Mrs. Florence Ruth, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor (Late)

Conference call: Number 978-990-5137 Access Code #: 5089599

Meeting commenced: 6:07 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Shannon.

Agenda items:

- I. Approval of Minutes** requested to review March 2020 minutes at the next meeting.
- II. Anti-Poverty Strategic Plan for the City (Research Strategies)**
- III. Questions & Answers Period**

*Dr. Roy announced that Michael Edwards submitted a letter of resignation to the Anti-Poverty Commission. Dr. Roy sent letter to Mr. Edward acknowledging his resignation and forwarded a copy to the commissioners. (Letter was reviewed by Pastor Michael Shannon and Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith prior to sending to Mr. Edwards.

Anti-Poverty Discussions noted in the following areas:

Housing:

Attorney Chris Bernhardt (Legal Aid) requested a meeting with commissioners as it related to our mission and the Housing (Eviction crisis). He conducted a presentation with another organization on (Eviction Rate in Petersburg). The presentation depicted Petersburg's national rate as it relates to evictions, are very high and increasing which causes a rise in homelessness. Legal Aid helps individuals by educating them about eviction laws and accompanying them to court for support, if needed.

Ms. Erica Holmes with the Crater Area _____ on Homelessness (CACH) is collaborating with Attorney Bernhardt to also help renters prevent eviction. Pastor Shannon requested to meet with Attorney Bernhardt. Dr. Roy will call to schedule a meeting for (Tuesdays or Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Pastor Shannon reported meeting with the Chair of Public Housing a couple of weeks ago to discuss transitional Housing Vouchers. The boarded-up apartment will be demolished and rebuilt minus one. Question: (What habits individual presented to cause eviction?) (What can be done before going to court?). During a discussion a lot of people don't have a lease and don't know about a lease.

-Discussed Virginia Avenue school purchased to build a complex.

Pastor Shannon discussed presenting to HUD needing assistance information in place for a proposal.

Transportation:

Discussed from the previous meeting transportation to out of reach area.

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MINUTES
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Workforce:

Mrs. Florence Ruth requested information from the Director of Social Services. Also, she is going to request information from Petersburg Superintendent referencing Goals & Objectives and how they are preparing students after graduation.

Dr. Rose Roy suggested to go on Petersburg website for an overview of goals. Referencing absenteeism in schools, how to reduce absenteeism, improve academics and family involvement. Researched information on community involvement due to low participation, reducing homelessness by providing job skills, opportunities, work-place flexibility, review analysis Studies groupings, and review Community wealth Building Project in Richmond.

Housing:

Advisor T. Wilson-Smith is not sure if this would benefit the home owner. She will need to research the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). (Comments shared from the last meeting)

Education:

Pastor Michael Shannon addressed the importance of youth graduating with a trade. (Corona has become a hinderance). What types of jobs are projected upon graduation for youth such as STEM/Trade/Associate Degree/Military? Individual will benefit with marketing programs in ways to aid those in poverty by motivation. Additionally, inform them of the products in ways that it will help. The Legislation venue is one way that will help individuals that have to work three jobs instead of one.

Florence: Question: How do we add a part of the plan to include education toward the community? How to combine resources to help to accomplish? Informed certain benefits are only eligible for assistance and require a level of education. (Workforce preparedness and implementation of steps).

Health:

Ms. Taylor suggested grants that are available: Healthy Cities Challenge. AETNA: <https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/healthiest-cities-counties-challenge.html>

Low performing students block grant-categorical programs: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/lpsbg.asp>

Notes:

Dr. Roy will contact other commissioners to provide an update, work with them individually if needed, and inform them about our next meeting, Encourage follow-up of strategies on their area of interest and grants available in these areas would be beneficial. The strategic resource form will also be forwarded again.

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Advisor Wilson Smith will forward information on low income tax credit She also discussed J.L.A.R.C.

Next Meeting: Friday May 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Closing Time: 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer: None, phone call ended abruptly. (conference call connection ceased.

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION
Agenda
May 29, 2020

- I. Opening with Prayer
- II. Thanks to Pastor Shannon for serving as host of teleconference.
- III. Approving the minutes of March 12, 2020 and May 14, 2020.
- III. Attorney Chris Bernhardt, Legal Aid Representative follow-up.
- IV. Commissioners presenting suggested best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg. Areas: Housing, Transportation, Healthy Communities Workforce Development/Education, Job Creation, and Policy/legislation
- V. Closing with Prayer

This e-mail serves as a reminder regarding our next scheduled meeting for Friday, May 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Conference Call (978) 990-5137, Access Code 5089 599#. Please review the attached minutes prior to the meeting and be prepared for changes and discussion, if needed, and approval.

**PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
May 29, 2020**

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder, Barbara Hoosier, Monica Huddleston-Elrod.

Conference call: Number 978-990-5137 Access Code #: 5089599

Meeting commenced: 6:18 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Shannon.

Agenda Approved:

- I. Opening with Prayer
- II. Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2020 and May 14, 2020.
- III. Attorney Chris Bernhardt, Legal Aid Representative
- IV. Commissioners presenting suggested best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg. Areas: Housing, Transportation, Healthy Communities Workforce Development/Education, Job Creation, and Policy/legislation
- V. Closing with Prayer

***Linwood Christian** was unable to be present for the meeting due to illness of his mother.

The minutes were approved by the commissioners.

Housing:

Pastor Shannon voiced that he and Dr. Roy had a meeting with Chris Bernhardt, Legal Aid Representative of Petersburg on May 26, 2020 to discuss ways to assist tenants and landlords in working together to prevent evictions and legal actions. Chris Bernhardt is willing to meet with individuals to educate them on the importance of having a lease agreement, assisting with understanding leasing agreement language and providing information on assistance programs. Also discussed were the court expenses occurred by which individuals are unable to afford. The ultimate goal addressed was to keep people from going to court. Atty. Bernhardt expressed concern regarding the Eviction Diversion Program being initiated in Petersburg. A strong criteria for the program relates to the City Council, supporting it. It doesn't have to be monetary. It can be in-kind. St. Joseph Villa can assist with the program since they have been successful in this area and can provide the appropriate services to the citizens. Atty. Bernhardt provided the policy of the Richmond Eviction Diversion Program which can be a blueprint for Petersburg's participation.

Pastor Shannon discussed creating a relationship with the schools regarding residential stability. Children possibly have to move several times throughout the school year which may cause poor academics outcomes. Dr. Roy will discuss adding topic to presentation to the City Council.

Ms. Huddleston-Elrod agreed with recommending St. Joseph Villa and Commonwealth Catholic Charities to assist in helping housing program in Petersburg. Members were in agreeance.

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Mrs. Hoosier inquired about the Habitat for Humanity program and wondered why it is not present in the Petersburg community. She called and inquired about the program. Habitat for Humanity is not accepting any new affiliates until 2022. Habitat would require 12 to 15 people to commit their homes. Richmond is not accepting new housing application until June or July when the offices reopen. The Fuller Center is similar to Habitat for Humanity. This organization referred her to Hillsville Virginia. Commonwealth Catholic Charities are supportive of housing programs. Title IV, funding through organizations, purchases previously owned government buildings or facilities that are currently closed. Mrs. Hoosier suggested that one of the building could be used as a homeless shelter and funding can be provided by a grant. Mrs. Hoosier contacted the Cameron Foundation. She was informed that they have closed the funding list for the year. Mrs. Hoosier expressed the importance of educating individuals in learning the steps to increase housing availability which can reduce the fear of residential stability.

Dr. Roy discussed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds that are designated for refurbishing homes in the city.

Pastor Shannon discussed the option to obtain federal funding to develop property in Petersburg. What are the requirements to receive federal funding and what is the criteria for the property? He also addressed the importance of increasing home ownership.

Ms. Huddleston-Elrod shared that the People Advantage Credit Union will help first time home buyers and the Fort Lee Credit Union has workshop for first time home buyers.

Dr. Roy discussed the first time home owner program sponsored by Regenesys organization.

Transportation

Ms. Huddleston-Elrod shared that Richmond has 120,000 jobs that cannot be access by transportation. The Pulse has expanded. Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) is currently free due to COVID-19. Monica Huddleston-Elrod has not had a chance to catch the bus to Richmond due to limitation.

Dr. Roy found information regarding organization donating bicycles for transportation especially homeless individuals trying to ascertain employment. She noted that Peoples Advantage Credit Union will help individual with obtaining car loans with suggested payment plan that will take in consideration their financial status.

Research is required to find the organization that receives donated vehicles that are donated to people located in Dinwiddie. An organization may possibly be in Petersburg.

Mrs. Hoosier saw a grant for donating cars.

Anti-Poverty Commission
Strategic Poverty Reduction Recommendations Worksheet

Focus area: _____

GOALS	CURRENT STATUS	BEST PRACTICES	IDENTIFY SOURCES	RECOMMENDATIONS

Anti-Poverty Commission
Strategic Poverty Reduction Recommendations Worksheet

Focus area: _____

GOALS	CURRENT STATUS	BEST PRACTICES	IDENTIFY SOURCES	RECOMMENDATIONS

PETERSBURG
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May 29, 2020

Workforce:

Dr. Roy ascertained a funding source with Bureau of Labor Statistics Funding (BLSF) information which can be utilized by everyone. Danville Community College has built an interactive community with stakeholders, and workforce initiatives. Ford Corporation has a national internship programs that collaborates with educators to develop internships. Individuals start business is also an option to consider. Individuals who have been incarcerated will need support with business development plans and ownership.

Pastor Shannon discussed collaboration with schools in setting goals to have students prepared for the workforce upon graduation. He voiced that when you have a workforce, you have to have trained employable individuals. These individuals must receive trainings through internships and apprenticeship in collaboration with companies that desires to enhance their workforce.

Dr. Roy sent an email to a Deputy Manager over six months ago referencing follow-up of workforce programs that was offered by the city. Pastor Shannon will follow-up to ascertain the status and outcomes of the programs sponsored by the city.

Education:

Pastor Shannon encouraged us to secure younger individuals' involvement and suggested to meet with the youth and Mrs. Annie Mickens to talk about what is working and what is not.

Pastor Shannon also suggested that churches could utilize their information boards/marques to post/share information.

Dr. Roy addressed the importance of improvement regarding communications via a variety of venues. I have witnessed organization desiring to help; however, are not aware of the needs. I have also witnessed low parent and community involvement. What can we do to enhance and address these concerns? What different models/strategies can be used to enhance family and community involvement. Another concern relates to students' absenteeism in schools. Utilizing the school as a community hub has been proven to benefit the community. The best practices reflect, for example, utilizing the school as a resource, using the facilities on Saturday, having schools open in the afternoon, serving as a centralized location for the community to meet and network with each other. Low performing students block grant-categorical programs were shared. Website: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ca/lpsbg.asp>

**PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION (APC)
MINUTES
May 29, 2020**

Health:

Issues/Concerns voiced by commissioners.

The hopelessness in Petersburg.

The health issues that are present in Petersburg at this time.

The COVID-19 sites. The Health care resources.

Notes:

1. Pastor Shannon inquired if we will be represented at the city council. Dr. Roy will inquire with Mrs. Treska about the date and time of presentation to the City Council and will follow-up with commissioners at the next meeting.
2. Mrs. Hoosier would like to receive the template for strategies. Dr. Roy will follow-up with her request.
3. Dr. Roy requested to place information on the sheet that was discussed today at the meeting so we can build on it during the next meeting.
4. Mount Olivet will provide hygiene products for individuals in need.
5. Possible resource for communication -VSU Mass Communication Department. Linwood Christian's son (mass communication major) may be a source to assist in strategies to provide information via different venues in the community.

Next Meeting: June 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Closing Time: 7:05 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Shannon

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor

PETERSBURG
ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION
Agenda
June 11, 2020

Agenda items:

- I. Opening with Prayer**
- II. Approving the minutes of May 29, 2020.**
- III. Yearly Anti-Poverty Commission's Report to City Council**
- IV. Social Services Updated Statistical Report**
- V. Commissioners present best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg in areas noted in our goals.**
- VI. Closing meeting**

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 11, 2020

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder, Mrs. Barbara Hoosier, Mr. Linwood Christian, Mrs. Florence Rhue and Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor.

Guests: Mrs. Deloris F. Smith, President, Harding and Shore Streets Neighborhood Association.
Ms. Davis, President, Delectable Heights Neighborhood Association

Conference Call: Number 978-990-5137 Access Code#: 5089599

Meeting Commenced: 6:11 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Shannon

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
- III. Yearly Anti-Poverty Commissioner's Report to City Council**
- IV. Social Services Updated Statistical Report**
- V. Commissioners present best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg in areas noted in our goals.**
- VI. Next meeting date**
- VII. Closing Prayer**

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- ❖ Minutes were requested to be approved. Motion was stated by Pastor Shannon and second by Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith with noted correction - Mr. Linwood Christian's son has graduated from Virginia State University.
 - ❖ Dr. Roy stated that we usually present our accomplishments to City Council for the year. Councilwoman Wilson Smith noted that many changes have been made since we are experiencing the COVID 19 pandemic. We usually present in June. Therefore, she suggested to write a letter to the City Council requesting a future date for the presentation, possibly December 2020 or June 2021. Dr. Roy and Pastor Shannon agreed to develop a draft letter for the commissioners' review.
 - ❖ Mrs. Rhue submitted updated statistical information from the Petersburg Social Services Director Mr. Stevenson. Information can serve as a resource in developing the report to submit to City Council. A copy was sent to each commissioner to review and discuss at the next meeting.
 - ❖ Resignation Dr. Riggins sent an e-mail that noted her resignation as of June 10, 2020 from the Anti-Poverty Commission. The letter of notification was read by Dr. Roy.
 - ❖ Commissioners to submit information to compile. She requested to utilize the (Best Practices, Proven Strategies) form and submit before the next meeting. It should reflect a draft of what we want to present to the City Council. If you have a problem with the format, submit information in a Word format.

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Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 11, 2020

❖ **Commissioners Discussion on Proven Best Practices to reduce Poverty in Petersburg**

Healthy Community: Housing

1. Mr. Christian would like to assist Mrs. Huddleston with researching housing initiatives due to his experience.
2. Dr. Roy conversed with Mr. Stevenson referencing the benefits chart for 2012 through 2019.
3. Mrs. Hoosier discussed the closing of the CARES shelter due to mold, repairs in the building and the need for additional shelter. Church group wanted to open a shelter, but concerned the city will prohibit a shelter to open at this time.
4. Mr. Christian expressed a concern regarding closing of the CARES women and children's shelter, St. Joseph Villa is helping people. They have received funding from the state. It was suggested in the last meeting that St. Joseph Villa could be the designed location for possibly administering the Diversion Eviction Program. Mr. Christian had concerns and objected to the suggestion. Dr. Roy stated St. Villa also received funding from the state to house individuals in the hotel.
5. Mrs. Hoosier stated that CARES residential area was closed. The staff has been relocated to the administration office on Washington Street. The Chairman of Board of Director for CARES requested to not have the shelter located in Petersburg because they would have to find a new house. She noted that the Board of Directors are unable to bring the CARES building up to code. Mrs. Wilson-Smith suggested to utilize the training school building near Central State. Mrs. Wilson-Smith would like to discuss with Ms. Fields, Chair of CARES Board there needs and address its issues with the Governor if approved. Dr. Roy desired to ascertain information (1) funding sources and (2) utilizing St. Joseph Villa as a resource (food and housing) for homeless individuals.
6. Pastor Shannon noted issues addressed by Petersburg Legal Aid. The issues related to the individuals' fees that come with legal actions. It creates a revolving door of monetary difficulties. They would like to prevent people from being evicted by corporation/landlords that own the property. Tenants should be educated on lease agreements, escrow, legal fees, landlord fee, court cost and charges. Mrs. Wilson-Smith informed the members regarding the beginning of state approved Reversion Clause effective date July 1, 2020. This clause supports the landlord instead of the tenant. Legal Aid is keeping an eye on Petersburg.
7. Dr. Roy shared that the Richmond Eviction Diversion Program could possibly serve as a blue print; however, would need the support of City Council. Mrs. Wilson-Smith requested the information on the Eviction Diversion Program from Legal Aid. She stated that she would contact them.
8. Mr. Christian shared with the members his experience as it related to a young woman that was being evicted. She contacted the neighborhood association linked with the Anti-Poverty Commission in Richmond. They helped the woman move into her own home. The commission reminded the landlord of the laws and policies during this period of (COVID-19). People are afraid of retaliation from the landlords and being taken advantage of.
9. Dr. Roy discussed possible proactive measures relating to having a mediator before court appearance for the purpose of resolving the issue. The Richmond Eviction Program has not been in existence for a long period in order to review outcomes.

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Transportation:

1. Pastor Shannon discussed the issue of persons not having transportation to certain parts of the city. He suggested to have a shuttle run from one place to another. This could also serve as job creation for transportation owners and/or drivers.

Education:

1. Pastor Shannon reported that he attended a video conferencing hosted by the Petersburg School Superintendent, Ms. Pitre-Martin and the Petersburg pastors and ministers. He noted that a lot of people were doing things for school and no one knows. The superintendent requested that: (1) inform the school of activities that churches sponsored to help children; inform the school regarding individuals that were willing to serve as mentors and exhibited qualities of commitment and consistency. Schools need greeters, lunch buddies, readers. Also, the school needs persons to help students with self-esteem concerns, to build healthy relationships, to recognize a child in crisis, and to encourage school attendance every day. (2) High school graduates are able to obtain an associate degree and high school diploma, ability to engage in the community and people who are willing to help. (3) Utilize people other than retired school teacher, will need committed individuals that can be utilize to work with children and utilize PTSA to discuss concerns.
2. Mrs. Smith inquired about the number of churches involved? Pastor Shannon replied that there are a number of churches involved.
3. Dr. Roy inquired if the churches are participating? She also discussed the importance of increasing parent and school involvement. Some of the best practices relates to keeping the school open all day, every day, and utilize for various outreach programs,
4. Mrs. Wilson-Smith discussed the importance of collaborating between the school and City Council. The schools have a gym that are almost new where the kids can have after school activities in the evenings with the support of Recreation Department. There are lower numbers in the elementary schools, meaning we have more class room space. She suggested to have a satellite office for social workers and police officers to be located at the school to build a relationship with the families and kids. She expressed that parents would go to Social Services to renew benefits, but will not go to the school." The City has to work with the school system.
5. Dr. Roy discussed year around school. Hopewell school will be used as a model. and benefits of year around school and will share the documentation. Mrs. Hoosier stated she worked in a year around middle school in North Carolina. She noted that parents had concerns at first, but the results were very successful.

Health Community:

1. Subcommittee: Health community/Housing: Mr. Christian, Mrs. Hoosier, Pastor Shannon and Mrs. Wilson-Smith.
2. Mr. Christian tasked to address healthy community/employment and education. Mr. Christian would like to work with Mrs. Hoosier on healthy community and requested her telephone number.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 11, 2020

Notes:

1. Dr. Roy: Inquired about the date to meet with City Council. Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith reported the committee usually presented in the month of June. The statistics for COVID-19 are changing and the Council has not created a make-up date to report. Mrs. Wilson-Smith suggested to draft a letter to postpone the council presentation for the Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) to December 2020 or June 2021 for the purpose of presenting our conclusion.
2. Dr. Roy and Pastor Shannon committed to drafting a letter to postpone the presentation to City Council.
3. Linwood Christian requested to converse with Dr. Hart. Councilwoman Treska Smith-Wilson will reach out to Dr. Hart. An invitation had been extended to him earlier; however, he was unable to attend.
4. Dr. Roy requested information before the meeting to compile on the form.
5. Mrs. Wilson-Smith announced the City of Petersburg and Preservation Task Force will be celebrating Juneteenth 6-19-20 First Baptist will celebrate Juneteenth at 1 p.m. Senator Joe Morrissey will speak.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 26, 2020

Closing Time: 8:07 p.m. Motion to close the meeting Mrs. Hoosier 1st, Pastor Shannon 2nd

Closing Prayer: Pastor Shannon

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor



CITY OF PETERSBURG

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

135 NORTH UNION STREET, PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA 23803
(804) 733-2323

June 30, 2020

Mayor Samuel Parham and
City Council Members
Petersburg City Council
135 Union Street
Petersburg, VA 23803

Dear Mayor Parham and City Council Members:

This letter is written to inform the Petersburg City Council members of the continued commitment of the Anti-Poverty Commission to serve the city and its constituents. Each year the commission makes a presentation to Council as it relates to our progress in meeting the goal of providing researched based best practices to reduce poverty in Petersburg.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in which all of us are experiencing, it has presented many challenges of the commission staying on its projected schedule. Our presentation to Council depicting our progress is usually executed during the summer months. Therefore, we are requesting to extend our presentation to a later date.

Please be assured that the Anti-Poverty Commission members are dedicated to bringing this charge to completion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosezelia Weaver Roy
Chairperson

Pastor Michael Shannon
Vice-Chairperson

City of Petersburg



Poverty Statistics

6/2020

Petersburg General Demographics

2020 Growth Rate (0.20%) Population 31,441 Growth Since 2010 (3.02%)

Demographic	Total	Percentage
Black or African American	24,574	77.21
White	5,519	17.34
Some other race	706	2.22
Two or more races	609	1.91
Asian	324	1.02
Native Indian and Alaska Native	79	0.25
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	16	0.05

() equates to negative

Gender

Gender	Total	Percentage
Male	14,651	46.03
Female	17,176	53.97

Median Age

Median Age	Male	Female
38.7	36.2	41.3

Population by Year

Year	Population	Growth	Annual Growth Rate (Percentage)
2020	31,441	(63)	(0.20)
2019	31,504	(63)	(0.20)
2018	31,567	(68)	(0.21)
2017	31,635	(63)	(0.20)
2016	31,689	(302)	(0.94)
2015	32,000	(236)	(0.73)
2014	32,236	(71)	(0.22)
2013	32,307	317	0.99
2012	31,990	(93)	(0.29)
2011	32,083	(413)	(1.27)
2010	32,496	(1,244)	(0.37)

() equates to negative

Poverty Levels Comparisons

Virginia Highest Poverty Levels by County/City	National Lowest Poverty Levels
1. Emporia City 29.0	1. New Hampshire 7.6
2. Harrisonburg 28.2	2. Hawaii 8.8
3. Buchanan 27.6	3. Maryland 9.0
4. Greensville 26.7	4. Utah 9.0
5. Petersburg 25.8	5. New Jersey 9.5
6. Galax City 25.5	6. Colorado 9.6
7. Martinsville City 25.5	7. Minnesota 9.6
8. Wise 25.4	8. Massachusetts 10.0
9. Lee 24.8	9. Washington 10.3
10. Charlottesville City 24.6	10. Connecticut 10.4
11. Richmond City 24.5	11. Virginia/North Dakota 10.7

Source: www.factfinder.com/united-states/quick-facts/virginia/percentage-of-people-at-all-again-poverty#table

Poverty Level By Race

Race	Total	In Poverty	Below Poverty Rate
Black	24,226	6,480	26.75%
White	4,564	965	21.14%
Hispanic	1,477	358	24.24%
Other	699	140	20.03%
Multiple	594	120	20.20%
Asian	324	104	32.10%
Native	79	68	86.08%

Household Types

Average Family Size 3.22

Type	Count	Average Size	Owned
All	13,274	2.34	40.5
Non-Family	6,420	1.25	32.5
Married	3,105	3.03	61.5
Female	3,103	3.73	33.4
Male	646	3.18	53.1

Renter versus Owner Occupied Household Types

Rate of Home Ownership 40.5%

Type	Owner	Renter
Married	61.5	38.5
Male	53.1	46.9
All	40.5	59.5
Female	33.4	66.6
Non-Family	32.5	67.5

Education

Educational Attainment	Count	Percentage
Less than 9 th Grade	1,347	6.12%
9 th to 12 th Grade	2,845	12.92%
High School Graduate	7,562	34.33%
Some College	5,124	23.26%
Associates Degree	1,179	5.35%
Bachelor's Degree	2,363	10.73%
Graduate Degree	1,605	7.29%

Educational Attainment by Race

Race	Total	High School	Bachelors
Black	16,863	13,552	2,412
White	3,750	3,356	1,248
Hispanic	774	403	129
Other Race	362	152	16
Multiple Races	305	243	21
Asian	279	267	21
Native American	79	29	
Islanders	5		

Income by Education Attainment

Name	Average	Male	Female
Overall	\$29,916	\$35,603	\$25,807
Less Than High School	\$17,188	\$17,250	\$17,172
High School Grad	\$26,078	\$32,468	\$19,155
Some College	\$30,168	\$32,259	\$28,794
Bachelors Degree	\$42,647	\$43,598	\$41,993
Graduate Degree	\$55,889	\$74,567	\$49,583

Poverty Level By Education



Income/Employment Rates

Index	Petersburg	Virginia	National
Income per capita	\$20,464	\$34,967	\$29,829
Median household income	\$32,169	\$66,149	\$55,322
Median income owner occupied	\$47,261	\$82,180	\$70,586
Median income renter occupied	\$25,257	\$42,712	\$35,192
Median Earnings Male	\$30,019	\$42,712	\$36,919
Median Earning Female	\$22,199	\$29,664	\$26,250
Unemployment rate	7.9%	3.8%	4.7%
Poverty Level	29.4%	11.4%	15.1%

Source: www.census.gov/p2010br01/va/employment

Poverty Level by Employment Status

Gender	Below Poverty Level
Female Unemployed	52.75%
Male Unemployed	38.95%
Female Employed	14.33%
Male Employed	9.75%

Department of Social Services Benefit Program Statistics

Fiscal Year	SNAP	TANF	MEDICAID	ALL PROGRAMS	CHILD CARE		Energy Assistance Program (Households Participating)		
					Families	Children	Fuel	Cooling	Crisis
FY 2012	14,910	2,165	10,742	17,373	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FY 2013	15,295	1,968	12,143	18,148	385	636	1,812	851	210
FY 2014	15,021	1,884	12,180	17,994	447	741	1,516	892	217
FY 2015	14,682	1,872	12,904	18,493	428	727	1,524	953	211
FY 2016	13,926	1,634	13,803	18,847	303	536	1,431	903	181
FY 2017	13,847	1,443	14,104	18,724	242	424	1,410	1,001	170
FY 2018	12,807	1,295	14,451	17,956	191	342	1,511	996	222
FY 2019	11,187	1,228	15,012	17,253	208	362	1,604	1,024	221
% CHANGE	(1%)	(1%)	1%	(1%)	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

54.8% of Petersburg Residents received benefits services (SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid) during FY2019.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC)
Agenda
June 26, 2020

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update Yearly Anti-Poverty Commissioner's Report to City Council
- IV. Review Social Services Updated Statistical Report
- V. Commissioners present best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg in areas noted in our goals.
- VI. Next meeting date
- VII. Closing Prayer

This program is neither endorsed nor required by the Richmond General District Court.
- NOT AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION BY THE COURT -



RESOURCES MAY BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE TENANT PAY PAST DUE RENT

City of Richmond Eviction Diversion Program (EDP)

To Take Part in the EDP, the Tenant Must:



- Come to court on the court date and pay 25% of the amount due.
- Explain the reason for falling behind in rent.
- Be able to pay ongoing rent when due **AND** catch up on the back rent.
- Have a good rent paying record:
 - Not been late more than twice in a 6-month period.
 - Not been late more than three times in a 12-month period.
 - Not been in an EDP in the last 12 months.
 - Not had an unlawful detainer dismissed by paying current in the last 6 months.

Landlords may be able to get owed rent:



Are you interested in possibly getting the rent money owed? Want to avoid the loss of rent during an eviction process? Don't want the hassle of finding a new tenant?

- Give this flyer to the tenant.
- Encourage them to call **1-833-663-8428, press 4.**
- If the tenant qualifies, an EDP Representative will contact both the landlord and tenant to proceed.

The EDP is designed to benefit both parties.

Participation Requires the Landlord's Agreement. If not, the case will be handled in the usual manner.



To see if the EDP is right for you, call
1-833-663-8428, press 4



as soon as possible before the court date, and leave a message.

The Eviction Diversion Program is Available **ONLY**:

- To tenants renting in the **City of Richmond.**
- **AFTER** an unlawful detainer (eviction lawsuit) has been filed against the tenant.
- **BEFORE** a judgment of possession (court order) has been made in that lawsuit.
- If the **SOLE ISSUE** between landlord and tenant is nonpayment of rent.
- If the landlord and tenant agree on the amount due as of the court date.



City of Richmond Eviction Diversion Program

Eviction Diversion Program is three-pronged approach

1. **Legal Aid Assistance** - Connect tenants with legal voluntary conciliators to mediate that rent arrearage,
2. **Financial Assistance & Counseling** - and financial aid to avoid displacement from evictions and solutions to help them solve their debt problems through budgeting and a housing management plan.
3. **Supportive Services Referral** – Contact resource list for mainstream family programs, including food and utility assistance. Educational and workforce development.

Program Criteria Our program criteria currently mirror the proposed statewide mandatory eviction diversion program starting July 1, 2020.

I. **Legal Assistance**

Tenants who qualify may ask the Judge to be put into the EDP. If the landlord agrees, the case will be put into the EDP. If the landlord does not agree, the case will be handled in the usual manner. To qualify for the EDP, a tenant must meet these guidelines.

1. Nonpayment of rent must be the only issue between the landlord and the tenant.
2. The tenant must come to court on the **Return Date** and ask to be in the EDP.
3. The landlord and the tenant must agree on the **Amount Due** as of the **Return Date**.
4. The **Amount Due** is all amounts claimed in the **Summons for Unlawful Detainer** (rent, late fees, damages, court costs and attorney's fees), and,
5. A new month's rent, and a new month's late fees, if those have become due.
6. On or before the Return Date, the tenant has paid the landlord or the court at least 25% of the **Amount Due** as of the Return Date.
7. The tenant testifies he or she has sufficient funds to make payments under the EDP.
8. The tenant testifies as to why he or she fell behind in rent.
9. In the past 12 months, the tenant has not been late in rent more than two times in a 6-month period or more than three times in a 12-month period.
10. The tenant has not used the **Right of Redemption** – had a Summons for Unlawful Detainer dismissed by paying current – in the last 6 months.
11. The tenant has not participated in an EDP in the last 12 months.
12. Household income cannot exceed 80% of the Richmond median household income.

II. **Financial Assistance & Counseling**

For a tenant to qualify for **Financial Assistance from HOME** they meet the above referenced criteria and complete the following:

1. The landlord and tenant must have a Court-Ordered Payment Plan and Order of Continuance.
2. The tenant will contact to schedule an appointment for the counseling within seven (7) calendar days of the **Return Date**. The tenant must bring to the session proof of current income and other documents.
3. Clients will participate in the group counseling session that will cover budgeting, managing money, reading and understanding a lease, and rights and responsibilities as a tenant.
4. Within ten (10) calendar days after the session is completed, **HOME** will issue to the tenant a **Financial Assistance** check (or checks) payable to the landlord.

Petersburg General District Court – Unlawful detainer (eviction) filings

2016 - 3,600 unlawful detainers filed

2017 - 3,800 unlawful detainers filed

2018 - 4,241 unlawful detainers filed

2019 - 3,209 unlawful detainers filed (preliminary numbers)

Petersburg Census Stats

Population 2018 - 31, 587

Housing units - 16,349

Percent of housing units owner occupied 41.7%

Households 13,262

As probably over half of all households (6,631) in Petersburg rent, there were approximately .6 unlawful detainers per renting household in Petersburg in 2018. Another way of saying that is that in 2018 there were 60 unlawful detainers (eviction lawsuits) per 100 renting households).

Renter's Rights

Renter's 'Know Your Rights' Townhall

Delegate Lashrecse Aird, 63rd District

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

What we will cover today:

- Eviction Process and Protections
- Petersburg Eviction Diversion Program
- Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP)
- Staying Safe at Home
- Update on Water and Utilities
- Tell us your housing concerns!

Petersburg has an Eviction Problem:

Roughly half of all households (6,631) in Petersburg rent. In 2018 there were approximately 60 eviction cases per 100 renting household in Petersburg.

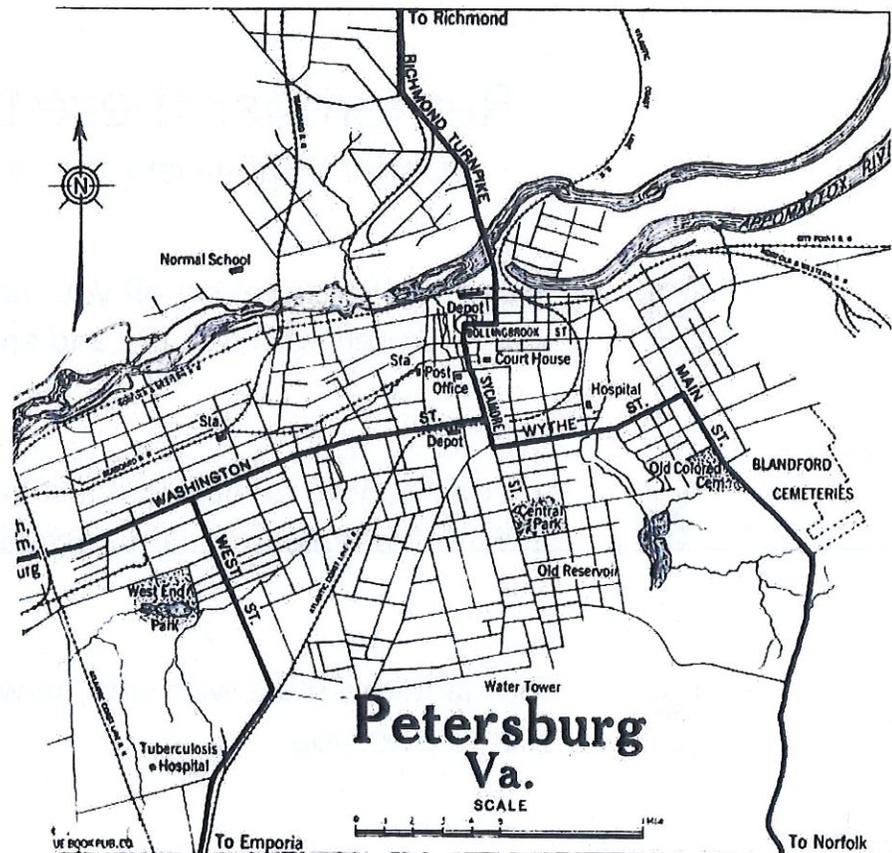
- 2016 - 3,600 evictions filed
- 2017 - 3,800 evictions filed
- 2018 - 4,200 evictions filed

Population 2018 - 31,587

Housing units - 16,349

Percent of housing units owner occupied 41.7%

Households 13,262



Remember these three things:

(Under Virginia law, these are always true)



Your landlord cannot cut off your utilities, lock you out, or take other actions to deny you free use and enjoyment of the home.



You do not have to move out just because your landlord tells you to leave or files an eviction case against you.



Your landlord must wait until he wins in court and the sheriff has a writ to evict you.

Eviction Process in Virginia

Your landlord cannot evict you without a court order, no matter what your lease says.

You do **NOT** have to move just because your landlord:

1. Tells you to leave
2. Gives you a written "pay or quit" notice
3. Has you served with a "Summons for Unlawful Detainer"
4. Has you served with a "writ of eviction" by the sheriff

GET LEGAL ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

You might be able to fight your eviction. It depends on the facts of your case. Only an attorney can tell you for sure. The earlier in the process you learn your rights and options, the better chance you have to avoid eviction.



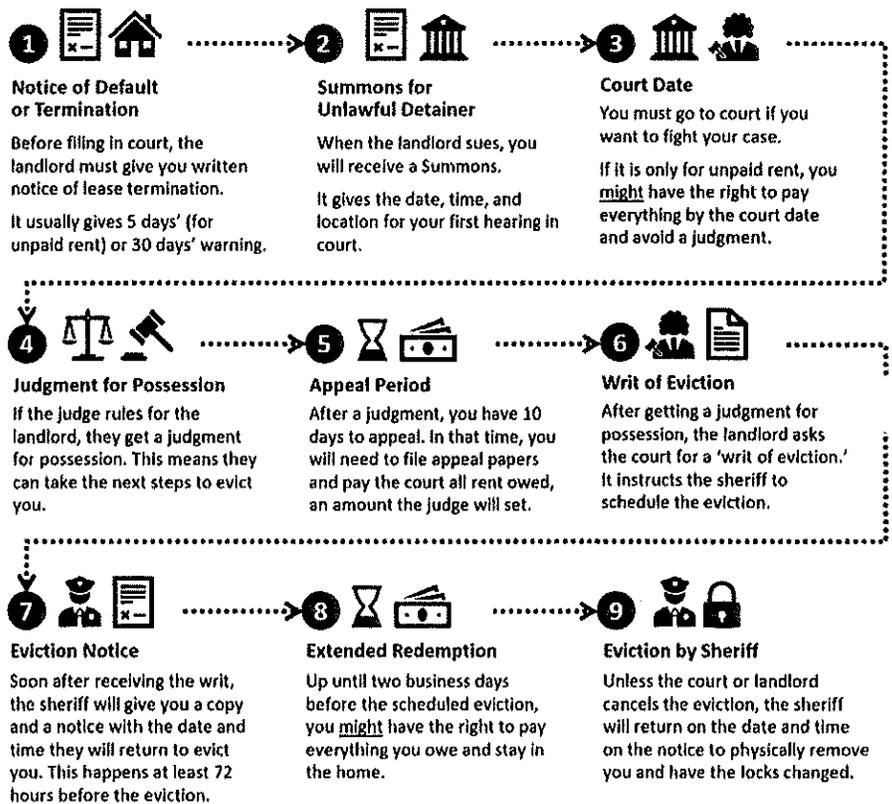
Call for free legal
information and advice.

EVICTON LEGAL HELPLINE
1-833-NoEvict

or

LEGAL AID
1-866-534-5243

Eviction Process in Virginia

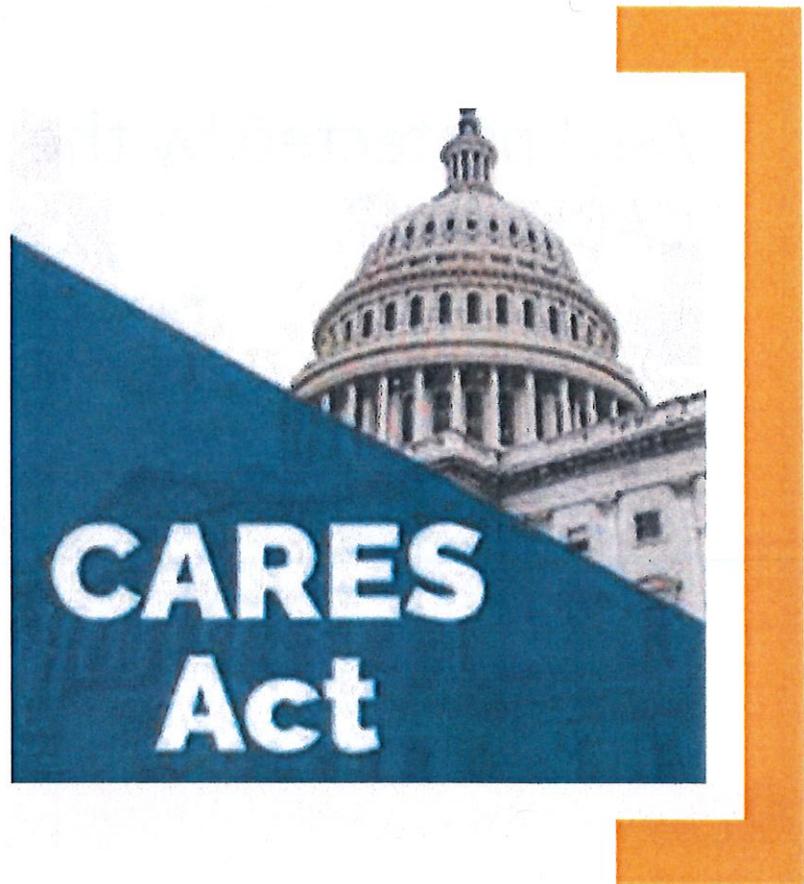


Federal Pause on Some Evictions:

Congress passed the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on March 27, 2020 to provide relief to tenants and homeowners.

Under CARES Act, certain landlords:

- Cannot charge late fees for late or unpaid rent.
- Cannot begin evictions against tenants for unpaid rent until after July 25th.
- After July 25th, must give tenants a 30 days notice before beginning an eviction case.



Am I protected by the CARES Act?

What is the reason for the eviction?

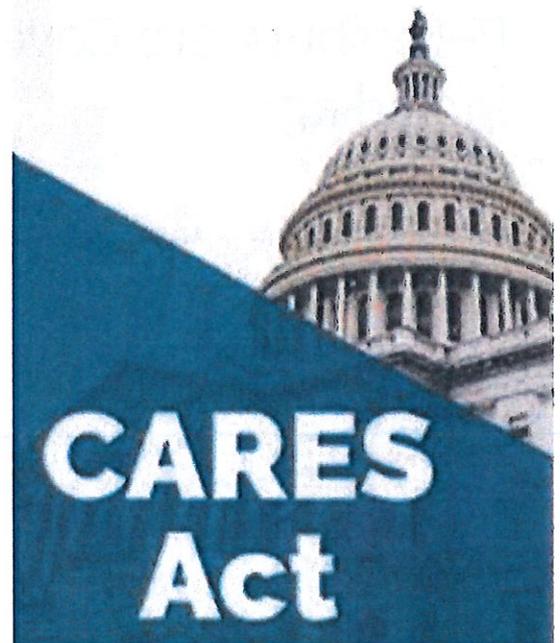
- **Unpaid Rent or Fees:** If you live in housing covered by the CARES Act (see above), your landlord cannot charge you late fees or begin an eviction case against you for unpaid rent until July 25, 2020. After that, your landlord must give you written notice at least 30 days before filing an eviction case in court.
- **Any Other Reason:** Your landlord can still file an eviction lawsuit against you for other reasons.



Am I protected by the CARES Act?

What type of housing do you live in?

- **Subsidized housing:**
 - "Section 8" and "Rural Development" Housing vouchers
 - Section 8 project-based housing
 - HUD-subsidized senior housing and other HUD subsidized housing
 - USDA-subsidized housing
 - Tax Credit or "LIHTC" housing
- **Private, non-subsidized housing where the landlord has a federally backed mortgage:**
 - HUD (including FHA) mortgage
 - USDA mortgage
 - VA (Veteran Affairs) mortgage
 - Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage



Over 30 Properties in Petersburg are Covered, including:

- Jefferson South of the James
- Pinetree Apartments
- Liberty Pointe
- Addison Crater Woods
- Crater Square Apartments
- Woodmere
- Lieutenant's Run
- Liberty Pointe
- Westover Commons
- Carriage House



Are you eligible to delay your eviction case under state law?



Did you lose income due to COVID-19?



Do you have a first court date for an eviction case (and "unlawful detainer") scheduled before the end of the COVID-19 emergency?



If you meet both of those requirements, you may be able to get a 60-day delay in your case.

What do I
need to do to
get the 60-
day delay?

Show up to your first court date

Bring written proof that you lost income,
such as:

- A paystub showing zero dollars in earnings
- A furlough notification letter from your employer
- An 'essential employee status letter' stating that you were 'nonessential'
- A signed affidavit by you stating that you lost wages during this period due to the COVID-19 emergency

Ask the judge for a 60-day "continuance"



Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program

Lost income because of COVID-19? Virginia's Rent Relief Program may be able to help.

Virginia's Rent and Mortgage Relief Program starts June 29, 2020. This program can pay rent for eligible households. This is limited to past due rent beginning April 1, 2020 and onward.



Are you eligible for rent relief?

- Do you have a valid lease in your name or other document showing a landlord-tenant relationship?
- Did you have loss of income due to COVID-19?
- Is your monthly rent at or below 150% of fair market rent?

	<u>1 bedroom</u>	<u>2 bedrooms</u>	<u>3 bedrooms</u>	<u>4 bedrooms</u>
Richmond/Petersburg area	\$1,398	\$1,591	\$2,115	\$2,529

- Is your gross household monthly income at or below 80% of area median income (AMI)?

	<u>1 in house</u>	<u>2 in house</u>	<u>3 in house</u>	<u>4 in house</u>
Richmond/Petersburg area	\$4,170	\$4,767	\$5,362	\$5,958

If you meet all these requirements, you may be able to get rent relief.



What are my choices?

You and your landlord must agree to one of these choices:

Option #1 – Rent relief that pays one month of current rent and up to three months of past due rent, with the landlord forgiving an equal number of months of unpaid past due bills (rent and all associated fees).

Option #2 – Rent relief that pays one month of current rent and up to one month past due rent, with the landlord agreeing to a payment plan up to six months in length for any remaining unpaid past due bills (rent and all associated fees).



Who do I contact?

To conduct a self-assessment for eligibility, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility or call 211 VIRGINIA by dialing 2-1-1 from your phone.

- City of Richmond, counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan – call **ACTS, 804-644-2401**
 - Cities of Petersburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, county of Dinwiddie- call **St. Joseph's Villa, 804-722-1181**
 - Counties of Prince George, Surry – call **The Improvement Association, 434-634-2490**
 - City of Charlottesville, counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson – call **Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, 434-326-0950**
-

Petersburg
Eviction
Diversion Pilot
Program

Starting **July 1, 2020**, tenants in Petersburg who are behind on their rent have the option to avoid an eviction judgment that would be on their rental record by entering into a payment plan.

To Participate
in the Eviction
Diversion
Program,
Tenant must
meet these 3
rules:



Non-payment of rent is the only
issue.



Landlord and tenant agree on
the amount owed.



Tenant has paid the landlord or the
court at least 25% of the amount
due on or before the first court date.

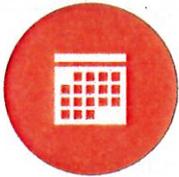
To participate in the program:



Tenant testifies he or she has sufficient funds to make payments under the payment plan.



Tenant testifies why he or she fell behind on rent.



In the past 12 months, tenant has not been late in rent more than 2 times in a 6 month period or more than 3 times in a 12 month period.



Tenant has not used the right of redemption – had eviction dismissed by paying amount owed – in the last 6 months.

The Court-ordered payment plan provides these terms:



Payments to landlord by cashier's check, certified check, or money order



Landlord receives payments on or before the 5th day of each month included in the plan.



1st payment is 25% of the amount due the month following the first court date.



2nd payment is 25% of the amount due the 2nd month following the first court date.



3rd payment is 25% of the amount due the 3rd month following the first court date.

Limits on Late Fees:

Your landlord is limited in the amount of late fees for late and unpaid rent they can charge you.

1. Starting April 22, 2020, Late fees are capped at either 10% of the rent amount or 10% of the amount you owe your landlord, whichever is less.
2. Your landlord can only charge you late fees if your written lease agreement allows.
3. For properties covered by the CARES Act, landlord cannot charge late fees, penalties or other charges related to the nonpayment of rent.



Ban on Source
of Funds
Discrimination
§§ 36-96.1:1,
36-96.3

Starting July 1, 2020, sources of funds will be added to the reasons why a person may not be denied housing under the Virginia Fair Housing Law.

Protects prospective home buyers and renters.

Source of funds = "any source that lawfully provides funds to or on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing, including any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program, whether such program is administered by a governmental or nongovernmental entity."

Exceptions to Source of Funds Protection:



Does not apply to owners of four or fewer rental units in Virginia, or those who own a 10% or less interest in four or more units.



Does not apply if the source of funds is not approved within 15 days of submitting the request to approve the tenancy.



IMPORTANT: HUD has temporarily waived inspection requirements for the Section 8 voucher program.

Statement of Tenant Rights and Responsibilities §55.1-1243(B)



Landlords (public & private) must offer prospective tenants a statement of tenants' rights and responsibilities that will contain the telephone number and website of the statewide legal aid organization.



Statement will be available on the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) website.



Statement must be signed by landlord and tenant.



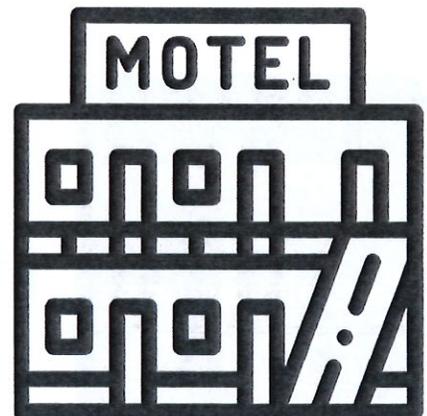
Landlord may not sue tenant in court *for any reason* unless statement has been signed.

What to do if your landlord illegally evicts you:



Evictions from Hotels & Motels

- If you have lived in a hotel or motel for MORE THAN 90 DAYS, you are a tenant and the hotel owner or manager cannot evict you without taking you to court and getting a court order.
 - “Live in” means it is your only home.
 - If you are a tenant (>90 days), the landlord must give you a “5 day pay or quit” notice before he can take you to court in an eviction case for not paying.
- If you have lived in an a hotel for less than 90 days, the landlord can evict you using “self-help”, like rekeying your door. BUT, if the eviction is for not paying, they must still give you a written notice five days before evicting you.



Staying After the Lease Ends



You and your landlord can agree to extend your lease until a date after it is scheduled to end. Make sure you get any agreement to extend your lease in writing!



If your landlord agrees to let you stay but doesn't give you a new written lease, the terms of the lease that expired still apply but your landlord can charge you a different rent amount if he gives you 30 days notice.



If you remain in your rental home after your lease expired without the agreement of your landlord, the landlord must go through the usual process to evict you.



If your landlord doesn't say anything about letting you stay but continues to accept rent from you after your lease ends, you might have the right to remain in your home depending on whether your landlord accepted your payments "with reservation."

Repairs & Maintenance During COVID-19



Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, your landlord must provide you with a safe and healthy place to live. If something breaks, send a letter to your landlord asking for repairs right away.



Your landlord has the right to enter your home to make emergency repairs, even without your consent. Any emergency is anything that can cause you harm if not fixed, such as a gas leak.



You have the right to refuse entry to your landlord for non-emergency maintenance IF your refusal is reasonable.

Safety at Home

These are stressful times because risks to our health require many of us to stay home.

For some, staying home doesn't always feel safe because someone there may threaten or hurt you.

If you are in immediate danger, please call 911. You are the best judge of safety in your situation.



Can your landlord terminate your lease if you are a victim of domestic violence?

- **NO!** Your landlord cannot terminate the lease solely due to domestic violence or family abuse against a tenant.
- **To avoid responsibility under your lease for the acts of the abuser:**
 - Provide your landlord with written documentation corroborating your status as a victim of family abuse;
 - Notify landlord within 24 hours if that perpetrator has returned to the home in violation of an order barring them from the property.



Becoming a Tenant if You are a Victim of Domestic Violence:



A victim who is not a tenant or authorized occupant may be granted possession of the home to the exclusion of a tenant or authorized occupant via a final protective order.



To become a tenant, provide a copy of the order and submit a rental application to the landlord within 10 days of entry of the order.

If you meet the landlord's criteria, you may become a tenant.
If the landlord rejects the application, you have 30 days from notice of the rejection to vacate the home.



If you do not provide a copy of the protective order to the landlord and submit a rental application to the landlord within 10 days of entry of the order, you have to leave the home no later than 30 days of the entry of the order.

You may be liable to the landlord for failure to leave the home.

Ending Your Rental Agreement Due to Domestic Violence

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, you can end your lease and leave early. To do so, you must:



1) Send your landlord a written notice that you are terminating your lease.



2) Include a copy of either an active protective order or a court order criminally convicting your abuser.



2) Send the notice 30 days before your next rent payment is due.

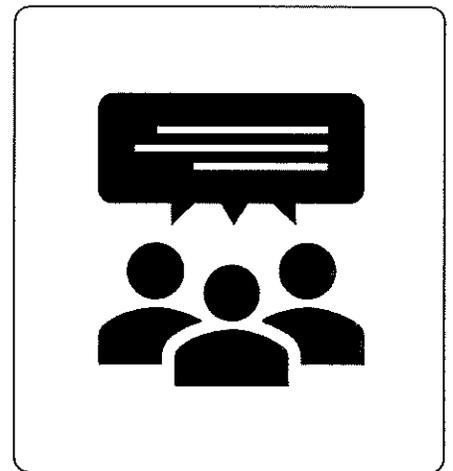
Petersburg Water Disconnections

- If you are a Petersburg resident, and your water was disconnected between July 1, 2019 and Jan, 31, 2020 due to delinquency on your bill, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance toward that bill.
- To begin the process of receiving assistance, contact Pathways in Petersburg at www.pathways-va.org/ or 804-862-11041.
- You will need to fill out and submit a disclosure form, a copy of your ID, and a water bill for Pathways to begin the work.

We want to hear from you!

- What problems are you seeing/experiencing related to housing?

To speak, use the raise hand function in zoom.



Contact:

Eviction Legal Helpline:

1-833-NO-EVICT

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society:

804-862-1100 or 804-200-6046

www.cvlas.org

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 26, 2020

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder, Mrs. Barbara Hoosier, Mrs. Florence Rhue and Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor.

Conference Call: Number 978-990-5137 Access Code#: 5089599

Meeting Commenced: 6:13 p.m.

I. Opening Prayer: Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
- III. Update Yearly Anti-Poverty Commissioner's Report to City Council**
- IV. Review Social Services Updated Statistical Report**
- V. Commissioners present best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg in areas noted in the goals.**
- VI. Next meeting date**
- VII. Closing Prayer**

Agenda: Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith made motion to accept the agenda. Mrs. Florence Rhue second the motion. Agenda approved.

- ❖ Pastor Shannon reported he would be unable to be present for the meeting.
- ❖ Linwood Christian reported he would be unable to be present for the meeting.

II. Minutes were requested to be approved by Dr. Roy.

Motion for approval of minutes was stated by Mrs. Hoosier and second by Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith. Minutes approved.

III. Update Yearly Anti-Poverty Commissioner's Report to City Council:

Dr. Roy and Pastor Shannon drafted a letter to present to City Council. The purpose of the letter was to request a later date for our yearly presentation. Dr. Roy read the draft letter. The commissioners recommended the notation "a later date" statement for the presentation. After discussion, the commissioners agreed. Dr. Roy stated she will make the adjustments and send later after obtaining Pastor Shannon's signature.

Dr. Roy discussed updating the status of active commissioners. Dr. Roy inquired from Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith about the application noting that the City Council should contact the commissioners to ascertain if they desire to continue participation on the commission. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith will make a motion with City Council to reinstate commissioners and notify request from new member. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith requested to resend applications.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 26, 2020

IV. Review Social Services Updated Statistical Report

Dr. Roy stated during the last meeting that we did not have time to review the statistical data that Mrs. Florence Rhue collected from Social Services. Mrs. Rhue described the Petersburg Social Service data. The information presented caseloads benefits and data reflecting demographic information. Dr. Roy reviewed the statistical data and the information provided on renters versus ownership, poverty rate, educational obtainment. She requested others to review the information. This information directly relates to our research efforts.

Dr. Roy inquired about the Petersburg Comprehensive Plan Survey. She stated that the results of the survey will render what the residents of Petersburg desires for the city. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith will request the survey results.

V. Commissioners present best practices and proven strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg in areas noted in the goals.

Healthy Community: Housing

1. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith was able to discuss the Eviction Diversion Program (EDP) with Chris Burdthart, Legal Aid Representative Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith requested to meet to discuss working with organization and St. Joseph Villa. She shared the idea to use the grounds of Central State for the program.
2. Dr. Roy requested to have the Eviction Diversion Program (EDP) on the Best Proven Strategies form.
3. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith stated she thought that she needed the Council to approve the Program for Petersburg.
4. Mrs. Florence Rhue informed the commissioners that Delegate Aird had a legal aid forum to present (EDP) to Petersburg as a part of the pilot program. The program supposed to start July 1, 2020.
5. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith attended the meeting in Richmond to hear the decision on the program. Petersburg was not mentioned and no one was contacted. Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith contacted the appropriate department, with positive results to include Petersburg on the initial start date of July 1, 2020.
6. Mrs. Florence Rhue read the meeting notes about the pilot program from the House of Delegates and shared that there was no need for Council's action.
7. Mrs. Florence Rhue informed the commissioners about the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA)-<https://naca.com>. The corporation will work with people who want to buy homes.
8. Dr. Roy discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which provides funds to rehab historical or residential homes in the area.
9. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith reported that there supposed to be a board of citizens to help make decisions on the CDBG funding. The last citizen board was in 2017. Since then the information has been gathered by the city. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith expressed the importance of having citizens involved. Without their presence, the distribution of funding does not appear to be fair. Downtown Churches United and Tabernacle Baptist Church received funds. There are employees that go into the community to view derelict houses. Their salaries are provided by CDBG. The board must have at least 7 people. She will contact the CDBG person to verify qualification to serve on the CDBG board.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 26, 2020

10. Dr. Roy asked Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith whether she will meet with Cares board's chair. Since the city representative has followed up with the board's chair, she will not contact her.
11. Mrs. Barbara Hoosier provided updates on Cares access. Cares shelter is closed, only providing food and clothes. Other concerned were shared.

Workforce:

1. Dr. Roy wanted to know the employment rate of unskilled workers and how to get people employed. Pastor Shannon will follow-up on the development of the workforce.
2. GO Virginia project has been instituted in Petersburg. The Crater District must match the funding. A participant in the project is Advance Manufacturing Workforce in Prince George which prepares unskilled individuals to develop skills.
3. Websites to review:
<https://www.virginiabusiness.com>
<https://govirginia3.org>, <https://govirginia.org>,
<https://naca.com>

Transportation:

1. No discussion was rendered regarding the area of Transportation.

Education:

1. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith suggested to go to the school's website to see what grants are being utilized.
2. Dr. Roy discussed the importance of parent involvement. Mrs. Florence Rhue requested to meet with the School Board Office to review goals and accomplishment.
3. Mrs. Florence Rhue sent an email to Mrs. Leanne Lytle with the Cities in Schools to discuss the goals for the 2020-2021 school year with hopes she will share information. The City Council and school board may share the same goals.
4. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith stated Pastor Shannon and Dr. Roy will set up a meeting with Ms. Lytle, Community in School Director. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith informed commissioners about the School Board zoom meeting. She shared that the School Board reported not having enough school buses due to not being able to transport all the kids on the bus. Kids will have to start loading the bus at different times starting at 5:30a.m. The school cannot have all the kids in school at the same time.
5. Dr. Roy will follow-up with Pastor Shannon on contacting the Deputy City Manager referencing the employment of 25 individuals participating in the workforce wraparound services. She also wanted to know the employment rate of unskilled workers' opportunities for employment. Pastor Shannon will follow-up on the workforce program.

Healthy Community:

1. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith discussed the Richmond Times Dispatch article relating to the water issue. She shared that the city representative stated will be short million

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
June 26, 2020

of dollars because of the water issue. She also shared that the City Attorney has recommended that the city sue the state as it relates to sanctioning the city.

2. Other concerns were voiced as it related to processing utility payments in a timely manner, new city department relating to neighborhood concerns and income of city officials.

Notes:

1. Dr. Roy reviewed the Best Proven Strategies form. If unable use in format, submit in Word format,
2. City of Petersburg Resource guide located on the website.
3. Councilwoman Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith received 20 boxes to distribute to the elderly and children in her ward.
4. Meeting July 9, 2020 meeting. Corrections needed to June 26, 2020: Corrections to minutes: p. 2 IV, second paragraph, second sentence should be "residents", p. 2 Healthy Community: Housing #7 should read Mrs. Florence Rhue, (NACA); p.3 Education #3 should read Florence Rhue sent an email to Mrs. Leanne Lytle with Cities in Schools.

Next Meeting: Friday July 9, 2020 at 6 p. m.

Closing Time: 8:04 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Mrs. Florence Rhue

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 9, 2020

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder, Mrs. Barbara Hoosier, Mrs. Florence Rhue.

- ❖ Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice-chairman, attended funeral out of town and Councilperson Treska Wilson- Smith was not feeling well.
- ❖ **Conference Call:** Number 978-990-5137 Access Code#: 5089599

Meeting Commenced: 6:10 p.m.

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Yearly Anti-Poverty Commission Update to City Council**
- V. Commissioners Presenting Best Practices and Proven Strategies to Reduce Poverty in Petersburg**
- VI. Anti-Poverty Survey Draft**
- VII. Announcements**
- VIII. Closing Prayer**

I. Opening Prayer: Dr. Roy

II. Agenda: Mrs. Hoosier motioned to accept. Ms. Taylor second the motion to approve agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were requested to be approved by Dr. Roy.

- a. Corrections were made to June 26, 2020 meeting minutes as follows:

Correction to June 26, 2020: Corrections to minutes: p. 2 IV, second paragraph, second sentence should be "residents", p. 2 Healthy Community: Housing #7 should read Mrs. Rhue, (NACA); p.3 Education #3 should read Ms. Rhue sent an email to Mrs. Leanne Lytle, Director, Petersburg City and School Partnership

- b. Motion for approval of minutes by Mrs. Hoosier and second by Ms. Taylor with correction.

IV. Yearly Anti-Poverty Commission Update to City Council

1. Dr. Roy discussed the content of the letter addressed to City Councilmembers and Mayor. The letter was signed by Pastor Shannon and Dr. Roy and mailed.
2. Dr. Roy discussed approval of applications of commissioners.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 9, 2020

V. Commissioner Presenting the Best Practices and Proven Strategies to Reduce Poverty in Petersburg.

Healthy Community: Housing

1. Mrs. Hoosier checked on the Eviction Diversion Program in Richmond. The program appears to be beneficial and has met a third of its goals - helping up to 500 people.
2. Mrs. Hoosier discussed another program called (HOME) Housing Opportunity Made Equal. The mission of the program is to have equal housing for everyone and to gain access to obtaining a home. The program helps individuals have a clean slate, obtain referral sources, provide renter assistance, assist with taking you through a step by step process, provide a counselor, find a home, and negotiate for you. Dr. Roy and Mrs. Florence Rhue inquired if (HOME) program has a program in Petersburg. Per Ms. Hoosier, the program is located in Richmond, Va.

Workforce:

No discussion on Workforce.

Transportation:

No discussion on Transportation.

Education:

1. Mrs. Rhue received an email from Mrs. Lytle Director of Petersburg City and School Partnership. Mrs. Florence Rhue summarized the email which addressed the mission and vision of the partnership and informed the commissioners that an information session will be held this summer to discuss the strategies to help the students. The City and School Partnership is associated with a nationwide initiative through the United Way. Mrs. Rhue wanted to know if they can work together and would like the education commission to understand how it works.
2. Dr. Roy inquired about the school's objectives for the year 2020-2021 school year. She previously collaborated with Mr. Brandon Jones on family and community involvement in the Petersburg schools. Mr. Jones is no longer employed by the Petersburg School System. A new initiative for the school was mentioned – (Positive Behavioral Intervention Support - PBIS). The program is based on a proactive model with the teachers and students involvement. The information is located on the Petersburg Public School System's website. J.E.B Stuart is executing the pilot program.
3. Dr. Roy discussed the importance of the community and schools working together. Dr. Roy and Pastor Shannon are on the education committee. Ms. Lytle has been instrumental with executing issues between the school and community. Discussion has been rendered regarding the importance of improving communication between school and community to include addressing the limited parent involvement. Mrs. Lytle and Dr. Roy discussed having people who are interested in accomplishing goals in the program. Issues discussed were as follows:

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 9, 2020

(1) how can we enhance what we are doing? (2) Have they had a positive outcome? (3) How to build strategies to have a positive outcome?

VI. Anti-Poverty Survey Draft:

1. Dr. Roy reviewed the Draft Survey. Dr. Roy would like to execute on Survey Monkey. The survey can be completed on individual's cell phone or computer. Survey Monkey is a free app.
2. Dr. Roy presented the suggestions of Pastor Shannon. Response after discussion of commissioners.
#1. No #2. No. Very general. #3 Yes. #4. No. #5. No.
3. Mrs. Rhue stated suggestion about the survey.
 - a. #2. How to answer by selecting: All that apply, Rank or Select One. Mrs. Barbara Rhue suggested #2 should be ranked. Dr. Roy- # 2 is an answer for the individual.
 - b. #3. How to answer by: select one or write-in.
 - c. #4 How to answer by: add personal answer.
 - d. #6 Change the word "communicating" and to "inform" citizens of resources available. Suggestion to add: Ethnicity?
4. Dr. Roy inquired to keep salary? Commissioners response, Yes
5. Mrs. Barbara Hoosier suggested to keep the survey at five question. Mrs. Florence Rhue stated will the survey capture enough information with five question or keep it at least ten question.
6. Dr. Roy reviewed the draft of the survey.
 - a. Mrs. Rhue suggests to take out question #2, #3 or keep #2 and delete #3.
 - b. Reviewed question #5. Agreed to delete #5 and keep #6.
 - c. Repeated reviewal of questions: #1. Keep #2. Keep and rank the answers. #3. Keep. #4. Delete and replace. # 5. Revising. #6. Does not do a good job of information citizens of the resources available. #7. Make this last question. #8. Keep. #9. Add race. #10. Keep.
 - d. Mrs. Rhue suggested having an introduction with an explanation of poverty and including the poverty guidelines issued by the state.

Mrs. Rhue suggested that the survey be placed on the city website. Dr. Roy will talk with Councilperson Treska Wilson-Smith to inquire and look into other venues to distribute the survey for example church websites.

Suggestion by Mrs. Rhue: Joint Ward meeting (Ward 6 and 7) scheduled for July 28, 2020 at 6p.m. at Cool Springs Elementary School in the back-parking lot. At this time, the survey can be passed out during the meeting.

Discussion regarding Department Social Services (DSS) inquiry contact information

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 9, 2020

Provided to Mrs. Barbara Hoosier - Suggested to email concerning the communication with DSS. Contact Mr. Steven Norris, Director of DSS, (Norris.stevenson@dss.virginia.gov). It was suggested her directors to Mr. Norris.

VII. Announcements:

1. Dr. Roy will send out the updated survey for review prior to the meeting to get everyone opinion.
2. Seven new buses were purchased by a grant and Petersburg. The information about the buses was announced in the Progress Index.
3. A Pop-up Market (vegetables) has been instituted. The first located has been noted at 1140 Farmers Street.
4. Question: Where to get your COVID-19 tests?

Next Meeting: Friday, July 24, 2020 at 6 p.m.

Closing Time: 8:04 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Dr. Roy

Recorder: Ms. Keitoya Taylor

benchmark

base chart

PETERSBURG ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION SURVEY 2020

POVERTY REDUCTION – "YOUR THOUGHTS"

The Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission's purpose is to present to the City Council strategies to reduce poverty in Petersburg. Poverty is a state or condition when persons experience lack of finance to meet their basic needs even when they are employed. Petersburg poverty rate is 24.1% compared to the rate in Virginia as 10.7% (U.S. Census Quick Facts Estimate 7-1-2020). As part of the project your thoughts are very important. Please fill out the survey below. It will take less than 5 minutes. No self-identification is required to complete this survey. Thank you.

1. How does poverty affect you and your family?

- Greatly
- Moderate
- Slightly
- Not at all

2. If the city works in a variety of ways to reduce poverty which programs work best for you.

(Rank by No. 1 - 7 with number one being what works best for you and 7 as least)

- Transportation
- Literacy/training/education
- Awareness and collaboration
- Income and employment
- Health
- Housing
- No answer known/not applicable/No

3. If the city could do one more thing to reduce poverty in the city, what should it be? (Rank by No. 1- 7 with number one being the best thing and 7 being the least)

- Transportation
- Literacy/training/education
- Awareness/collaboration
- Income and employment

Health

Housing

No answer known/not applicable/No

4. Do you think that the schools are adequately preparing our students to succeed in the world of work, college, military, and others upon graduating from high school?

Yes

No

5. Does Petersburg do a good job in informing citizens of resources available?

Yes

No

Sometimes

6. Tell us a little about yourself. What is your age?

Under 18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

7. Ethnicity

Black/Afro-American

White

Asian

Hispanic or Latino

Other

8. How long have you lived in Petersburg?

___ Under 5 years

___ 5 to 15 years

___ 16 to 25 years

___ over 25 years

9. What is your approximately annual household income?

___ Under \$15,000

___ Between \$15,000 and \$29,000

___ Between \$30,000 and \$49,000

___ Between \$50,000 and \$74,000

___ Between \$75,000 and \$99,00

___ Over \$100,000

If you desire, please share comments.

Poverty Definition – Investopedia

How the **Census** Bureau Measures **Poverty**. ... 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**. The official **poverty** thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). Aug 27, 2019

U. S. Census Quick Facts Poverty Estimate as of 7/1/2020 for Petersburg is 24.1% and for Virginia is 10.7%.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC)
Agenda
July 24, 2020

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Anti-Poverty Survey Revision Draft**
- V. Meeting with Leanne Lythe, Director, City and School Partnership**
- VI. Commissioners Presenting Best Practices and Proven Strategies to Reduce Poverty in Petersburg**
- VII. Announcements**
- VIII. Next Meeting Date**
- IX. Closing Prayer**

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 24, 2020

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice Chairman, Ms. Monica Huddleston-Elrod.

- ❖ Mrs. Rhue informed that she was unable to be present for the meeting. Pastor Tolbert requested an absence from meetings for a period; however, he wanted to remain involved.

Conference Call: Number 978-990-5137. Access Code#: 5089599

Meeting Commenced: 6:10 p.m.

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Yearly Anti-**
- V. Poverty Commission Update to City Council**
- VI. Commissioners Presenting Best Practices and Proven Strategies to Reduce Poverty in Petersburg**
- VII. Anti-Poverty Survey Draft**
- VIII. Announcements**

I. Opening Prayer: Pastor Shannon

II. Agenda: Dr. Roy requested a motion to accept the Agenda. The motion was made by Pastor Shannon and seconded by Mrs. Huddleston-Elrod. The agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minute: A request was voiced by Dr. Roy to accept the minutes. Mrs. Huddleston-Elrod made the motion and it was seconded by Pastor Shannon. The minutes were approved.

IV. Yearly Anti-Poverty Commission Update to City Council

1. Letter to the Petersburg City Council has been signed by Pastor Shannon and Dr. Roy and mailed. Requesting later date for presentation to Council was the purpose of the letter. No response has been received.

V. Commissioner Presenting the Best Practices and Proven Strategies to Reduce Poverty in Petersburg.

Healthy Community

Pastor Shannon provided information on a grant designed to increase knowledge of finances. There are eight program modules. The purpose of the program is to reach out to people before they are in crisis. 1. Designed to assess the present funds and future plans. 2. Learn to have available funds at an individual's disposal. 3. Actualizing goals and 4. Provide connection with a financial provider.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 24, 2020

Workforce:

Dr. Roy reported that Danville had received an award for workforce development. Danville will provide free education for those who are unemployed. John Tyler Community College has a new building related to workforce development. Do we have any information regarding the Petersburg Works project? It focused on workforce development. It focuses on the importance of having a wrap-around services for participants while maintaining an employment. She also gained information regarding the Crater District Workforce.

Transportation:

No discussion on Transportation.

Education:

1. Pastor Shannon the Zion Baptist church family implemented a youth essay contest on COVID-19 virus and how youth are addressing the virus. Also, members have collaborated to focus on helping students to enhance their reading skills. Sponsoring Lakemont Elementary School Grade K-5 was also a goal. Exciting and motivating children regarding learning will be the focus. Helping individuals to receive their GED will also be a focus.
2. Pastor Shannon and Dr. Roy met with Mrs. Leanne Lytle, Director of City and Schools Partnership, United Way.
3. Dr. Roy reviewed web sites provided by Mrs. Lytle and forwarded her e-mail to commissioners. Mrs. Lytle also forwarded grant opportunities.

VI. Anti-Poverty Survey Draft

1. Dr. Roy requested commissioners to review the survey. Changes suggested to the survey: Pastor Shannon suggested to the revise the definition to a basic definition and possibly interject a chart to see the poverty rate. Also add homeless population and information from the Department of Social Services.
2. Dr. Roy discussed where to distribute the survey. Options: Ward meeting, Petersburg City's website.
3. Pastor Shannon suggested that the next meeting be held at the Petersburg Transit Station. Dr. Roy will check with Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith to confirm meeting at the transit station. Meeting will focus on documenting strategies.

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC) Minutes
July 24, 2020

VII. Announcements:

1. Joint ward meeting (Ward 6 and 7) scheduled for July 28, 2020 at 6p.m. at Cool Springs Elementary School in the back-parking lot.
2. POP-UP produce farmer market located on Farmers Street. Dates on 1st 3rd Friday 11am to 3pm
Cost: produce box cost \$20, \$10 to all community SNAP members.
3. Pastor Shannon will provide announce to the Petersburg pastors via e-mail.
4. Dr. Roy announced that a student received scholarship from Virginia State University and his ultimate goal was to build a homeless shelter.
5. Dr. Roy will need a deadline date to distribute the survey.
6. Pastor Shannon will follow up with Petersburg Works. Follow up with Mr. Pride for HUD to provide a facility and what the proposal intel.
7. Dr. Roy and Atty. Berdthart are working on the Eviction Diversion Program. Unable to reach him. He would like persons to volunteer for the program.
8. Mrs. Leanne Lytle is on the leadership team of the Southside Trauma Informed Community network. She would like for us to attend the Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 20th, 7 pm. She also shared that the Asset Income Constraint Employment (ALICE) report has just been release. She suggested that we review it.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 13 at 6 p.m.

Closing Time: 7:32 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Shannon

Recorder: Keitoya Taylor

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC)
Agenda
August 13, 2020

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. Anti-Poverty Proven Best Practices Framework Review and Documentation (Areas: Education/Workforce Development, Healthy Community, Transportation, Job Creation, Policy/legislation, Research/Evaluation)**
- V. Announcement(s)**
- VI. Next Meeting Date**
- VII. Closing Prayer**

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION METING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020
6:00 PM

Attendees: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Recorder (by phone), Mrs. Monica Huddleston-Elrod, Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith, Mrs. Florence Rhue, Ms. Deborah Buford, Ms. Beverly McLaughlin, Ms. Barbara Hoosier.

Conference Call: Number 978-990-5137. Access Code#: 5089599

Meeting Commenced: 6:10 p.m.

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Anti-Poverty Proven Best Practices Framework Review and Documentation (Areas: Education/Workforce Development, Healthy Community, Transportation, Job Creation, Policy/legislation, Research/Evaluation)
- V. Announcement(s)
- VI. Next Meeting Date
- VII. Closing Prayer

I. Opening Prayer: Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith

II. Agenda: Presented agenda and motion to approve minutes.

III. Approval of Minutes: Dr. Roy motioned for the minutes to be approved. Commissioners had not reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Approval will be requested at the meeting on September 10, 2020.

IV. The main focus of this meeting was to review our research and respond to questions.

Dr. Roy reviewed how to find information regarding topics and importance of finding researched based best practices. Ms. Leanne Lytle, Director of Petersburg City and School Partnership, United Way shared resources that we could review. If you have concerns utilizing the research form, please type in Word and forward to Dr. Roy or Keitoya Taylor. Remember to help each other with finding resources and collaborate on different areas. Example: Mrs. Hoosier will research information on Policy and Environmental approach to health disparities. Also, she will research different areas, including grants that would be initiate in Petersburg for resiliency. Dr. Roy noted that research can be initiated by your cell phone through search engines, for example Google.

Comments voiced at meeting such as (1) importance of having transportation available (2). learning how to obtain employment and (3) securing an education to pull themselves out of poverty.

ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

6:00 PM

Councilwoman. Treska Wilson-Smith shared additional information regarding the Eviction Diversion program.

Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith discussed informative option to inform individuals in the community. Many retired teachers are returning to the school system to help with educating students.

Mrs. Huddleston noted information regarding Urban Transportation Assessment of jobs to elevate community. Goals are to improve transportation, resources and bus routes.

Dr. Roy noted requesting the response from the Petersburg transportation survey. Councilwoman Wilson-Smith will invite them to our next meeting to share information regarding the results of the survey. The Community Block Development Grants was also discussed.

Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith shared information regarding the Petersburg Water issue. Gave contact information for individual that were having water issues.

Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith will invite Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Superintendent of Petersburg School System and Mrs. Leanne Lytle and Ms. Pamela Bell to our October meeting via Zoom to share information regarding Petersburg School System current goals.

Dr. Roy met with Mrs. Leanne Lytle as it relates to education and health issues and trauma informed community.

Survey Monkey- Ms. Taylor will follow-up on corrections.

Announcement: Mrs. Florence Rhue shared information regarding the Annual Poverty Symposium on Social Determinants of Health and Construct of Health which was conducted in October 2019. This is an area that we may want to consider as a focus.

VI. Next Meeting: September 10, 2020 at 6 p.m.

VII. Closing Prayer: Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Time: 8:00 p.m.

Recorder: Ms. Keitoya Taylor

PETERSBURG ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

MEETING ATTENDEES: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice-Chairman, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor and Mrs. Florence Rhue.

Guest Presenter: Mr. Charles Koonce, Director, Petersburg Transit and Mr. Darius Mason, Operations Manager

Opening Prayer: Pastor Michael Shannon

Mr. Koonce and Mr. Mason were introduced to the Anti-Poverty Commission by Dr. Roy.

The following information was shared:

- Shared excerpts from the Petersburg Transit Development Plan
- Announced groundbreaking ceremony of new parking deck which will be located on Union Street, no cost to city. All funds are generated by the federal government. Visual presentation was shared.
- Transit provides free fare.
- Social Distance and other COVID-19 preventive measures are adhered to.
- Transit system is primarily funded by the federal government. The city provides minimal funding.
- Purchased new buses. Determined bus sizes by evaluating the services needed and the best utilization of funds. It was determined to purchase more smaller buses and less large capacity buses.

- Researching increased ridership of transit and increased distance availability. Reviewing possible collaboration to secure transfers to location with availability to Williamsburg and Virginia Beach.
- Reviewing turnaround times for ridership on city lines.
- Considering available transit on Sundays.
- Shared that all buses are handicapped accessible.
- Conversing with city departments regarding handicapped accessible curbs and tree cutbacks for the purpose of viewing bus line signs.
- Shared that some bus lines have been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 situation, for example Central State.
- Continue to work on a collaboration with Colonial Heights.
- Shared the results of transit survey response. Taking in consideration all concerns.
- Shared concerns regarding the City trolleys. Most are city property and is housed by the city. The transit owns and houses one trolley.
- Provides reduced fares to veterans, senior citizens, and children
- Provides transit by bulk tickets sales
- Established a community collaboration with Peoples Advantage Credit Union. Donation received \$5,000 for a project.

Commissioners comments:

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

- Establish free fares all the time.
- Rent bicycle which will provide healthy alternative for transportation.
- Conversed regarding taxi transportation.

Pastor Shannon

He spoke with Ms. Darnette Tyus of Petersburg regarding the "work-Force development program she is working with. Ms. Tyus stated the work (in part) has been contracted out. Mr. Sean Nicholson is taking the lead on One Stop Shop. Ms. Tyus stated she would reach out to Mr. Nicholson on my behalf of our commission.

Mrs. Rhue

Mr. Koonce indicated the challenge during the pandemic is limiting the number of passengers. Citizens don't seem to grasp the importance of observing those safety precautions.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

The City Council meeting on September 1, the Anti-Poverty Commission was on the agenda to address update approval of members. Closed session was observed and therefore it will be addressed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: September 25, 2020.

Meeting Closed at 8:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michael Shannon

Recorder: Dr. Roy

increase in productivity in 2017. Passenger trips per revenue hour remained relatively consistent over this timeframe. Finally, the farebox recovery ratio decreased since 2014, slipping from 16% down to 13% for fixed route services.

Table 3-9. Fixed-Route Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2014	2015	2016	2017
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Mile	\$6.44	\$6.12	\$6.77	\$7.77
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Hour	\$77.50	\$69.57	\$68.26	\$61.55
Operating Expenses per Passenger Trip	\$7.40	\$7.48	\$7.15	\$5.99
Trips per Vehicle Revenue Mile	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.3
Trips per Vehicle Revenue Hour	10.5	9.3	9.5	10.3
Farebox Recovery Ratio	16%	16%	13%	13%

Source: NTD

Paratransit operating costs per vehicle revenue mile have decreased dramatically every year over the four-year time frame. Over the same time, the operating expenses per vehicle revenue hour have fluctuated but show an overall decreasing trend since 2014. Passenger trips per vehicle revenue mile remained consistently low, whereas passenger trips per vehicle revenue hour saw an increase. The farebox recovery ratio has improved substantially from 2014 to 2017, growing from 6% up to 15%.

Table 3-10. Demand-Response Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2014	2015	2016	2017
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Mile	\$5.72	\$4.12	\$2.42	\$1.72
Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Hour	\$19.43	\$23.05	\$13.83	\$18.35
Operating Expenses per Passenger Trip	\$28.63	\$27.38	\$15.00	\$12.35
Trips per Vehicle Revenue Mile	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Trips per Vehicle Revenue Hour	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.5
Farebox Recovery Ratio	6%	6%	11%	15%

Source: NTD

3.4 Public Outreach – Survey Findings

A survey was conducted to gain insight into the demographic characteristics and travel behaviors of riders and non-riders as well as gather feedback from the community on the existing impressions of the service and desired improvements. Responses collected through the survey are summarized in the following sections and this data was used to inform the service and capital improvement plan.

3.4.1 Survey Methodology

The survey was developed using MetroQuest, a web-based platform specializing in public engagement. The survey was made available online via a link on the City of Petersburg's website and was accessible from both computers and mobile devices. In addition, a paper

version of the survey was also distributed and collected at PAT's transfer center. The survey was available from October 5, 2018 to November 15, 2018.

3.4.2 Survey Results

A total of 96 people participated in the survey, including 53 respondents via web or mobile device and 43 respondents via paper surveys. To understand the needs of the community and rider market, survey respondents were asked if they ride the bus frequently, ride the bus less frequently than they previously had, or do not ride the bus. The survey responses were organized by respondents' identification of themselves as a "Frequent Rider", "Less Frequent Rider", or "Non-Rider" and the results for these three categories were summarized. The survey also asked all respondents (riders and non-riders) to indicate origins and destinations of frequent trips, as well as how they would prioritize investments to the transit system.

3.4.2.1 Frequent Rider Results

Frequency

A total of 60 respondents indicated that they were frequent riders of PAT. The majority (67%) indicated they used the system four or more days a week and an additional 12% rode the bus two to three days a week.

Table 3-11. Riding Frequency of Frequent Riders

Riding Frequency	Response Frequency
1 day a week	3%
2-3 days a week	12%
4 or more days a week	67%
less than once a month	10%
once or twice a month	8%

Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

Reason for Riding

When asked to indicate the reasons that respondents use transit, the most common motive for taking transit was not having a vehicle available (67%), followed by trying to save money (28%), being disabled or unable to drive (15%) and being less stressful (13%). This indicates that there is a very large percentage of PAT riders who are transit dependent and underscores the importance of PAT's role to provide mobility in the Petersburg community.

Table 3-12. Reasons for Riding the Bus

Reasons for Riding the Bus	Response Frequency
I don't have a car	67%
To save money	28%
I'm disabled or unable to drive	15%
It's less stressful	13%
To save or better utilize time	5%
It's difficult or expensive to park	5%
It's a safer way to travel	0%

1. Sum of responses may be more than 100% because respondents had the option of choosing multiple categories.

Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

Socioeconomic Data

Respondents that frequently use the transit system were primarily female (63%), lived in a household without an automobile (53%), and had a household income less than \$15,000 (46%). Respondent ages varied, with ages 60 or older being the most common at 23%, followed by 20 to 29 (21%), 50 to 59 (21%), and 40 to 49 (19%).

3.4.2.2 Less Frequent Rider Results

Respondents who indicated they use the transit system less often than they once did were asked the reason for less frequent usage. The most common reason provided for not taking the bus as often was using other travel modes (38%), including walking, biking, Uber/Lyft, or taxi. Fare changes (13%) and gasoline becoming cheaper (8%) were the least common reasons respondents provided for riding the bus less often.

Table 3-13. Reasons for Riding the Bus Less Frequently

Reasons for Riding the Bus Less Frequently	Response Frequency
I use other travel modes (walking, biking, Uber/Lyft, taxi)	38%
Service hours were reduced	33%
My route was eliminated	29%
I prefer to drive	21%
I get a ride from a friend	21%
Fare changes	13%
Gas has become cheaper	8%
Other	8%

1. Sum of responses may be more than 100% because respondents had the option of choosing multiple categories

Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

3.4.2.3 Non-Rider Results

About 18% of survey respondents indicated that they did not ride the bus. Table 3-14 summarizes the reasons respondents provided for not riding the bus. Some of the most common responses were that the bus takes too long or isn't frequent enough (35%) and that respondents need a car because their schedule varies a lot (18%). These results may indicate that increasing the frequency and/or flexibility of the transit system may lead to new riders. In addition, twelve percent of the non-rider respondents stated that they did not know how to use the service and six percent didn't know the service existed. These responses may indicate that greater public outreach efforts could help to increase awareness of the service and attract new riders.

Table 3-14. Reasons for Not Riding the Bus

Reasons for Not Riding the Bus	Response Frequency
It takes too long or isn't frequent enough	35%
I need a car because my schedule varies a lot	18%
I prefer to drive	18%
I don't know how to use the service	12%
I prefer to use other travel modes	12%
Cost	12%
I didn't know the service existed	6%
Other	6%

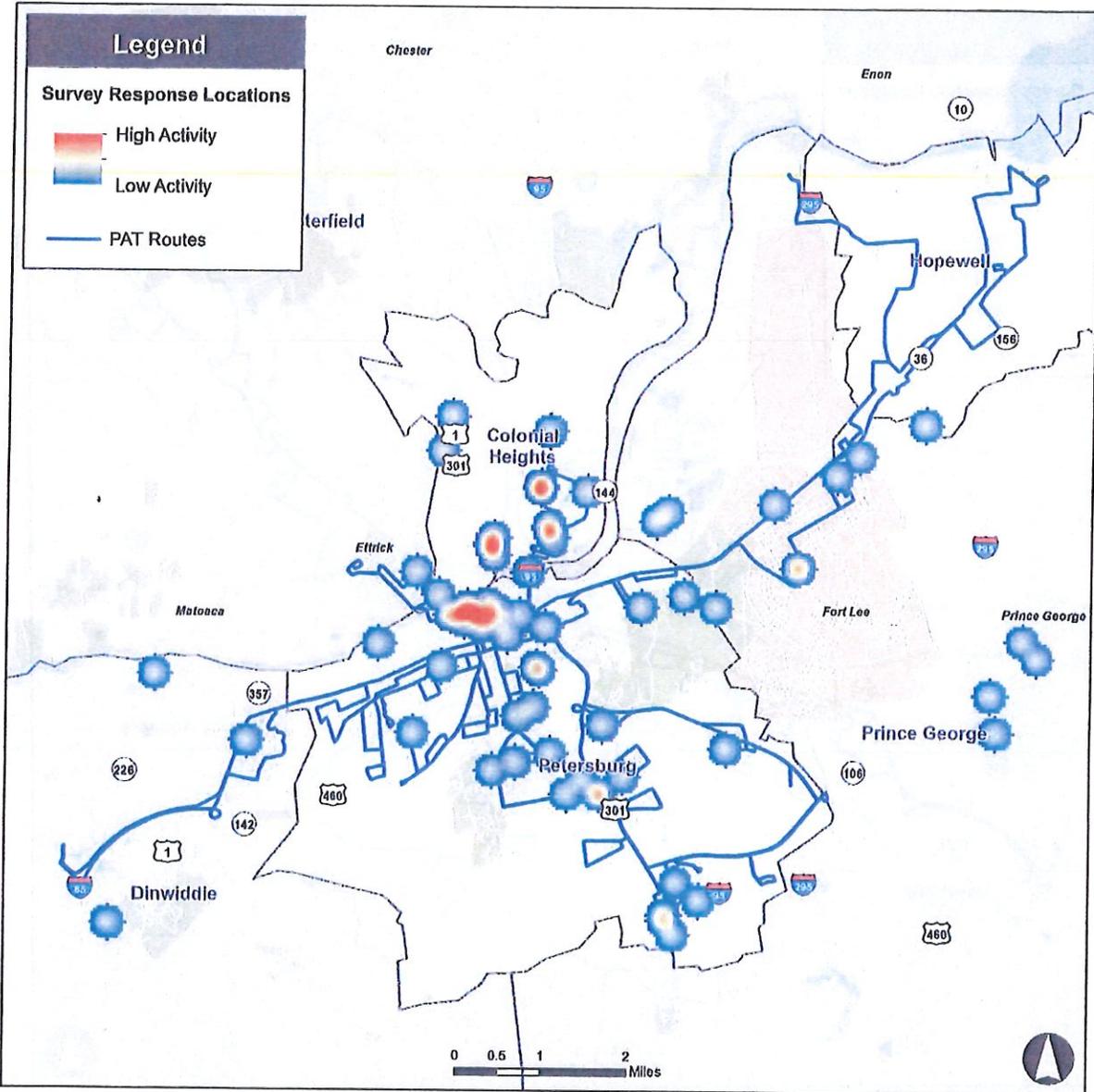
1. Sum of responses may be more than 100% because respondents had the option of choosing multiple categories.

Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

3.4.2.4 Origin-Destination Locations

All online survey respondents (frequent rider, less frequent riders, and non-riders) were asked to map their typical travel patterns on an online map using markers for "Home", "Medical", "School", "Shopping", "Work", and "Other". Figure 3-4 shows the results of the respondents' trip origin and destination locations by trip and Figure 3-5 shows the intensity of responses. The greatest concentration of origins and destinations was in downtown Petersburg. Additional clusters of markers were in Food Lion and Grays Shopping Center area, at the Walmart and medical buildings on South Crater Road, and in the Southpark Mall area. Few survey respondents identified origin or destination locations on the western side of Petersburg (including the areas of along Virginia Ave, Halifax Street, Lee Avenue, and Washington Street) or along the Ettrick/VSU route. Areas that survey respondents are traveling to/from that do not currently have service include several areas of Colonial Heights and in Prince George County along I-295.

Figure 3-5. Origin-Destination Survey Locations Heatmap



Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

3.4.2.5 Improvements

All survey respondents (frequent rider, less frequent riders, and non-riders) were asked how they would allocate PAT's budget to improve the transit system. Each respondent had the opportunity to "invest" up to ten coins in one or more of eight potential categories. Table 3-15 shows the results of the survey responses. Categories where respondents indicated the greatest investments should be made included more frequent service, extended weekday hours, extended weekend hours, and more direct bus service. Respondents indicated that lowest investments should be made to reduce fares and on bicycle and pedestrian enhancements.

Table 3-15. Priority Improvements to Transit System

Improvements	Total Coins Invested
More frequent service	58
Extended weekday hours	53
Extended weekend hours	53
More direct bus service	47
Stop and station amenities	37
Safety and security improvements	32
Lower fares	15
Bicycle and pedestrian enhancements	11

Source: PAT Public Outreach Survey Results, 2018

3.5 Deficiencies and Gaps

Examination of the existing system revealed some deficiencies and gaps in transit service. These deficiencies provide potential opportunities for PAT to make modifications to improve the service and provide better mobility options to the Petersburg community. The following are potential opportunities for PAT to address the deficiencies and gaps in service. It is important to note that while some of these opportunities can be accomplished under a cost-neutral scenario by reallocating resources, others are contingent on available funding.

1. Increase the frequency of service to provide more opportunities for riders to connect to the system. Most of the routes run on hourly headways. Increasing some of the best performing routes to 30 minutes would give riders more travel options, therefore making better use of their time.
2. Provide more direct routing to facilitate faster travel to and from where people want to go. Currently many of the routes include deviations into neighborhoods. Minimizing these deviations and creating more direct routes would make the routes easier to understand and allow for shorter travel times.
3. Extend hours on weekdays and on Saturdays. The survey responses indicated riders would like to be able to use the transit system later in the evening in order to make the return trip home. However, the associated cost of extending service hours is great and would require additional funding.
4. Increase awareness of the system through targeted marketing campaigns and by providing more information on the services online. The survey results indicated that some people are not familiar with the transit system. Increasing the availability of descriptive information on the service would help to improve awareness and potentially increase ridership.

White Top Cab

3706 Mt. Vernon Ave Alexandria, VA 22305

Reservations: 703-644-4500

(Fairfax)

Taxicab Subsidy Programs

The county operates three programs which help make taxicab service more affordable for certain county residents.

- *TaxiAccess* provides subsidized taxicab service to county residents who are registered with MetroAccess.
- *Dial-a-Ride* provides subsidized taxicab service for income-eligible county residents.
- *Seniors-on-the-Go!* offers subsidized taxicab service to seniors 65 years of age or older who meet certain income criteria.



Plan Ahead to Avoid Delays

The majority of taxicabs dispatched in Fairfax County arrive within 15 to 20 minutes, or less. A number of factors can delay a taxi's arrival, however.

- Time of day, such as morning or evening rush hours or late-night weekend hours, when traffic is congested and/or demand for service is high;
- Severe weather, such as heavy rain or snow, which tends to increase demand for service at the same time that weather conditions impeded traffic; and
- Special requests, such as those for large sedans or wheel-chair accessible vehicles, as these vehicles may be on other calls when request for service is received.

Customers who know their location and pick-up time in advance can minimize their chance of delay by calling ahead.

Taxicab companies will accept reservations up to 24 hours or more in advance. Even a few hours' advance notice to the taxicab company can be beneficial when these common causes for delay exist.

[Back to top](#)

For Prospective Drivers

Ex from Copy

M_Shannon15@comcast.net

From: N. Taylor <20nicolataylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2020 7:26 PM
To: Deborahbuford@gamil.com; blaughn@gmail.com; Roseroy11@verzion.net; N. Taylor; M_Shannon15; linwoodkenneth; huddles9@gmail.com; treskaw; Rhues2; pastorjd2; bjeanhoo
Subject: Anti-poverty Commissioner minutes 7-24-20 & 8-13-20
Attachments: 2 7-24-20 APC.docx; Revised Anti-Pov Com Min 8-13-20.docx

Commissioners:

I hope all is well with you and your family. This e-mail serves as a notification regarding our next meeting which will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Petersburg Transit Station, Washington Street. We will observe social distances and are required to wear masks. Our guest will be Mr. Charles Koonce, Jr., General Manager of the Petersburg Area Transit. Please be prepared to have questions to ask Mr. Koonce.

Also please review the minutes from the August 13, 2020 and July 24, 2020 meetings for requested approval. If you have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail at roseroy11@verizon.net, by cell phone at (804) 731-2298 or home phone at (804) 732-6665.

Please see Agenda below:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II, Guest Presentation: Mr. Charles Koonce, Jr., Transit General Manager of the Petersburg Area Transit
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Sharing: Anti-Poverty Proven Best Practices Framework Review and Documentation (Areas: Education/Workforce Development, Healthy Community, Transportation, Job Creation, Policy/legislation, Research/Evaluation)
- VI. Announcement(s)
- VII. Next Meeting Date
- VIII. Closing Prayer

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Blessings to all,

Dr. Roy

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC)
Agenda
September 25, 2020

Agenda:

- I. Opening Prayer**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- IV. City Council meeting 9/15/2020 - APC Membership Update and the Petersburg 2021-2025 Strategic Plan <https://www.petersburgva.gov/948/City-Council-Meeting-Presentations>**
- V. Invites to meeting on October 8, 2020 (Dr. Pitre Martin and Ms. Leanne Lythe)**
- VI. Anti-Poverty Survey Draft**
- VII. Commissioners Sharing Anti-Poverty Strategies**
- VIII. Announcements**
- IX. Next Meeting Date**
- X. Closing Prayer**

Anti-Poverty Commission Meeting, Thursday, October 8, 2020**From:** roseroy11@verizon.net**To:** blaughn@gmail.com <blaughn@gmail.com>; Roseroy11@verizon.net <Roseroy11@verizon.net>; 20nicolataylor@gmail.com <20nicolataylor@gmail.com>; M_Shannon15@comcast.net <M_Shannon15@comcast.net>; linwoodkenneth@aol.com <linwoodkenneth@aol.com>; huddles9@gmail.com <huddles9@gmail.com>; treskaw@aol.com <treskaw@aol.com>; Rhues2@verizon.net <Rhues2@verizon.net>; pastorjd2@hotmail.com <pastorjd2@hotmail.com>; bjeanhoo@gmail.com <bjeanhoo@gmail.com>**Date:** Tue, Oct 6, 2020 4:58 pm

Commissioners:

The Anti-Poverty Commission meeting, Friday, September 25, was canceled due to the Transit Station not being open.

We will meet on **Thursday, October 8th** at 6:00 p.m. at the Transit Station. Our guest will be Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools. Many things have changed since we met with the previous superintendent, Dr. Marcus Newsome. Of course, the pandemic has placed another level of change, "a new normal."

Please be prepared to ask questions. I am hoping that this will clarify our direction in providing strategies to enhance the pathway of preparing our children for the future.

If you have question(s), I may be contacted via cell at (804) 731-2298 or phone (804) 732-6665 or via e-mail.

Please see Agenda below:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Approval of Agenda
- II. Introduction of Guest; Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools.
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. City Council Approval of Commissioners (Councilwoman Treska Wilson Smith)
- V. Discussion of Additional Guest Invites
- VI..Anti-Poverty Best Practices Education/Workforce
- VII.Announcement(s)
- VIII .Next Meeting Date
- IX Closing Prayer

Please confirm your attendance. I await your response.

Blessings,

Dr. Roy

Petersburg
Anti-Poverty Commission (APC)
Agenda
October 8, 2020

Agenda:

I. Opening Prayer

II. Approval of Agenda

II. Introduction of Guest; Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools.

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. City Council Approval of Commissioners (Councilwoman Treska Wilson Smith)

V. Discussion of Additional Guest Invites

VI..Anti-Poverty Best Practices Education/Workforce

VII.Announcement(s)

VIII .Next Meeting Date

IX Closing Prayer

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission
October 8, 2020

MEETING ATTENDEES: Dr. Rosezelia Roy, Chairperson, Pastor Michael Shannon, Vice-Chairman, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, Advisor, Ms. Keitoya Taylor, Secretary, Mrs. Florence Rhue, Mr. Linwood Christian, Mrs. Beverly McLaughlin, Ms. Monica Huddleston-Elrod.

Guest Presenter: Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin, Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools was unable to attend and desired to reschedule. Captain Greg Geist, Petersburg Police Department, agreed to serve as our guest for this meeting.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Michael Shannon

Approval of Agenda: Motion to accept Agenda - Pastor Shannon first and Mrs. McLaughlin seconded. Agenda was approved

Approval of Minutes: Last meeting scheduled for September 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm was cancelled, Transit Station was not open.

City Council Meeting: Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith confirmed approval of names for Anti-Poverty Commission. Dr. Roy requested a copy of the names submitted to City Council. Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith requested Mrs. Beverly McLaughlin resubmit her application.

Anti-Poverty Commission meeting dates and submission of Strategies: Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith requested to change the dates of the Anti-Poverty Commission meeting back to once a month on the second Thursday of each month. She also suggested to give presentation to the City Council on June 2021, (if needed we can change the date). Pastor Shannon-requested to schedule presenters and will make adjustments as needed. Mr. Linwood Christian suggested invites of presenters be written the chairperson and signed by the chairperson and vice chairman. Additionally, correspondence should be placed on official letterhead. Councilwoman Treska Smith-Wilson noted that the Anti-Poverty Commission has official letterhead.

Presenters/Meeting Focus	Month
Petersburg Schools Superintendent, Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin and Mr. Kenneth Pritchett, Petersburg School Board, Chairman	November 12, 2020
Dr. Alton Hart, Director, Crater District Health Department	December 10, 2020
Mr. Norris A. Stevenson Social Services Director	January 7, 2021
Atty. Chris Bernhardt Legal Aid/Housing	February 11, 2021
Mr. Samuel Parham, City of Petersburg Mayor and Mrs.,	March 11, 2021

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission
October 8, 2020

Aretha Ferrell Benavides, City Manager	
Ms, Leanne Lytle (United Way Petersburg City and School Partnership), Ms. Wanda Stuart (Petersburg Schools - Community and School Director)	April 8, 2021
Finalizing Anti-Poverty Commission's report and draft of PowerPoint	May 13, 2021
Finalized Report to submit to City Council	June 10, 2021

Dr. Roy- expressed concern lessening the dates of meetings will delay the collection of data. Mrs. Rhue – suggested giving each other milestones dates research results. Dr. Roy encouraged everyone to submit the completed data on the strategies plan form. Pastor Shannon 1st and Mr. Linwood Christian 2nd the guest list. Per Dr. Roy, the invites were approved by commissioners.

Presenter: Captain Greg Geist has worked with the Petersburg Police Department for 17 years. He shared with us an overview of the department, its goals, concerns, and recommendations.

Questions were presented to Captain Geist. Paraphrased answers noted below. Also comments from commissioners.

	Questions	Answers
Dr. Roy	Does poverty increase crime?	It's a combination of poverty and crime. With the increase of crime jobs don't want to come here. Police do not put out the news related information. Requested the assistance of the community to help stop the crime. We are one of the worst per capital as it relates to crime.
Mrs. Wilson-Smith	Are the local shootings focused in one particular area?	Reported a lot less lately because of the pandemic and operations. It is not stationary. It has moved from one area to another.
Mr. Linwood Christian		This is the most shooting recently and he requested neighborhood association help. Citizens help is very important.
Councilwomen Wilson-Smith	Where does the data show the bulk of the shooting are at this time?	Shooting are in the housing area. Ward 6 (Dunlop), Ward 5, public housing and Section 8 housing.

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission

October 8, 2020

Mrs. Rhue	Can you share the strategies the police are doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Police vehicle lights: Black SUVs adding Red lights to the Blue lights for recognition. B. Find violations that are legit in the high crime areas. Also, having Police presence in the community might stop things from happening. C. Traffic stops will reflect that we are out there to deter crime. D. Weapons-taking illegal handguns off the street. Ex. Traffic stops can lead to arrest of individual with illegal hand guns. E. Police cut up every gun seized to prevent misuse by reselling back into the community. F. Working with federal agency to help with combating crime and obtaining of illegal guns.
	What can we do as a community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form neighborhood watch groups. Community members do not talk after a shooting occurs. 2. Creating programs in the local schools. This year the (Explorer program) was delayed due to the pandemic. Kids are a helpful tool. 3. Crime rate has decreased since the new police chief in place. Also a decrease in property crime.
Dr. Roy	Can we utilize released felons to talk with others in the community?	This can only be done in prisons programs. Scared straight program were ineffective. When released what youth learned had to be reinforced by the family.
Mr. Linwood Christian	Where do you see improvements with community policing and have there been improvements?	Police have increased in the community and want to expand. Police are running 20 to 30 days and want the people in the community to see them.

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission
October 8, 2020

Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith	Is there a correlation with the increase in crime with Section 8 individuals after moving?	Some people are leaving Petersburg.
	What can we do base on social economic status?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Federal agents help with legal issues and enforcement. 2. Individuals will make two choices: illegal or legally making money.
Pastor Shannon		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggested to meet every month with community and provide awareness for violation. 2. Change the names of the projects. 3. Encourage the news reporters to also report positive news to the community.
Captain Geist		Police have hired one female dog handler will be publicized in December 2020.
Mr. Linwood Christian	Will there be an increase in police stations in some areas? How to enforce to address the issues in their community?	Asked again to have a station in areas. Hard to gain approval. Addressed the issue with the housing authority.
Pastor Shannon	How to enforce the lease and keep the property up?	
Captain Geist		Most important thing is the partnership and relationship with the community.
Mrs. Rhue	Does Petersburg have a gang problem?	Very small.
Dr. Roy	What is the positive impact of the police?	Petersburg Police Department is accredited. This is a start and will help with receiving grants, are We are required to meet 190 standards each year and renewed every 4 year.

Announcements:

Pastor Shannon announced that Zion Baptist Church will have a grant funded financial management workshop via Zoom entitled "Your Money, Your Goals" which will include How to Save. and the Importance of Credit. The training will be held on October 10th and 12th – 16th, 2020. To register, call the church at 804-733-7561.

Dr. Roy announced that Bethany Missionary Baptist Church will have Community Day October 18, 2020 12 noon -2:00 pm

Petersburg Anti-Poverty Commission
October 8, 2020

Next Meeting: November 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Closing Prayer. Pastor Shannon

Closing Time: 8:07pm

