



# City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov)

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

*Mayor Jimmy Gray*

*Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown*

*Councilmember Randy C. Bowman, Sr.*

*Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell*

*Councilmember Michelle Taylor Ferebee*

*Councilmember Hope L. Harper*

*Councilmember Martha M. Mugler*

*STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager*

*Courtney R. Sydnor, City Attorney*

*Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Randy C. Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Jimmy Gray

### JIMMY GRAY PRESIDED

### INVOCATION - Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown

Vice Mayor Brown gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gray recognized Lakesha Brown-Renfro, Nzinga Teule-Hekima, and Tanecia Willis (also known as 'The Mango Ladies') as they complete their ten year business plan with respect to the Mango Mangeaux Restaurant.

Mayor Gray also recognized the Hampton City Schools students who created the City's holiday cards. Ms. Ai Choo Ashe introduced the students: Bethel High School - Naima Gregory, Phoebus High School - Jaelyn Harris, Kecoughtan High School -

Aliyah Boyce, and Hampton High School - Anastasia Ivanenciu.

At Mayor Gray's request, City Manager Mary Bunting shared the good works of the employees of the City's Public Works Department during the recent snow event.

Mayor Gray announced that he was going to take the public hearing on item #14 25-0343 out of order as the first of the public hearings scheduled tonight.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Consent Agenda and a summary of the consent items.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Councilmember Mugler, seconded by Councilmember Bowman, Sr., to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

1. [25-0301](#) Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2025 Year-End Budget Adjustments

**Attachments:** [FY2025 Year-End Budget Adjustments](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

2. [25-0334](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Council Approved Budget to Appropriation a total of \$1,012,526 from the General Fund's Assigned and Committed Fund Balance accounts to the General Fund Operating Budgets of the City Attorney; City Sheriff - Jail; Clerk of the Circuit Court; Commonwealth's

Attorney; Hampton Animal Response Team (HART); and, the Office of Family Resilience and Economic Empowerment to complete activities started in Fiscal Year 2025

**Attachments:** [FY25 General Fund Rollover](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

3. [25-0338](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate a total of \$3,550,000 from the Capital Budget (Projects) Committed Fund Balance Account to the Capital Budget (Projects) Fund to Complete Capital Projects for Community Development and Information Technology

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

4. [25-0341](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate a total of \$992,719 from the General Fund's Assigned Fund Balance account to the Contributions to Outside Agencies; and, Non-departmental accounts for Various City Initiatives

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

5. [25-0335](#) Resolution Approving the Assignment of a Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement from HII Technical Solutions Corporation to Huntington Ingalls Incorporated

**Attachments:** [VEDP Consent to Assignment](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

6. [25-0347](#) Resolution to Adopt the Safe Streets and Roads for All Hampton Safety Action Plan

**Attachments:** [FINAL DOCUMENT - as provided and approved by Legal](#)  
[FINAL SS4A Hampton Safety Action Plan - DEC.02.2025](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

7. [25-0339](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Teleport Communications America, LLC to Allow an Encroachment into the City's Right of Way for Installation of Fiber Optic Cable and Conduit to Serve Property and/or Customers Located at 925 Old Buckroe Road.

**Attachments:** [Encroachment Agreement](#)  
[Presentation](#)

item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

8. [25-0298](#) Correction to City Council 2026 Meeting Schedule

**Attachments:** [2026 Meeting Calendar - CORRECTED](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

9. [25-0318](#) Approval of the minutes from the work and legislative sessions of November 12, 2025.

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

## **PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS**

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

14. [25-0343](#) Ordinance to Amend and Re-Enact Chapter 12 of the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia to Amend an Existing Precinct, Establish a New Precinct, and Establish a New Polling Place for the New Precinct

Attachments: [Redlined ordinance.pdf](#)  
[Comparison Map - Current EH & Proposed EH and HU.pdf](#)  
[Proposed City-wide Map.pdf](#)  
[Presentation.pptx](#)  
[Polling Place License Agreement HU & COH \(partially executed\).pdf](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

City Manager Mary Bunting explained that earlier this year, Council heard a recommendation from the Electoral Board to establish a new polling precinct at Hampton University. Council enthusiastically endorsed that notion and requested that staff present information on it, thus today's item. She also noted that Hampton's Voter Registrar, Tara Morgan, and some members of the Electoral Board were in attendance to answer questions if needed.

Deputy City Attorney Angela King shared general information about precinct requirements, polling place requirements and legal requirements. She also spoke

about the proposed amendments to establish a new Hampton University precinct; modify the boundaries of the existing East Hampton precinct; and establish a polling place location for the new Hampton University precinct. She clarified that the reason for these proposed amendments is to ease voter access by reducing travel time to the polling place location in light of both distance and traffic considerations, and to improve election administration overall by reducing congestion and wait times. Lastly, Ms. King shared staff's next steps should Council approve the proposal. These steps involve submitting a request for a certificate of no objection to the Virginia Office of the Attorney General; sending Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps to the required entities; implementing the changes; and executing a polling place license agreement.

Ms. King opened the floor for questions, but none were posed.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing and reviewed the speaking process and how the timer works. He also suggested that, since many people signed up to speak on the same item, speakers may state that they support the prior speakers' comments instead of speaking for their entire allotted time.

Delegate Jeion Ward greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I want to thank you all so much for this opportunity to speak. Again, I'm Delegate Jeion Ward. I represent the 87th House District, of which the East Hampton Precinct is a part. I offer this testimony in support of the new polling location at the Hampton University (HU) Convocation Center. You know, this past November, Hampton University students arrived at Phoebus High School Precinct by buses. Their enthusiasm, their high turnout, the number of first-time voters completing same day registration, were all reasons for celebration, but their reliance on buses also underscored an uncomfortable truth. East Hampton is the only precinct in this City whose polling location lies outside of its borders by more than a mile, and it is the very precinct with the largest population of residents without vehicles. This outcome was not accidental. You see, I've been around for a while doing this, and the prior Council, not you, removed this walkable golf course polling location that HU students relied on and replaced it with a distant, inaccessible site. Hampton University is now the only major Virginia campus without a polling location within walking distance. Norfolk State, Old Dominion, University of Virginia, William and Mary, Christopher Newport, all provide accessible precincts to their students. So, approving the Convocation Center as a new polling location will correct a long-standing inequity and bring voting access back to the community most affected. The facility is centrally located. It's designed to accommodate large crowds. It's well suited for precincts with a high number of first-time voters. So, I ask Council to please approve

the location that will ensure that Hampton University students, our future leaders and my constituents, can participate in our democracy without unnecessary barriers, and I thank you.

Mayor Gray shared that a rule of City Council meetings is that there is no clapping after speakers.

Mr. Lance Jones greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Lance Jones and made the following statement: I am the first Vice President of the Hampton NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Our president, Gaylene Kanoyton, is attending a conference and is unable to be here. However, she has sent remarks: On behalf of the Hampton Branch NAACP and the Virginia State Conference NAACP, we express our strong support for establishing a new voting precinct at Hampton University. This initiative is a vital step toward enhancing voter accessibility and empowerment within our community. For years, the Hampton NAACP has advocated for a voting precinct on the Hampton University campus to ensure that students can access the polls easily and avoid long wait times. Providing voting access to students, not only increases civic engagement, but also fosters a sense of community responsibility. Colleges and universities across the Commonwealth and the country already have polling locations, and Hampton University students deserve the same opportunity. Voter rights and accessibility are the bedrock of the NAACP mission. We believe that every citizen should have the opportunity to participate in elections and without barriers. A precinct at Hampton University would symbolize inclusivity and commitment to fostering democratic participation among young voters. In conclusion, we urge the Council to consider the positive impact that a new precinct at Hampton University would have on our youth and the greater community. Let us work together to ensure that every voice is heard. Every vote counts. Please vote to have a polling location at Hampton University Convocation Center. Thank you and happy holidays.

Delegate Elect Virgil Thornton greeted those on the dais and introduced himself as Virgil Thornton and made the following statement: I'm a resident of Fox Hill - also represent the 86th district of Hampton, and I just wanted to say that I agree with the speakers before me, so I won't belabor the point, but I do want to bring about a little history, and that is, it's Lyndon B. Johnson, our 36th president, who is credited with expanding our democracy by engaging the Voter Rights Act of 1965. He saw the importance of giving everyone an opportunity to vote, and if we have that opportunity to vote, but can't get to that location, what good is that opportunity? So, I ask the Council to vote yes that we put a precinct on Hampton University's campus so that we can give those veterans who gladly put their lives on the line to protect our rights, and we can also have a precinct where we have students who can grow to our future and preserve those rights. So, again, I ask you to give us the opportunity that our

President Lyndon Johnson in 1936 - in 1965, gave us to expand our democracy by allowing more citizens to vote, and by putting this precinct on Hampton University's campus will give us that opportunity for more voters to vote. Again, I thank you for your time.

President Darrell K. Williams greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: This is both professional and personal for me. I represent two constituencies, one as a 37-year military veteran and wanting to provide greater access to voting for veterans and then certainly now, as the President of Hampton University and all of our students. First, I'd like to thank the City Council for what you do for our wonderful City each and every day. Hampton University is proud to be a member of this great City and all that you represent. Creating a precinct at Hampton University will significantly benefit both the residents of the City of Hampton, as well as the students on Hampton University's campus. I will use just a minute of my time to ask all of the students and administrators of Hampton University to please stand. Thank you. You may be seated. I only asked them to stand to highlight the importance of this very significant initiative and the population that it will impact. The research shows that when polling places are distant or difficult to access, when transportation is limited, when lines are too long, then voter participation will be negatively impacted. This is particularly true of our younger voters. Establishing a precinct at Hampton University is not merely a matter of convenience, it is a critical step forward in ensuring that every single eligible voter has a fair and equal opportunity to participate in our democracy. I am here tonight to lend the full weight of the Office of President to the execution of this initiative if it is approved. And, so again, thank you for your consideration, and we continue to be proud of our collaboration with the City, and on behalf of our students and our veterans, thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Rosa Riddick greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: As part of our recent get out the vote efforts with NAACP campaign in the canvassing, I had the opportunity to observe and support the civic engagement taking place among students at Hampton University. One thing became very clear throughout this process: our students are very enthusiastic, informed and genuinely interested in participating in the democracy process. Throughout the election period, many students share how eager they were to cast their ballots and make their voices heard. Their level of interest and readiness to vote was strong and consistent. However, I also heard about a challenge that affects many students, the distance to the current polling location. For students without reliable transportation, or for those balancing classes, work and other responsibilities, traveling off campus to vote can present a real barrier. This concern came up repeatedly, not as a complaint, but as a practical issue that affects access. Yes, there may have been maybe one or two students that use the lack of transportation as an excuse, but let's just take that

excuse away. This is why the idea of establishing a polling precinct directly on the Hampton University campus is so important to consider. An on-campus location will provide a convenient and acceptable place for eligible students to cast their ballots. Universities are centers of learning community and civic awareness and having a poll place here would support that role. Making voting accessible is not about granting new rights, it is about ensuring that existing rights can be exercised without unnecessary obstacles. Our students have shown that they are eager to participate, and an accessible polling option helps make that participating possible. We had an opportunity to canvass. They were very eager to canvas and to tell others that it's very necessary to vote, so let's go ahead and put that precinct at Hampton University, so as soon as it can be - a complete example to others. Thank you.

Dr. Richard Mason greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Dr. Richard Mason, the Chair of Hampton City School Board, also a proud graduate of Hampton University Class of 1991, Ogre Phi Ogre V11 and made the following statement: I stand before you tonight, not only as an elected official, but as a son of the City whose life was shaped on the very campus that we're discussing today. When I was a student at Hampton University, I was taught that leadership is not just a title, it's a responsibility. Professors like Novell Dickinson and Senator Mamie Locke encouraged us to speak up, to get involved and to pay attention to what was happening right here in Hampton. They taught us that democracy works best when young people recognize their power and use their voices. That lesson has never left me and is what brings me here this evening. Placing a voting precinct at the Convocation Center on the campus of Hampton University is not just a logistical decision, it is an investment in civic engagement, in empowerment and in the future of Hampton. By placing this precinct where students already gather, study, and build community, we make participation accessible, equitable and meaningful. This precinct will give Hampton University students something they deserve - an active and convenient pathway to exercise their constitutional right to vote in local elections that shape their neighborhoods and national elections that shape their futures. These young people are not temporary guests in our City. They contribute to our economy, our workforce and our cultural vibrancy. They are part of the Hampton family, and they deserve a seat at the table. As an alum whose life trajectory was shaped by mentors urging me to get involved, as a School Board Chairman who sees every day how critical civic responsibility is to a healthy society, I strongly support and encourage your approval of a voting precinct at Hampton University Convocation Center. It is important to note that over 900 alums have signed a petition in support of this. So, thank you for your time and consideration. Happy holidays.

Ms. Betty Koonce-Johnson greeted those on the dais, introduced herself as Betty Koonce-Johnson and made the following statement: I received my master's from Hampton University, and I have been an advocate and a supporter ever since.

Section one of the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States according to race, color or previous condition of servitude. Now we got that, but what about accessibility? I stand here tonight to urge City Council members to consider making the Hampton University Convocation Center an official polling location for future city, state and federal elections. What an opportunity it is to encourage the Gen Z to vote. Having a polling location on HU's campus would achieve that end. We all have a civic responsibility to encourage young voters to vote, and that includes the Hampton City Council. I do urge you to give the students this opportunity, as you heard Rosa Riddick state all the reasons that we need this, please reflect. Let's go beyond the 15th Amendment for the right to vote and expand. Add a voting present to Hampton University's campus.

Mr. Jaden Watson greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Jaden Watson, a junior at Hampton University currently serving as the 80th Student Government Association Vice President and made the following statement: I'm here tonight to discuss an opportunity to strengthen our community bonds by establishing a polling location on our campus. Having a polling place at Hampton University isn't just about convenience, it's about creating real connections between the students and local Hampton residents. Voting is not just a responsibility to each individual, but it is a communal act, and by participating together, we reinforce our ties into the Hampton Roads area, furthering a collaboration between students, residents and valued members, such as our veterans. By voting for this polling location at Hampton University Convocation Center, you are investing in a more engaged and connected community for everyone. Thank you all and have happy holidays.

Mr. Kevin Jones greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Kevin Jones, and made the following statement: I'm a second year Political Science major, concentration in Policy Administration, Leadership Studies, minor on the pre-law track from Jackson, Mississippi, and I'm a sophomore at Hampton University. I am also a student leader at Hampton University, and one of the student leaders pushing to make that university Convocation Center the newest polling precinct in the City of Hampton. This change matters because it gives students real access to the ballots and economic opportunity. Students can work at the polling site, earning money and income while also fully participating in the civic engagement process. I am a proud member, and I'm very proud to lead this effort, and our message is simple: We want to vote, we want to serve, and we want to help shape Hampton's future as Hampton residents. I am also proud to state that me and a group of students just this year were able to register over 722 first-time for the Virginia Governor's race, just this year. Those are freshmen. And at this time, all persons who are here in support of establishing a new precinct at Hampton University Convocation Center, please stand. This shows Hampton University's (you may be seated) fostered commitment

to make Hampton University a polling location. I want to thank Hampton University officials and the student body for trusting me to lead this opportunity and this initiative. And, in closing, I would just like to introduce over 25 letters from Hampton University students as written testimony as they are not able to be here today, but they would still like their voices heard, and I ask that it be entered into the record, as well as a petition from Hampton University students with over 200 signatures asking that the City Council make Hampton University convocation the newest polling location and polling precinct in the City of Hampton. Thank you.

Mayor Gray asked Mr. Jones to give the items he referenced to the Clerk.

Mr. Aaron Weaver greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Aaron Weaver, and made the following statement: I support this ordinance, and it is overdue. It strengthens the voting access for the people who live, study and work in our community. I speak from experience, though. I am a member of Onyx 7. Hampton - freshman year, I was coerced, or told that I had to have that full college experience. So, I was staying at Harkness Hall, but I had one advantage that my constituents and my classmates did not have: I had a car. When it was time to vote, I drove my classmates all the way around. A lot of classmates, also Walmart runs and all the other kind of runs that we had to make. Another one came from California. Another came from Seattle. They depended on me because getting to the polls was not simple, but it was not an option that we weren't going to go vote. Years have passed since then, the university has improved the transportation with buses, but students should not have to rely on limited options just to exercise their basic right like what we saw at Phoenix High School this last November. The Convocation Center exists. It is accessible. It is safely handled, both students, nearby residents. This solution is straightforward. Creating this precinct does two important things: it gives Hampton University students access - the direct access - to the polls. It eases the pressure on the Phoebus precinct, which has faced growing demand challenges based on that past November. Both areas benefit. Voting becomes easier, not harder, and our City shows that access matters. The ordinance is practical, it's fair, it's long overdue. I asked Council to adopt this so Hampton can demonstrate that every eligible voter deserves an accessible, safe polling place. This is how we strengthen our participation. Have a good one.

Ms. Stephanie Durrah greeted those on the dais, introduced herself as Stephanie Durrah and made the following statement: For the last two elections, I was Officer of Election, and this last one, I was the Chief Officer. So, I'm just bringing the experience that I had with the students. I'm so proud. I am, too, a graduate of Hampton University, and I agree with what everyone else has said, and that day, it was very long. We had students there. They were very patient with us, because we had a lot of students to do same day, some that already did same day, so they were

able to get in, and, I just think having a precinct on campus will be smoother, and, you know, students can get in and go to class and exercise their rights to vote. So, I would ask that y'all would consider to have a precinct on Hampton University's campus to allow students the access and the veterans and the neighbor people that live in the residences around Hampton University. We had a lot of students - they came, but unfortunately, where they (Hampton University) provided transportation, they had to wait and wait and wait, whereas if they have a precinct on campus, they could come in, vote and then leave. So, I think it would be a great idea to have a precinct on campus and make things easier for the East Hampton Precinct and having a precinct on campus.

Ms. Cassandra Alston-Townsley greeted those on the dais and HU students, introduced herself as Cassandra Alston-Townsley and made the following statement: I'm a silver life member of the NAACP, and I am definitely in support of this. I stand before you as a resident of this City and the proud mother of a HU graduate, Malachi Townsley. He has been an award-winning public speaker since the age of nine, and a large part of that began with understanding the power of his voice and his vote. I was the parent who brought her child to the polls every single election. We never missed one. From the time he was old enough for me to lift him up and allow him to pull the levers, and I know most of you are old enough to remember the levers we had to pull - Okay, we didn't have the paper slots, we had levers we pulled. And he pulled those levers, and we taught him, started at an early age, and he proudly earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from HU, carrying forward the lessons I taught him in those voting booths for so many years. But, while my son had the access and the opportunity to learn the importance of civic engagement, many students face real barriers, limited transportation, tight schedules and unfamiliarity of off-campus polling locations. These obstacles don't reflect a lack of interest, they reflect a lack of access. Establishing HU Convocation location as its own voting precinct is a simple, meaningful step that tells these students your voice matters here. It removes confusion, removes hardship, and strengthens our City's commitment to fairness and participation. When voting is convenient, young voters show up, eager, prepared and ready to contribute to their community. This is not a partisan request, it is a practical one. It is about equity, access, making sure thousands of students who live, learn and contribute to this City can take part fully in our democracy. Tonight, I respectfully ask you to vote in favor of creating a voting precinct at HU and it will empower students, strengthen participation and help build a more engaged civic future for Hampton. Thank you so much for your time.

Ms. Courtney Johnson greeted everyone, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak, introduced herself as Courtney Johnson and made the following statement: I am a third-year journalism major with an emphasis in cinema studies from Atlanta, Georgia, and I have the privilege and honor to serve as the Hampton University

Chapter President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Tonight, is a monumental moment. We stand at a turning point in history, not just for Hampton University, but for the City of Hampton itself. We have the opportunity to do something powerful, something impactful, and something our ancestors would be immensely proud of. For centuries, African Americans have fought, marched, protested, organized, put themselves on the front lines, and even lost their lives as they fought for the right to vote. That right was not handed to us on a silver platter, but earned with blood, sweat and tears. Even though we have made significant strides, challenges still arise as we try to fulfill our civic duty and rights. Based on people of color, time and time again, we have demonstrated our ability to silence excuses, defeat oppositions and rise in the face of adversity. Now is no different, and I absolutely refuse to accept and allow excuses. We hold such a powerful tool in our brown, beautiful hands, a tool that builds, a tool that fixes, a tool that protects and transforms. That tool is voting. Voting isn't just a civic duty, it is a force to be reckoned with. There is no tool more powerful than that of voting. We can use this tool as we work collectively to carefully construct our futures, change policies to support all Americans and empower leaders who will fight for our right to vote. Voting is a tool that we can use to create social justice and equality for all Americans. As a proud student at Hampton University, where excellence is the standard, I am confident that not only our NAACP chapter members, but the entire student body are ready to use our tool to build a world that is the true definition of liberty and justice for all. Tonight, on behalf of our chapter, I urge you to use your tool and cast a vote that will allow Hampton University to serve as the 31st voting precinct, and it will be evident that we are serious about making our voices heard, accessibility and equal voting opportunities for all. We are committed to shaping a better future. This is our responsibility, and the power is in our hands. Tonight, I ask and urge each of you in this room to stand with us, hand in hand as we make history together. Thank you.

Mr. Malachi Townsley greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Malachi Townsley and made the following statement: When I first brought this issue to Tiktok, and actually, like found out about what was happening last year when this was being talked in front of the electoral board, I have to admit, I had no idea that it would result in what we see here today. But, some things that I do want to leave you with, as far as closing remarks, I guess, from some things that aren't really repetitive: outside of Hampton University, the larger community, I've actually gone door to door and like, talked to people face to face over the course of the past two years, and the main things that I've seen that's an issue, both on campus and off campus, is education accessibility. Hampton University does not just allow accessibility for students, but for the larger community at large as they have a bus station right outside of the campus. It is easy for anyone to just go and walk and vote on the spot. So, while the students are here today in droves, with hundreds of people

representing them, there is a larger community that is not being represented or voiced here who also is in need that wouldn't really have accessibility with any other polling location. When it comes to education accessibility, I've spent time, hours upon hours talking with students and people about what actually is being affected and what's impacting their voices in this election, in last election as well, for the presidential election. I plan on continuing those works. I plan on continuing making it accessible for students and for the community at large, but I do understand that I cannot do it alone. We live in a country of laws, and I realize that without all of you here, fighting for our rights and representing us, I can do everything that I can to make voting as accessible as possible and allow for these students to fight for their rights as much as I can, but it makes my job a lot harder, and considering that our government is meant to represent the constituents at large, I am asking that you look at us, not just as people that may be a small population, but as the constituents that you all represent, and what is going to be fair for all of us to make our voices heard and protect the injustices that could be happening at home or abroad. Thank you.

Ms. Tamara Williams greeted those on the dais, introduced herself as Dr. Tamara M.B. Williams and made the following statement: I'm a longtime resident of the City of Hampton, and I have been a professor at Hampton University for 18 years. Where you have already heard from our students this evening, we are the standard of excellence, and they have shown up tonight, and I want to just note that they have shown up in the midst of finals, not when it's convenient, not when it's easy, but when it's absolutely necessary. And, so, I wanted to also show up this evening in support of that, and to ask that you support that request, that you already are here, and we thank you for your time and your efforts.

Ms. Neva Beierle greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I just wanted to say two things. One, is I agree with what everybody else has said tonight, and two, I just wanted to say to the students who came tonight that I'm so proud of you. Thank you.

Mr. Ken Elaziel greeted everyone and made the following statement: I just want to be able to give my voice in the affirmative. I was at the Phoebe station when we voted, and it would be more efficient if they were able to vote on campus. It makes sense, and a lot less confusion in terms of which lines to get in, etc., but also, it just makes sense, too, from a safety standpoint, to keep the kids on campus. Excuse me, not, kids - these young adults on campus. I also want to remind that I don't know - maybe half of you here, maybe 1/3 of you couldn't vote when you were 18. Had to wait until you were 21. You remember that? I couldn't, so the issue was not a problem on campus. So, I hate to see that they would miss class. I hate to see that they would miss their meals or anything else just to be able to vote, to be able to exercise their civic duty that some in our generation fought very hard for them to be

able to exercise. So, that's the main thing, and, you know, I don't want to see them going off campus if they don't have to. And also, it's an inconvenience for the regular voters to all of a sudden have a bus load of 20, 30, 40, 50 students all of a sudden show up. I don't think that's fair for the Registration Board and everything, especially since they are not only just voting, they're also registering. So, it is a process, so keep that in consideration. So, I give my voice in the affirmative. Thank you.

Ms. Natalie Kidd greeted those on the Council, introduced herself as Natalie Kidd and made the following statement: I'm here to speak on behalf of the polling location being added to Hampton University's Convocation Center. As a young person myself, I know the importance of getting young adults to be civically engaged in their communities they reside in. This includes voting in the communities they reside in. We have a diverse community that adds to the greatness of our City and our community is blessed to have such a high caliber of university students within Hampton University. HU produces the next generation of leaders and change makers, and we want them to remain in the City of Hampton post-graduation. We should not be working against these students by making their access to voting in this City difficult. Currently, as you may know, the East Hampton polling location is far outside the actual boundaries of the East Hampton Precinct. It is an hour and a half walking round trip from the campus of HU to the East Hampton polling location located inside Phoebus High School. I actually had the opportunity to relocate to Blacksburg this election cycle to directly work with Virginia Tech students regarding voting rights and access. A school that has a long history of disfranchisement to student voters since the early 2000's has now progressed and actually has three polling locations inside of its campus. The result of this, of the result of having an on-campus polling location, we were able to register over 3,000 student voters, and on those campus precincts, we had 141 percent turnout rate compared to the 2024 presidential election. And the longest line to vote on Election Day was only 15 minutes. This is not the same story for HU students currently. They want to be civically engaged in the City they live 10 or more months out of the year. They proved this despite all the barriers facing them when voting this November, including long lines and a long commute to their polling location. They had a 114 percent turnout rate compared to the 2024 presidential cycle, the second highest campus voting turnout across our Commonwealth this election cycle. Imagine the amount of continued civic engagement we will continue to receive from these students if we give them fair access to voting in their City by adding a polling location to the Hampton University's Convocation Center. Thank you for your time and consideration allowing HU students to be fully civically engaged in their City. Thank you.

Mayor Gray closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, to approve amendments to Hampton City Code establishing a new Hampton University precinct and polling place as presented in Item No. 25-0343, such amendments to be effective upon issuance of a certification of no objection by the Office of the Attorney General in accordance Virginia Code § 24.2-129(D); to authorize the General Registrar to request a certification of no objection from the Office of Attorney General; and to authorize the City Manager to execute the proposed Polling Place License Agreement presented in the agenda package. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

Mayor Gray called for a ten minute recess from 7:47 pm to 7:57 pm.

**10. 25-0336 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Amendment**

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

[FY24-25 CDBG & HOME Substantial Amendment Package](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and indicated that this public hearing will accept final community input on proposed amendments to our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program budgets.

Community Engagement Division Manager Monica Meharg presented information on the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Amendment. This plan provides information about how Hampton will invest CDBG and HOME program funds; allows the City to implement 5-year Consolidated Plan priorities; and notes that the plan must be approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Ms. Meharg noted that a citizen participation plan is required any time the City considers making a substantial amendment and the budget amendment exceeds 25 percent of an activities budget. The participation plan includes a 30-day public comment period and a City Council public hearing and approval.

Ms. Meharg continued sharing information about the CDBG and HOME programs, including their objectives, rationale for costs, and allocations and reallocations for the various projects in each category.

Ms. Meharg recapped the amendment schedule. The 30-day comment period began on November 10, followed by the City Council meeting, public hearing and conclusion of the public comment period on December 10, with the submission of the plan amendments to HUD by December 12.

Ms. Meharg opened the floor for discussion and noted that colleagues from the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority were present to answer additional questions if needed.

Vice Mayor Brown inquired about public comments, to which Ms. Meharg replied that staff did not receive any comments.

Mayor Gray asked about the pause on the home rehabilitation program as some of those projects are still underway.

Ms. Bunting confirmed that those programs are still ongoing with Cares Funds and the intent is to use those funds as intended.

The Mayor opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the Mayor closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, to approve the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Amendment, as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

11. [25-0322](#) Rezoning Application No. 25-0322: by Gloria Higuera Lopez to Rezone +/-0.15 acres at 1700 E Pembroke Ave [LRSN: 12003841] from Limited Commercial (C-2) District to the One-family Residential (R-9) District with Proffered Conditions in Order to Construct a Single-Family Dwelling on a Vacant Lot

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Proffer Agreement](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Presentation](#)  
[Presentation Updated](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

City Planner Han Vu presented information about the rezoning application including the site location, size of and amenities at the single-family home, lot layout and building elevations. She also spoke about public policies in the Hampton Community Plan and Buckroe Master Plan related to the application. Some of the policies reference encouraging a mix of housing types, safeguarding the integrity of existing neighborhoods, promoting the identity and quality of City corridors and gateways, improving the character of streets and neighborhoods, and filling the demand for single-family homes.

Ms. Vu concluded the presentation with the following information. Some of the proffered conditions are related to concept plan and elevation adherence, building materials, site plan approval, and compliance with the Zoning Ordinance. Staff's analysis is that this proposal furthers adopted policy for the Buckroe Master Plan, would be consistent with the characters of the residential neighborhood, fulfills housing demand in the Buckroe area, and improves the image of the Pembroke Corridor. To date, a community meeting has not been held as the applicant is a Spanish speaker which poses as a barrier to hold a community meeting. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the rezoning application with seven proffered conditions.

Ms. Vu noted that the applicant and a translator, the applicant's daughter, was present to answer questions. No further discussion took place.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself as Aaron Weaver and made the following statement: This is going to be real quick. That - what you just saw right there is my only concern that there was no public meeting held. If there was a barrier to - if the language was a barrier, then there should be an interpreter. You are coming here right now, and there's no interpreter, so those neighbors don't know what's going on, potentially. That is a concern for me because I've been in a neighborhood that did not know what was going on until it happened. That's my only concern. I'm not neither for it nor against it. We need housing. I will welcome them as neighbors, but that was my only concern in the process. Thank you.

In response to Vice Mayor Brown's question about why a community meeting was not held, Ms. Vu restated that a meeting was not held due to the language barrier.

Councilman Bowman suggested that if an interpreter is present for Council meeting today, perhaps that could have transpired for a community meeting. Ms. Vu agreed, and noted that the interpreter is the applicant's daughter who is a high school student that may not have been able to answer all of the questions the community may have had.

Ms. Bunting shared a bit about the City's process for the use of interpreters.

Vice Mayor Brown shared his opinion which is that an interpreter should have been used in this case, particularly since the resources were available, as that would have given Council some indication about where the community stands on the project. He added for that reason, he will vote no.

Councilman Bowman suggested deferring the item to allow the applicant time to hold a meeting where resources will be provided because he does not want to turn down housing that the City desperately needs.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr. and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Zoning Ordinance be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 1/28/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

- 12. [25-0285](#)** Use Permit Application No. 25-0285 by Southern Comfort Restaurant & Lounge, LLC to permit a Restaurant 3 for Extended General Hours of Operation, to Include Alcohol Sales and Indoor Live Entertainment, at 2163 & 2165 Cunningham Dr [Portion of LRSN: 7001532].

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Conditions](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Interim Director of Community Development Kim Mikel presented information on the item including some history about the business and the site location. She shared the proposal which is to use the existing location during the hours of 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM Monday-Sunday. Also included in the proposal are plans for alcohol sales and services, live entertainment, a smoking lounge and an event space.

Ms. Mikel shared some of the public policies in the Hampton Community Plan that are applicable to this application. They include promoting compatibility among land uses, encouraging a mix of land uses, nurturing small businesses and expanding tourism and cultural opportunities in the City.

Ms. Mikel concluded the presentation with the following information. Staff's analysis is that the applicant has requested maximum hours of operation, staff's recommendation condition for hours of operation would balance business operation public safety concerns and the existing location, and the character of the area supports the restaurant operation. Staff has a number of recommended conditions, some of which are related to hours of operation, live entertainment, criminal investigations, revocation/nullification and several specific security conditions. The applicant has requested modifications related to hours of operation and security provisions. Community meetings were held on August 7 and August 27. Staff attended the August 27 meeting and reported that no opposition was expressed. Staff recommends approval of the application with 14 conditions and the Planning Commission recommends approval with an amendment to condition 8b.

The following summarizes a brief discussion that took place after the presentation. Councilwoman Harper received clarification that the smoking space will be utilized as a hookah lounge. Councilwoman Harper expressed concern about the security plan which references having security guards as needed, and shared that, in her opinion, citizen safety is priority, therefore, the applicant should follow the recommendation of Community Development. Councilman Bowman suggested that "as needed" may be based on the number of patrons expected on a given night. In response to Vice Mayor Brown, Ms. Mikel clarified that the standard is to have nine security personnel on site for events based on maximum capacity so that there is ample security at any given time.

The applicant, Eddie Gomez, shared that he has been open since 2021 on an as needed basis. He understood Councilwoman Harper's concern, and explained that he can determine the number of patrons that will attend an event and has a plan in place which involves extra security on standby when more people attend than expected. He emphasized that he has not caused a problem in the community,

instead, he has supplied people with jobs and offered great food and will continue to do that as long as he upholds the operation.

Additional discussion took place. Councilman Bowman commended Mr. Gomez on the great relationship he has built with the Police Department and the things he has put in place to run a safe establishment, for example, scanning patron's identification. Mr. Gomez spoke more about security at the establishment emphasizing that he has caused minimal problems to the City. Ms. Mikel elaborated more on the process which determines the number of police officers and/or security officers present at events.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting explained that this is not about this one applicant, instead, it is about Council setting new standards for all night clubs or restaurants with alcohol at late hours due to issues that have occurred in the community. She also addressed security personnel requirements and spoke about how a police presence helps during weekends and holidays, not only at this business, but at any business operating with alcohol during these hours.

Members of Council, Ms. Bunting and staff continued the discussion with Mr. Gomez about security at his establishment, the financial burden that the mandated security requirement will create for him, and how Council and staff is trying to determine how to best move forward for everyone with consistency across the board.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Mayor Gray called for a recess from 8:53 p.m. to 9:05 p.m. He then proceeded with other agenda items and this item will be revisited later on the agenda.

At 9:24 p.m., Mayor Gray indicated that Council was going to deviate from the agenda and take things out of order. The Clerk read the title for item #15 25-0342.

15. [25-0342](#) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a License Agreement between the City of Hampton and the HamptonBMX Volunteers Association, Inc. to use approximately 2.6 Acres of Gosnold's Hope Park

Attachments: [2025 License Agreement-Hampton BMX V1](#)  
[Exhibit A \(Hampton BMX\)](#)

The Clerk read the title for item #15. The City Manager presented background information. The Mayor opened the public hearing and, since there were no speakers, he closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell and seconded by Councilmember Martha Mugler that the City Council approve the Resolution authorizing execution of a license agreement between the City of Hampton and HamptonBMX Volunteers Association, as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the public comment period.

Mayor Gray described how the timer works and reminded speakers that they will have three minutes to speak.

Ms. Velma Gause-Price greeted those on the dais and staff, introduced herself as Velma Gause-Price and made the following statement: I am a citizen of Hampton, a tax paying citizen of Hampton, and I'm here tonight because I'm interested in bringing... presenting to you all some information regarding the traffic configuration near Hampton University at Settlers Landing. I was referred to come here from the Treasurer's Office that I had to come and present it to you all for consideration for changes. So, my point is - first of all, I want to just say that I truly appreciate the work that the City continues to do to improve the safety, traffic flow and the overall quality of life in the community. It's exciting what's going on in terms of all the renovation, the renewals of the roadways and things of that nature. But, this evening, I'd like to respectfully bring attention to the current traffic configuration at William Harvey Way for the entrance to I-64 East off of Settlers Landing. I just want to say that I recognize that the roadway planning involves many competing priorities, and I'm offering this feedback in the spirit of cooperation and community safety for all, not just for me. But one of the main concerns I've observed involving the signage associated with this new setup, and many of the signs are quite small, and when paired with the number of signs that are placed there in a short stretch of the road, it makes it very difficult for the driver to process all the information safely and in real time. So, it's hard to see all those signs and signals and things in a short location. This can create confusion, particularly for those who aren't familiar there, but even

those of us who are, and I'm speaking for myself there, but I'm considering all citizens. For example, the turn arrow in certain sections are not only small, but they're positioned in a way that makes it easy to miss them until the last moment, which, you know, it creates safety hazards. Additionally, there are areas where the lanes unexpectedly are partitioned and or they don't allow you the opportunity to merge when they have those signs that do tell you that, you know, there's, you know, (inaudible words) when it's limitations on when you can use it, like you can't get out of it because you got those partitions there, so it was like, oh, I want to, I want to respect it, but I can't get out. So that's part of what I wanted to address, and the signage on the road markers, they are - they don't provide enough notice.

Mayor Gray indicated that Ms. Gause-Price's speaking time had expired. He noted that the City Manager will address this concern at the end of the meeting as the City has received a lot of feedback about this problem.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself as Aaron Weaver and made the following statement: All right, third time addressing the vape shop issue. We deserve a city that pays attention to what is happening in real time, not after a problem has already spread. That is why I'm here today, though. This issue matters because residents want safe streets, responsible businesses and clear oversight. They want growth that is intentional, not accidental. Here are the facts: Vacant smoke shops are expanded across Hampton in a rapid pace (also, Newport News) faster than our zoning rules, faster than the ability to guide where they go. You can stand right there on Franklin Street, right up the block, and see one, then walk up a block, see one being prepared or built based on the LLC. It's a public building. Then go down to Settlers Landing and Kecoughtan and if you take a left, not even a mile down the street, there's two that's right in front of each other or if you go straight on Settlers Landing, there's another one right there, and there's another one on Aberdeen, and that's just a couple of them. This is not random. This is not random at all. It's a pattern. Let's name the issue. The horse is out of the barn. Kind of country, but the shops moved in before the City had a clear plan. Now we're reacting instead of leading. At another forum, I was told I need to be careful not to offend businesses because I said what the citizens have been saying for over a year ago, over a year ago, but I don't deal in being careful, I deal in facts, not feelings. Good businesses thrive when cities set strong standards, clear rules, protect neighborhoods and create a fair playing field. Right now, the pace of these shops is ahead of our policy, and when we fall behind, the community carries that burden. My plan is simple. It's the same thing that we already have - set a limit, just the same way you have on the short-term rentals in a certain area. Have a limit on the sites, if that's possible. You all have the best people that you all, I think, are working on this. They need to work, but they kind of need to put a little pep in their step for that. Move quickly so that we can lock in and cannot reverse. No one is against business, but every business type needs standards.

Every neighborhood deserves predictable development, and every resident deserves a city that leads instead of reacts. I am asking the body to take action now, study the density, do all the clear limits and everything else like that. Our City is doing great in many things, and this is an opportunity to stay ahead of the growing concern instead of correcting it years later. Let's address this with clarity, fairness and urgency. Let's move the City forward and that leads. Thank you.

Mr. William Moore greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: So, I'm going to be addressing the Virginia Antitrust Act. It is the purpose of this chapter in section 59 of Virginia State Code. The purpose of this chapter is to promote the free market system in this economy of this Commonwealth by prohibiting restraints of trade or monopolistic practices that act or tend to act to decrease competition. I believe I've already emailed you guys two sections, 59.1-9.5 contracts, etc., in restraints of trade unlawful. Every contract combination or conspiracy and restraint of trade or commerce of this Commonwealth is unlawful. And 59.1 - 9.6 monopolies unlawful. Every conspiracy, combination or attempt to monopolize, or monopolization of trade or commerce of this Commonwealth is unlawful. So, I've emailed you guys concerning people employed here that they are restraining me from rentals and such like that, which are by the letter of this unlawful according to state law. I have emailed you guys, and you all have the authority to amend this policy. And, in addition to that, I've done my best to try to keep this in because the statute of limitations on this is four years, but I have emails, including from your Parks and Recreations, of a similar policy of not allowing competition with your swim lessons, okay, so that means you guys could be liable for all these kinds of things, because, unlike federal law, state law does not immunize a local municipality from damages, okay. So, this is doing my best to try to, like, navigate through all this, alright. Now, in addition to that, like, part of what I do, and, you know, a lot of you guys have been very generous, you know, trying to offer me a job as like, teaching some lessons for you guys as well, but this is part of what I do. Can you guys see what this says? It says Jesus is Lord, okay. I go out and I teach these people. I give them the gospel, you know, that which allows you guys to live forever, because Jesus Christ died for our sins. Okay? This is part of what I do. They get the gospel. And you know, like, I don't personally blame you guys. This is just part of it. All those that live Godly in this life will suffer persecution, but this is what I do, and, so you guys have the authority. The authority has been granted to you guys to help kind of fix this kind of thing, all right, and I know that the Lord above will judge righteously between all people. Thank you.

Mayor Gray reminded those in the audience that there is no clapping in Council Chambers.

Ms. Rita Taylor greeted everyone and made the following statement: I reside in the

Sussex neighborhood in Hampton. The intent to light the spark of revitalization and neighborhoods with deep history and community value was ignited in myself and others. Revitalization projects have been successful, in our opinion, and we welcome the momentum that has occurred. There are those that have called this community home for several decades. Young families, first time home buyers, and we have all embraced this initiative. There is minimum crime in our neighborhood. Our occupancy rate is very high, but we are a rental inspection district. We seek Council support in this rental maintenance standard. Here, we find there are spaces, small spaces of debris, trash, clutter, upholstered furniture in front lawns and your inspectors, the City's inspectors, not yours. The cities inspectors are saying this is the standard that the City of Hampton accepts. It has been - I've been looking at this since September. A recliner in the front yard, and nobody seems to feel accountable or feels that it's something that should be addressed. I come to you because this is not only a haven for rodents, roaches, snakes, and I was hoping that this type of life would be looked at and reviewed by the City, because if ordinances that you have in place allow this type of condition for anyone, not even thinking about vulnerable minds, a young, impressionable youth, that this is a standard that we should accept.

Mayor Gray indicated that Ms. Taylor's speaking time had expired and noted that the City Manager will address her concern at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Teresa Roundy played a recording from her phone. The recording played as follows: Good Evening. My name is Teresa Roundy, and I am a resident, homeowner, and business owner in Hampton. I am here tonight because I have spent the last 20 years trying to protect Barnes Cemetery from further disturbance and desecration. This has been a long, exhausting effort, but one I refuse to abandon. About a year ago, after yet another issue arose at the cemetery, I came to the City to report it. As my father and I were leaving in the elevator, an employee quietly asked whether I had tried contacting the media. I explained that I had, but that my calls were no longer being returned. I told them that I believed the reporters were calling the City to verify what I reported, only to be told I did not know what I was talking about. That employee confirmed my suspicions. That moment is what pushed me to begin attending more City Council meetings and submitting folders of documentation for the official record. I felt that the seriousness of what I was trying to convey was not being understood. So, when the City hired a new City Attorney, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to explain the risks, the history and my concerns about protecting the cemetery from future disturbances. Unfortunately, that was not the case. I requested a meeting. After hearing nothing for more than a week, I asked again, and was finally granted one. The body language, alone, told me everything: disinterest, frustration and a clear lack of willingness to engage with the concerns I was there to present. This was confirmed when the City Attorney told me

directly that she does not work for me and does not answer to me, but works for the Council and the City Manager, and while that may be true in the strictest technical sense, it overlooks something fundamental. You, the City Council, work for the residents, the voters and the taxpayers of this City. We are the ones who ultimately hire and fire every one of you through our votes. I could be wrong, but I believe part of the City Attorney's job is to protect the City from liability, yet, if the City knowingly allows conditions that could cause harm to residents or visitors, conditions I have thoroughly documented in the folders I have submitted over the past year or two, then the City is knowingly exposing itself to legal consequences. The risks I have documented include serious health hazards, up to and including the possibility of fatal outcomes. Instead of engagement, investigation or even acknowledgement, I have repeatedly been met with a brick wall when the City Attorney told me she had spoken with her colleagues and that she did not believe they would lie to her, combined with her dismissive attitude, it left me with only one conclusion - that she was implying I was the one lying. I stand here today to make it clear, I have no reason to lie. What I have is 20 years of research, documentation and lived experience with Barnes Cemetery. I am asking again for acknowledgement, for transparency, and for action before someone gets hurt and before the City finds itself dealing with consequences that could have been prevented. Thank you.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as Craig Knopp, and made the following statement: I'm here to talk about a few things. So, as a lot of people have said, elections have consequences, and right now, what we are seeing is a lot of consequences coming out against certain religions or demographics of politics, and that's a concern, and it's a very good concern. As Mr. Weaver had said, facts speak louder than feelings, and let's be honest, facts are out there. Number one, Jay Jones going after conservatives. That is a very concerning point, very concerning. He has said it. He spoke about it. He didn't even apologize on it until he was pressured into an interview weeks down the line. Nobody said anything about it. That's a major, major concern. Then earlier today, Governor-elect Spanberger put to the Public Safety Office a former FBI official that targeted Catholics, that's another concern. We're seeing a lot of hate here, and they are not even in office yet. That is a concern. So, what I would like to see is that we could have possibly a meeting with Jay Jones to talk about concerns. I'm not the only one. I will set up the meeting if you guys can help me get him there. I will bring all the individuals that have concerns to this meeting. One of the other things, too, that we're seeing out here is guns - limitations on guns and stuff like that. One of the biggest ones I have is that if there is a bill brought forward to do a (how do I say this?)registration type thing that what we've seen in, I believe, is Colorado and California. There's several times at least three or four that I know of, and it's out there in the news. You can Google it yourself - that people have been doxed on these registrations, and what I mean by that is accidentally put out there. Or another

case, an unsecured Excel document was left. Now it was buried in a few pages, not readily accessible, but it was still unlocked out there for people to gain, gain access to registries. Now what I'm afraid of is that this, something like this, is going to happen and here in Hampton, accidentally get released. Now, what I would like to see is a fine that helps back gun owners, that if something like this does happen, they get paid. It should not be unaccountable that something like this would happen and nothing happened to gun owners that get doxed. This stuff is ridiculous, and like I said, facts speak louder than feelings, and facts are out there.

Mr. Cody Beckner signed up to speak, but was not present when called upon.

The following summarizes Ms. Bunting's comments in response to the public comment period:

Ms. Bunting spoke about potential options with regard to the configurations at the intersection of William Harvey Way and Settlers Landing Road and the preferred solution that is being explored with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). She announced that Council has directed action on vape shops and the topic will be discussed at the December Planning Commission meeting, after which Council will hear more about it in January. She also reminded everyone that Hampton just received legislative authority on vape shops from the General Assembly, so there was no authority until recently. With regard to the pool, she explained that current policy is to not rent to individuals, instead, the pool facility is being managed for community programming, competitions and swim team lessons. With regard to revitalization of blighted neighborhoods, she indicated that these things are typically handled through the court process, and this is another instance where the General Assembly has to grant authority. She suggested that Ms. Taylor reach out to the Community Development Director to look into her concern. With regard to Barnes Cemetery, she indicated that the City cannot regulate private property, however, has measures in place for development of private property that is potentially a former cemetery site and Ms. Roundy is welcome to make an appointment to follow up with the City on that matter. Lastly, Ms. Bunting indicated that she would not comment on the issues Mr. Knopp raised because those things are determined by the state.

- 25-0285 Use Permit Application No. 25-0285 by Southern Comfort Restaurant & Lounge, LLC to permit a Restaurant 3 for Extended General Hours of Operation, to Include Alcohol Sales and Indoor Live Entertainment, at 2163 & 2165 Cunningham Dr [Portion of LRSN: 7001532].

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Conditions](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Mikel described what the City offered to Mr. Gomez as concessions in response to his concerns. In summary, the ratio for security (in condition 7.b) would change from one security officer per 75 patrons allowed in the restaurant, to one security officer per 100 patrons allowed in the restaurant. On nights approved to be open until 2 AM, the requirement would be five on the interior, two outside (parking lot) and two extra duty HPD (nine total) during 10:30PM - 2:30AM when the most criminal activity and calls for service take place. Extra HPD would not be required on nights the establishment closes at midnight.

City Attorney Courtney Sydnor clarified that security would be required to be present at the establishment 30 minutes past closing.

Mayor Gray opened the floor for additional questions, but none were posed.

Mr. Gomez made closing remarks emphasizing the financial burden this proposal would place on him. He proposed 7 security, 2 of which will be HPD officers. He requested to return in 90 days for reconsideration.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr. and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Use Permit be approved with fourteen (14) conditions as found in the agenda package, modifying Section 8 per Ms. Mikel's comments. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

13. [25-0323](#) Consider Revocation of the Use Permit Issued to Karma Restaurant and Lounge for a Restaurant 3 in the Downtown Business (DT-1) District at 85 and 87 Lincoln Street [Portion of

LRSN: 2003249] Due to Violations of Conditions contained in the Use Permit

Attachments: [Staff Memo](#)

[Presentation - updated](#)

[UP Conditions](#)

[Restaurants 1 2 and 3 Overview of Uses](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Interim Deputy Director of the Community Development Department, Stephen Lynch, listed reasons why a use permit may be revoked and then provided general information about the item related to site location and the history of the initial and second use permit. He then spoke about conditions and requirements associated with this use permit related to security, ABC licensing, window treatments, third-party leasing, violation of federal, state or local laws, and lapses of required certificates.

HPD Officer Zminkowski spoke about the calls for service and citizen complaints received since the establishment obtained its newest use permit in early 2025. He also highlighted incidents that led to these calls for service. The incidents involved fights, verbal altercations, assaults, misuse of firearms, shootings, security's lack of communication with the HPD, violence by intoxicated patrons, and death.

Officer Zminkowski stated that Council tasked HPD with working with the business to create a security plan in order to reduce the risk of violence there. This plan outlined how security would monitor the parking lot, however, the business's failure to abide by that agreement played a key role in this investigation.

Officer Zminkowski continued highlighting the 97 calls for service received over the last two years and then summarized adjustments HPD made to ensure the safety of patrons.

Officer Zminkowski concluded his portion of the presentation by sharing some concerns related to the security cameras.

Mr. Lynch concluded the presentation by sharing additional incidents related to loitering, window treatment violations, third-party promoters and legal existence compliance. He also spoke about the grounds for revocation including violations under conditions 7, 10, 9, 4 and 11, some of which are related to guest safety, use of radios, security, ABC licensing, loitering and third-party leasing.

Mr. Lynch and Mayor Gray opened the floor for questions. No questions were

posed at that time.

Vice Mayor Brown asked Mr. Ray, the applicant, a series of questions, to which Mr. Ray responded with the following information: Security officers have been cooperative with HPD in their investigations. He renewed the State Corporation Commission license in September and will follow up with them on the discrepancy. There was an occasion on July 11 when a guard was not present during a spot check because he was running late, but the security guard eventually showed up.

For the record, Vice Mayor Brown asked Mr. Ray for clarity on whether the reported assaults, weapons, fights and other instances did not occur. Mr. Ray clarified that he did not say that those things did not occur on those dates, instead, the HPD was there and his security team handled those situations. He also clarified that he paid overtime for HPD and HPD stopped providing those services for financial reasons.

Lastly, the Vice Mayor asked if Mr. Ray stopped paying for HPD (overtime), did that present a deficiency in security manning? Mr. Ray replied no and explained that as part of his agreement with Virginia ABC, he was required to add an extra security guard for the parking lot and this is when he transitioned to a two-company formula where one company runs the inside and one company solely runs the outside.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Gray reminded everyone how the timer works and that speakers will be allowed to speak for three minutes.

Ms. Brittney Brown greeted those on the dais, stated her name as Brittney Brown and made the following statement: I'm a Licensed Professional Counselor, the owner of Positive Alternatives and Outcomes LLC and NFP, a for profit clinical practice and a nonprofit organization serving youth, families and adults throughout Hampton. My entire career is built on addressing the very issues that we're discussing tonight, root cause: mental health challenges that impact community safety, specifically security incidents referenced by HPD earlier, not to include the 27 parking violations mentioned. I want to be clear, many of the problems we're seeing around downtown Hampton are not just business compliance issues, they're also mental health problems. As someone who works daily with individuals struggling with trauma, dysregulation, homelessness, substance use and chronic stress, I can say with full confidence, shutting down Karma Lounge won't change the deeper human issues that show up in our streets and our families and in this very City. Meanwhile, my office is located next to a City-owned property that experiences homelessness, drug activity and physical altercations every single day. So, when we talk about revoking Karma Lounge's use permit, we're ignoring a bigger truth. The

environment has unmet mental health needs that no single business can resolve, along with staff compliance and disciplinary issues which all businesses have, including the City and the Police Department. Now, I need to speak on who Karma Lounge has been to this community. As a young black professional woman, it's one of the only spaces that I feel welcome and safe when grabbing a bite to eat after work. Beyond that, Karma has been a direct partner in community wellness. They've offered my nonprofit space to host CPR classes. They've sponsored meals for young black teenagers before college visits with my nonprofit, and they provide a safe gathering space for program participants to celebrate milestones. They show up for the City in ways that don't make headlines, but actually make a real difference. Revoking their permit doesn't solve the root cause, it just removes one of the few establishments building relationships, supporting community programs and helping residents feel connected rather than isolated. I urge the Council to take a step back and look at the larger picture. If we want a safer, healthier Hampton, we must invest in mental health services and community partnerships, not punish businesses that are already contributing positively for an individual's human behavior. Thank you.

Mr. Charles Kelley greeted those on the dais, stated his name as Charles Kelley and made the following statement: I'm the Director of Operations for RBF Security Solutions, and I've been hired to change and revitalize Karma Restaurant and Lounge and make sure it's a safe place. I've been operating in the Hampton Roads area since 1997 since I came from New York, and one thing I know for sure, things happen, but all the things that's happened before, I can't do nothing about that, but from now on, since I'm there, I can do anything about what's happening now. Now, the situation that happened on November 8 - it was unfortunate what happened. The officer was wearing a quick release vest. The individual grabbed a quick release. The vest came down. His weapon is on the vest. I do not represent that you take the weapon out, so I advise they take the vest off. Now, from the video, I'm going to tell you the truth, and I have nothing against police officers or anything like that, because we do need to work together. But, I really couldn't see what was going on, and all I can say is, from then on, we have had, for the little time that we've been there, no instances where we've had any kind of trouble. We've met all resistance with a definite protocol that does not lead to actual violence between officer and the person that is the individual that is going with. I want to, if anybody asks, I can put down serious protocols, you know, revisions, anything that's needed from me to you, to show you exactly how we will be working this. All my offices are DCJS certified. I'm an instructor myself, weapons and O1E, all the courses that's needed, and all the time that I've been doing security in the Hampton Roads area, and a lot of the people here can testify - on my shift, nobody gets shot, stabbed, hurt or mangled. Everybody leaves because I put particular detail into my officers, and Karma - I've known these individuals since they were young, and to me, these are good guys. I

do recommend that they stay open and give me and them the time to rectify any situation and turn around the thought about how karma might be bad for the community, because all I've seen is good. Thank you very much.

Mr. Johnson Tirado greeted those on the dais, stated his name as Johnson Tirado III and made the following statement: Owner of Black-Tie Transportation, a luxury black truck service that provides safe, reliable transportation through Hampton Roads. I share that because, like Karma Lounge, we're a black-owned business, and that matters. There's approximately 10,815 businesses in Hampton Roads, yet only 739 of them, just 6.83 percent are black-owned. This small percentage shows how important it is to protect, support and uplift the black-owned establishments that are here doing work every day. Black-owned businesses strengthen our community, economically, culturally and socially. They create jobs, they keep money circulating locally and close economic gaps. They provide respiration, inspiration to the next generation. They give back through mentorships, events, community-based support. These businesses become pillars of pride, of growth and opportunity. Now that being said, I want to focus on Karma Lounge. Karma Lounge represents everything a strong black-owned business should be. In transportation work, I've partnered with many clubs and lounges across the region. I can probably say Karma Lounge is the definition of black excellence. They care deeply about the community, their customers, and consistently go above and beyond and meet the people's needs. Removing Karma Lounge or even altering the structure in a way it might harm its operation, like cutting their hours, would be detrimental to the community. Karma is not just a restaurant, lounge or nightlife, it's a family, as you can see, of all the people that stood up behind us in support of the system. Karma Lounge has given back to the community more than any other establishment, to my knowledge, in Hampton Roads. Yes, there might have been foreseen incidents, but we cannot place all the blame on the establishment. We the people, the City, and the community must share responsibility and focus on the solutions and not the closure. The question should not be what happened, but what we could do moving forward. I want to acknowledge that Karma has already taken the real steps toward moving forward safely. I have personally witnessed, and they have hired my company to provide free transportation to every section, ensuring the guests can move to the establishment and leave the establishment without drinking and driving. Karma Lounge is great, and they are improving and listening to their lead. Karma Lounge is great in improving and listening. As a member of the community, I strongly ask that Karma Lounge can continue to grow into its full potential, to continue serving and carrying a strong black-owned business. Scripture reads in Proverbs 11:14, "Where there is no guidance, a community fails, but in the abundance of counselors, there is safety." And, I just want to show because I know that time is running short, that the work that Karma Lounge puts behind.

Hampton Roads, as we all know, drinking and driving is dangerous and one of the easiest ways to change your life in a matter of seconds. That's why Black-Tie Transportation is now partnered up with Karma Lounge to ensure seamless luxury transportation to and from the establishment, ensuring a safer community day by day, night by night, enjoy your evening without putting others in danger together. Thank you.

Ms. Tiffany Powell greeted those on the dais, stated that she was present to speak on the character of Karma Restaurant and Lounge, stated her name as Tiffany Powell and made the following statement: I'm the owner of Southern Hospitality Food Truck, proudly operating through the Hampton Roads area. I stand before you today, not just as a small business owner, but as a provider for my family and a member of a community that depends on one another to survive. My food truck operates through a commissary kitchen in Karma owned by Courtney Ray. He has opened his doors and his heart to support me and many others who need him. Karma has been a beacon in our community as a black-owned business that constantly gives back without expecting anything in return. They host turkey drives, toy drives, and they provided affordable meals during the government shutdown for families struggling to make ends meet. They fed every veteran for free on Veterans Day, and they hosted a free Halloween celebration for children who may not or had another safe space to go to. Karma doesn't just serve food, they serve hope, they serve dignity, they serve the community, and when one black-owned business supports another, it strengthens the entire foundation of Hampton Roads. If Karma falls, we will all feel it. Karma is not just a business, it's a lifeline for families, for veterans, for children, for small business owners like myself, who depend on them to legally and safely operate. Karma has proven that they are committed to uplifting the community. I would like to see us come together and make Karma a lasting footprint in our community. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Alex Barrow greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I stand before you today, not just in support of Karma Lounge, but in defense of fairness, equity and the profound impact that Karma Lounge has on this community. I'm asking the City Council to reconsider the unreasonable stipulations being placed on this black-owned establishment, a business that, while not perfect, has proven itself essential to our community. This establishment provides a much-needed space where residents can gather, fellowship and build positive connections. The owner continuously gives back, supports local initiatives and invests in the very people the City serves. Instead of creating barriers that handle growth and discourage community engagement, I urge the Council to work with this business in a fair and balanced way that reflects its true value to our City. Karma is more than a building. It is someone's dream, someone's sacrifice, someone's opportunity to show the world what people of color can achieve when they are given the chance. It's a source of

jobs, stability, mentorship, pride and representation in a world where black-owned businesses already face more barriers than most. So, I believe we can find a path that protects the community while still allowing this business to thrive. Together, we can set a standard of fairness, growth and unity.

Ms. Nakita Bellevie stated her name as Nakita Bellevie and made the following statement: So, I stand in support of Karma Lounge. As a 35-year-old resident of Hampton, I can honestly say it's one of the only places in the City where adults can come together and enjoy themselves, from game nights to R and B's, to community pop up shops. It's really the Cheers of Hampton. Everybody will know your name. They'll know which drink you're ordering, or even how your day is going. Lunch with Sheila is one of the greatest events during the day, especially as a stylist. I just support them.

Ciera Moore and Justin Birch signed up to speak, but were not present when called upon.

Mr. Eric Montgomery greeted those on the dais, stated his name as Eric Montgomery and made the following statement: I'm a Hampton resident, a Hampton homeowner. I'm the Marketing Director of What's Next program where I got over 300 felons their CDLs and trades. Unfortunately, I'm a felon coming out of Hampton, and I remember coming home and I couldn't find no type of employment at all, so Rally's gave me a chance. They put me in their kitchen. It was a humbling experience coming from the Fed and working in the kitchen, but the joy that I got being able to help my family during holidays and all that thing, was a feeling that I'll never forget. And I say all that to say Courtney hired the same type of people, like me, that's felons and people that's trying to get their life together, and y'all look at Karma like a lounge, but they look at it like a livelihood. Y'all take Karma away, there's no telling what they're going to do or what they can do to take care of their families, and that's all I had to say.

Mr. Dominique Cutchin greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm going to keep it brief. I like...picking back up what he said - Karma pretty much helped a lot of people that have no second chances, or they're trying to find a second chance. So, taking away that is like...I mean, as far as the parking lot, I mean, stuff happens. You know, stuff happens in Walmart's, Food Lion's - you know, security can't really control every single thing, even with the police sitting right there, people still going to be how they will. Some people just don't know how to act. You know, you could do better to add on to the security chain like the fellows here - that'll help, but I vote y'all give them a second chance if y'all can, because they employ a lot of people that don't have nowhere else to go. Thank you.

The Clerk reminded the Mayor that the applicant requested three minutes of rebuttal time.

Mr. Ray made additional remarks. He agreed that violence is hurting the community, but assured everyone that he did not open Karma to have an establishment that was prone to violence or security issues, instead, he wanted to give people a place to have fun and he does the work behind the scenes out of love. He noted all of the people that are in support of him, spoke about his efforts to address every issue that was brought to his attention, and made remarks about several incidents that took place at his establishment. He reiterated that he does not run a violent business and the problem runs deeper than Karma and is within the African-American community, but he chose to invest in this business in Hampton and is open to all suggestions and willing to work to resolve the situation.

At Vice Mayor Brown's request, Mr. Ray spoke about the July 11 incident involving a security guard allegedly tampering with a clicker device and how he addressed this scenario with his staff and changed the practice to where an I.D. scanner is now used.

Councilwoman Harper questioned why Mr. Ray waited until October to hire the new security team when the homicide took place back in April. She also shared that she was on board with giving the business a chance early on when others did not, but now has pause due to the incidents that have occurred and the fact that Mr. Ray did not take action sooner.

Councilwoman Ferebee acknowledged everyone who stayed late in support of Karma and at her request, Ms. Bunting shared that this item is about revoking the use permit 3, and that a zoning administrator application for a restaurant 1 or 2 would be required for the establishment to run as a restaurant which could be processed very quickly.

City Attorney Courtney Sydnor explained the application process and the waiting period for obtaining a permit.

Mayor Gray assured Mr. Ray that Council supports businesses where citizens can come and have a good time, however, the City cannot welcome the activity that has taken place outside the establishment which has resulted in numerous complaints. He shared that he hopes something gets worked out to where Mr. Ray can continue to operate here, particularly since it is clear that the community wants Karma to work. The Mayor continued speaking about the importance of determining a way for everyone to work together to make the best decision for all involved.

Ms. Bunting provided information on options for Karma to operate in the City, for example, as a level 1 or level 2 restaurant.

Vice Mayor Brown made comments about his desire for Mr. Ray to come up with a mitigation plan; the purpose of the revocation which is to help the business owner reset; the importance of expanding small businesses; his concern with Mr. Ray's delay in getting better security after the death that took place in April; this situation pains him (the Vice Mayor) because he believes that Mr. Ray is a good, respectable person who has tried to do something good for the community; and the challenge of finding a way to move forward.

The applicant, Mr. Ray, and his legal representative, Amina Matheny-Willard, presented information to Council and requested a deferral. The applicant's ten minutes expired and Ms. Amina Matheny-Ward did request rebuttal time.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Mugler that the Use Permit 24-0489 be revoked for failure to comply with the use permit conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

[25-0353](#) Motion to extend the meeting beyond the 11 p.m. time limit set by the City Code.

A motion was made by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper to extend the meeting beyond the 11 p.m. time limit set by the City Code. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

16. [25-0252](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HRHA)  
No action taken.
18. [25-0290](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Animal Response Team Advisory Committee  
A motion was made by Councilwoman Ferebee and seconded by Councilwoman Mugler that Amanda Wroten be appointed to a first term until December 31, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:  
**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray
19. [25-0344](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Coliseum Advisory Committee  
A motion was made by Councilwoman Ferebee and seconded by Councilwoman Mugler that Linda Curtis be reappointed and that Ann Cherry be appointed, both to terms expiring on December 31, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:  
**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray
20. [25-0345](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Planning Commission  
A motion was made by Councilwoman Ferebee and seconded by Councilwoman Mugler that Keisha Samuels be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of a term until November 30, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:  
**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray
21. [25-0346](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Towing Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ferebee and seconded by Councilwoman Mugler that George Salyers be appointed as a towing and recovery operator representative until December 31, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

- 22.** [25-0349](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens Police Advisory Group (CPAG)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Harper and seconded by Vice Mayor Brown that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 1/28/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

Councilwoman Ferebee stated: I did not participate in any discussion and will not vote concerning appointments to the Virginia Air & Space Science Center because my spouse currently serves on that board and is under consideration for appointment.

Councilwoman Mugler stated: I did not participate in any discussion and will not vote concerning appointments to the Virginia Air & Space Science Center because my spouse currently serves on that board and is under consideration for appointment.

- 17.** [25-0275](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Air & Space Science Center Board of Directors

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Harper that the following reappointments be

made:

Reappoint Ross Mugler and Ann Bane to second terms expiring on January 31, 2030; reappoint Melvin Ferebee, Jr., Michael Hamar, Gaylene Kanoyton, Stephen Miller, Dr. Chandra Oaks-Garcia and John Ishon to second terms expiring on February 28, 2030; and reappoint Brian DeProfio to a third term expiring on June 30, 2030. One vacancy remains.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Harper and Mayor Gray

**Abstained:** 2 - Councilmember Ferebee and Councilmember Mugler

**REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES**

Councilmembers shared holiday wishes with the community.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 p.m.

**Contact Info:**  
**Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, [council@hampton.gov](mailto:council@hampton.gov)**

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Jimmy Gray  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, MMC  
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_