



City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck
Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray
Councilmember Chris L. Bowman
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Hope L. Harper
Councilmember Billy Hobbs
Councilmember Martha Mugler

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cynthia Hudson, Interim City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

Present 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Martha Mugler, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [24-0331](#) 2024-25 General Assembly Session Review and Planning

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting summarized the items on the agenda. She then introduced the Vice President of Two Capitols Consulting, Mr. Ed Reed, to provide the General Assembly update and forward planning which will help with our legislative planning for the next General Assembly session.

Mr. Reed greeted those on the dais and stated that he would speak about Hampton's legislative requests at the 2024 General Assembly session; subsequent special spring and summer sessions; and preparation for the upcoming 2025 session.

With regard to Hampton's 2024 legislative requests, Mr. Reed reported that (1) After a number of years, the request to provide localities the authority to regulate blight in neighborhoods via a vacant building registry passed at both the House and the

Senate level; was signed by the Governor; took effect July 1; and requires a local ordinance. (2) The request to add Municipal Park Rangers, 911 operators and Animal Control Officers to the list of local employees who receive enhanced hazardous pay passed at the Senate level, but failed in the House Appropriations Committee due to the review of the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission. It was determined that additional studies were needed to determine what the fiscal impact would be across the state, however, this is something for consideration at the upcoming session. (3) A bill which authorizes local governments (cities) to provide, by ordinance, for the lawful seizure, impounding and disposition of an illegally operated All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). This passed at both the House and Senate level; was signed by the Governor; took effect July 1; and requires a local ordinance. (4) The request for a Code change related to public meetings under FOIA (*Gloss v. Wheeler*). This passed at the House and Senate level; was signed by the Governor; and took effect on July 1. The finished product was endorsed by VML/VACo Finance, the Coalition of Open Government, and the Press Association. (5) The request for a study on the benefits of violence interrupters and the impacts of barrier crime statutes in Virginia on violence interrupters. Mr. Reed explained that progress was made, however, this did not pass in the House Rules Committee (which was the case for most of the study bills this session), but the Speaker of the House agreed to send a letter from his office to the Crime Commission asking that the Crime Commission conduct this study over the interim. In addition, plans are under way to work with Delegate Jeion Ward to ensure that they take a look at that before the upcoming session.

Councilman Brown asked if the Credible Messengers item failed to allow those who may have had a crime barrier an opportunity to serve in that role? Mr. Reed replied yes, and added that there are many barrier crime statutes in the Virginia Code (which is more strict than other states); therefore, a study was needed regarding how they impact the ability to recruit and retain violence interrupters in Virginia.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting added that the barrier crime statute says that people who have committed certain crimes cannot work with young people without supervision, even with parental permission. She continued saying when we established credible messenger relationships (with parent permission), the goal was for the credible messengers to be allowed to work with the young people because they are extremely effective in preventing and intervening with young people who may have had temptations or seen crimes happen in their neighborhood. She noted that ultimately, there would be more reach if the individuals did not have to be supervised.

Mr. Reed continued with the next topic, Hampton's Budget Amendments. Discussions are ongoing about funding for the rental increase for the Hampton

Health District (Department), but there was no increase in the final budget; there was no increase in the final budget for funding for the rental increase for the Hampton Human Services Department; and the request for \$1.5 million of funding for Fort Wool restoration efforts was not included in the final budget (this was not a direct request from Hampton, but the City supported the request).

The next slide highlighted the special session budget deal signed by the Governor on May 13. It included budgeted amounts for salary increases for SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions; school construction loans; public education; water quality improvement fund for nutrient reduction projects at wastewater facilities in Virginia; localities with police departments; the Washington Metropolitan Transit System toll relief in Hampton Roads; and flood preparedness.

Mr. Reed also spoke about items that were not included in the final version of the special session budget deal including the increase of the sales tax; the addition of the digital tax; the legalization of skill games; and the mandate for Virginia to re-join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The next slide provided information about the 2024 Special Session 1 which convened on May 13. Session topics included the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program (VMSDEP) and skill games. The General Assembly is procedurally still in session and may come back to Richmond at the call of leadership.

Mr. Reed spoke about Hampton's participation in the interim legislative work. Specifically, staff's participation in the Virginia First Cities Access to Housing Workgroup (related to affordable housing) and the FOIA Council study of SB 324; and Council's participation on the Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees.

Lastly, Mr. Reed shared the 2025 legislative agenda timeline from August to December of 2024 leading up to the 45-day session which will begin on January 8, 2025.

Mr. Reed opened the floor for questions and comments. No further discussion took place.

2. [24-0358](#) The Office of Youth & Young Adult Opportunities Annual Report

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting stated that this work can be described as a three-pronged stool designed to ensure that our community is as safe as possible through prevention, intervention and enforcement. Today's presentation is an extension to the Public Safety Strategic Plan update given last month by Police Chief Jimmie Wideman who

highlighted enforcement activities. Today's presentation covers prevention and intervention activities.

Ms. Bunting also acknowledged Hampton's Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. Anton Bell, who was present and is offering a second round of the Junior Commonwealth's Attorney Program (JCAP).

Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities, Ms. Latiesha Handie, began the presentation. She thanked Council and Interim City Attorney Hudson for the opportunity to share this information by way of The Hopeful Hampton City Violence Prevention Initiative. She noted that today's presentation includes information about the violence prevention journey and how the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities leverages data and community input to guide and support processes. These processes are included in the three-pronged approach. Ms. Handie also noted that staff will report on some of the grants issued to the community to expand these efforts.

Ms. Handie spoke about Hampton's journey in preventing violence. In summary, the journey includes the 2013 Urgency of Now Initiative which addressed the rise in homicides impacting young African-American males; the development of the City's first Violence Prevention Office; a connection with Cities United, a national network which offers community-based violence prevention support and technical assistance; the Hampton United Hampton Strong Road Map which addressed violence and its root causes; a partnership with Christopher Newport University to launch a community survey which identified top contributors to crime as unaddressed trauma, unsupervised youth and access to guns; and the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative which addressed how to put this information together and operationalize it so that it could be managed and measured.

Ms. Handie continued saying that the journey reflects a strategic triangle influenced by legitimacy and support from Council and community members, the public value and operational capacity maintained through our Hopeful Hampton Initiative and our partners by way of Violence Interrupters. Ms. Handie reported that there has been a decrease in fatal and non-fatal incidents and improved citizens perception in spite of the peaks and valleys we currently face.

Next, Ms. Handie spoke about the plan to embark on this work. In 2022, the Steering Committee was reinstated as the Hopeful Hampton Steering Committee which includes representatives from various City Departments. Ms. Handie recognized the members of the Steering Committee who were in attendance by having them stand and then spoke a bit more about embarking on this work which

involves cross sector priorities, community assessments, police data and the Community Justice Action Fund Violence Prevention Index.

Ms. Handie reviewed the next few slides which included the data that informs the process. This information relates to fatal and non-fatal incidents by year; vulnerability statistics by age and year (this helps confirm information of those likely of shooting or being shot and what needs to be done to engage them); fatal, non-fatal and untargeted weapon violations by focused traffic zones (places); and public health awareness survey results.

Mayor Tuck noted that he did not recall a period where there were 37 or 46 fatal shootings in Hampton in the timeframe as listed in the presentation, and suggested that some of the data in the presentation may be incorrect. Ms. Handie noted that she would verify with the Hampton Police Division; however, the numbers should still reflect that there was a decline in these cases.

With regard to traffic zones, Ms. Handie explained that staff is focusing neighborhood support efforts in the areas of Shell Road, Langley Square, Doolittle Road, King Street, Magruder Heights and Nickerson Boulevard. There has been a decrease in the number of incidents on Shell Road, King Street and Nickerson Boulevard as a result of their interaction, but there has been an increase in fatal, non-fatal and untargeted weapon law violations in Langley Square and Magruder Heights. Those areas will take priority in the office's continuous programming.

Councilman Brown asked about the increase in untargeted weapons violations in the Langley Square and Seldendale Drive areas.

Ms. Handie explained that this data is police data and is related to unsolicited calls for service. These were calls made by citizens and not something targeted by Hampton Police. With regard to the method, she explained that when the office sees a peak in numbers, it provides intervention and additional layers of support in those areas to include prevention and intervention services and an assessment of the community. She noted that she could not say why there was a peak between 2023 and 2024, specifically, because that is such a short timeframe.

Ms. Handie said that public value involves reducing community trauma and increasing trust in government. The office assesses its impact through public health awareness events, evaluations and its community gatherings aimed at providing resources and collecting feedback which have proven to be effective. In addition, the office provides resources and services and assesses the needs of those communities. She then shared the public health awareness survey results from the slide presentation.

Ms. Handie shifted to the next portion of the presentation related to community engagement and prevention. These are activities that minimize exposure to violence, and protect and reduce the likelihood of negative environmental, economic, social and adolescent behaviors.

Ms. Handie noted that in the next section, several team members would share beneficial outcomes from Hampton's Parks and Recreation and Leisure Services, our court services, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities that's helping to reduce adverse social determinants and aid in community building.

Ms. Handie spoke about the office's events in the community including site visits and Violence Prevention Week which showcases the commitment to enhancing education and awareness and inspiring stakeholders to continue to be involved. She also spoke about safety efforts including increased street lighting which helps deter crime and some of the other successes the office has had as a result of a grant provided by the Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Tuck referenced discussions from several years ago about light improvements that were dependent on Dominion Energy's ability to install the lights, but today's presentation references lights being purchased through a grant from the Attorney General's Office. He asked Ms. Bunting to speak about the program already in place and whether those upgrades are still being done.

Ms. Bunting said that we are still getting those upgrades and this is extra. She explained that each year, we prioritize public safety lighting for areas where the police department believes it will make a significant difference. We use some of the money from the Attorney General's Office because there is a backlog for getting the lights done. While some of the waiting is due to Dominion's staffing challenges, we also have the ability to buy the lights with Dominion, but they are waiting to be installed.

Mayor Tuck clarified that he was under the impression that the lights were already installed, so it is unclear how these lights were able to jump over the backlog.

Ms. Handie clarified that this is for the purchase of 80 lights for these dedicated areas that have been procured through the Attorney General's grant. We are waiting for some to be installed, and as of the last report, some were going up.

Ms. Bunting clarified when maintenance work is already being done in a particular area of the City, one may be taken ahead of another while work is being done in that

area. This explains why it is not always the first request that gets installed.

Councilman Brown asked if these are LED lights which are replacing the old fashioned mercury vapor lights that are obsolete.

Ms. Bunting said that these are all new light installations and the existing street light structure was designed for traffic management, not public safety lighting. The City Council program of doing public safety lighting was to add additional lights. When the program was started, Dominion Power was still using sodium vapor light, but they are now at the end of the supply of sodium vapor light. All new installations will be with the LED type lighting.

Councilman Brown re-worded his question and asked when the additional lights are installed, will they be compatible with the current unit? For example, if an old mercury vapor bulb is removed, will these units be compatible or will it require a new pole? Ms. Bunting clarified that these are new poles.

Councilman Brown also asked how much of a reduction in crime has been seen in our locality. Ms. Handie noted that she would have to research that information and get it to Councilman Brown later.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Councilman Brown confirmed that he would like to receive information related to the overall crime reduction in Hampton as well as the percentage of crime reduction as a result of additional lighting (once it has been installed).

Ms. Bunting assured everyone that staff will do its best to provide before and after statistics, however, cautioned to say that lights alone reduce crime by a certain amount because there are many factors that play into the reduction of crime. This makes it difficult to determine which factor attributed to a certain percentage of crime reduction.

Ms. Handie made a few additional comments about other purchases and programs related to surveillance efforts for crime prevention in the City.

Councilwoman Harper asked if the increased lighting and surveillance is being done only in the six areas mentioned in the presentation.

Ms. Handie noted that she could not provide details with regard to surveillance cameras due to police confidentiality, but the purpose is to help with the overall reduction in crime. With regard to lights, our deterrence model is focused on vulnerable individuals and vulnerable places. The areas listed previously are the

ones where neighborhood resources, prevention, programming and community engagement will focus.

Vice Mayor Gray noted that Ms. Handie mentioned Rip Rap Road earlier and asked if that means that there are now six concentrated areas.

Ms. Handie clarified that the concentrated efforts are to intervene in the five neighborhoods based on what we provided in the grant outlines of focus areas; however, Rip Rap Road was able to benefit from the additional funding provided for environmental design or improvements to infrastructure only.

For the record, Ms. Bunting explained that there are other surveillance cameras and public safety lighting projects being done throughout the City, however, Ms. Handie was referring to projects that her office is involved in as part of the grant resources. She noted that staff can provide a full report to Council (if they would like) without disclosing the surveillance cameras and then reiterated that Ms. Handie was speaking about the ones that her office has purchased through the grant resources.

Ms. Handie turned the floor over to Senior Family Services Coordinator, Mr. Hugo Morrison.

Mr. Morrison greeted those on the dais and reported on the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities summer programs. This year, the office employed 150 students in the Summer Youth Employment Program, a significant increase from last year's 103. He also spoke about the office's collaboration with Hampton City Schools, its aligning students with relevant career pathways and its reinforced summer employment opportunities which create paths from high school to post-secondary education and careers for the students. In addition, their connections with employment partners have allowed the office to offer experiences in areas such as media arts, technology, mental health, sports, education, entrepreneurship and more.

Mr. Morrison spoke about the plan for the office to expand its Summer Youth Employment Program into a year-round initiative and shared the candidate selection criteria. This approach aims to ensure a fair and inclusive selection process, supporting a diverse group of participants at different stages of their success journey.

Mr. Morrison thanked the organizations that supported and participated in the 2024 Summer Youth Employment Program and stated that the efforts of these organizations allowed many young people to gain hands-on experiences and guidance that will enable them to become the next generation of leaders.

Mr. Morrison spoke about the Hampton Hoops Program (which has been transformed into a year-round basketball league) and the Hampton City Night Jam. These programs aim to provide safe recreation spaces during times when violence tends to peak. They also offer after-hours programs and resources to engage youth and reduce violence. Mr. Morrison recognized the members of the Family Services Team who have been instrumental in the success of these programs.

Mayor Tuck asked whether these programs will be extended through the fall. Mr. Morrison shared that the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities will work to study the results of the summer programs and determine whether they can be brought back.

Ms. Bunting added that initially, the program was during the summer while kids are out of school, but since it was successful, and if Council would like to continue it, staff will work to see if people will sign up for the fall. She noted that she would work to identify the funds for this important integrated program and it is more about commitment from the various partners than about funding.

Vice Mayor Gray shared that there was a good turnout at the events he attended and, in his opinion, this program should be continued since this is a constructive activity that kids enjoy and come out for in numbers (versus roaming the streets). Councilmembers Brown and Bowman also shared their positive experiences while attending the basketball nights and thanked those involved.

Mr. Morrison thanked Council, the team and the violence interrupters for their support and work. He also recognized the violence interrupters who were in attendance by having them stand.

Mr. Morrison concluded his portion of the presentation by sharing an additional goal of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities which is to enhance public health awareness and reduce violence by addressing underlying issues such as poverty, unsupervised youth and unaddressed trauma. This is done in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department and aligns with the City's violence reduction strategy. He highlighted a few additional recreation programs and then turned the floor over to Community Engagement Supervisor, John Davis.

Mr. Davis greeted those on the dais and spoke about intervention. This involves collaboration with a number of partners including court services, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, the Hopeful Hampton Steering Committee and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities. He also highlighted one of the

Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities intervention programs, Keep the Peace, a court-ordered program for violent juvenile offenders and their families. Mr. Davis noted that he would report on a few more programs later in the presentation and then called upon those from the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to make their presentation.

Hampton's Commonwealth's Attorney, Anton Bell, greeted those on the dais and corrected some statistics presented earlier. He clarified that there were 24 fatal shootings and 46 non-fatal shootings between January 1-July 15, 2023, and noted that additional numbers will be shared later in the presentation related to efforts by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. He also said that Hampton is unique in that it has many initiatives, programs, collaborations and an all-hands approach which delivers positive results for the City. For example, August 2024 numbers show that there was a 65% decrease in homicide and a 42% decrease in non-fatal shootings when compared to the August 2023 numbers. In a 4-year average, Hampton also shows a 40% decrease in non-fatal shootings.

Mr. Bell thanked the City Manager, Council, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities and others for their diligent work and collaboration which has resulted in an improvement in Hampton's numbers. He also briefly addressed the question posed by Councilman Brown about lighting stating that it would be nearly impossible to define the root of the success, to include whether the success is a result of additional lighting.

Mr. Bell provided an overview of the Operation Cease Fire Initiative. He reminded everyone that crime will occur no matter the locality; therefore, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has taken a three-prong approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement for Hampton. Operation Cease Fire is a violence reduction strategy aimed at combating the rise in group-related violence. It involves partnerships between law enforcement, community leaders and social service providers to address the root causes of violence and engage them directly with those involved parties.

Next, Mr. Bell spoke about Hampton's Junior Commonwealth's Attorney Program (JCAP). This program is in its 7th year and this year, had a 200 plus waiting list due to high demand. Thanks to partners like Sentara and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office has been able to reach the 757 area and there is no program like it in the nation. Another program, the Educating Kids about Gun Violence Program (EKG), is a classroom presentation by the EKG team using a designed curriculum, group discussions, case scenarios and personal stories to educate students about the medical, legal and emotional consequences of gun possession, group violence and positive alternatives. These

preventative programs have an underlying theme of teaching young people character, leadership and the skills needed to make good choices.

With regard to the intervention component of Operation Cease Fire, Mr. Bell shared that the office offers free counseling resources for victims or witnesses of crime between the ages of 12 to 25; and the youth support group, the Caviar Club (meaning valuable and having worth), offers mental health services to address traumatic experiences of youth and young adults.

Lastly, Mr. Bell spoke about the enforcement component of Operation Cease Fire. Group Violence Intervention (GVI) involves community members with moral authority delivering credible moral messages against violence. In addition, support and outreach providers, including law enforcement, make a genuine effort to help people in a number of areas including job readiness, education, mental health counseling and housing, if they want help. If they do not want help and cause a threat, an effort is made to ensure that they are no longer a threat to our community.

Mr. Bell concluded his comments expressing the importance of public safety being a priority and thanked Council for making it a priority. He reiterated that services are available so that people are aware that they are cared for, that their best interests are in mind and that this is a win-win for everyone. He reiterated that anyone who chooses not to accept help and causes a threat will face the consequences. This ensures that our citizens have the best, livable outcomes in our City.

Mr. Bell turned the floor over to Cease Fire Coordinator, Ms. Keyanna Young.

Ms. Young reported on the prevention component of Operation Cease Fire. Between 2023-2024, 90 Hampton Roads students participated in the JCAP program with 43 students enrolled in the last cohort for the year. One thousand Hampton City School students and 800 community citizens have been screened for the EKG Program. Data from the 2023-2024 school year shows that 78% of these young people, ages 14 and 15, have a close friend who carries a firearm. In addition, 10% reported that they are group and gang-related. These numbers are alarming due to the age of these individuals.

Ms. Young reported on the intervention component of Operation Cease Fire. Two group Caviar Club sessions have taken place since Operation Cease Fire's inception. Over 11 referrals were made to the Hopeful Hampton partners through Youth Opportunities to provide individuals who are on that vulnerability list or who are vulnerable to being likely to shoot or be shot.

Ms. Young reported on the enforcement component of Operation Cease Fire.

National Network for Safe Communities (provided by the Office of the Attorney General) will come at the end of the month to host a GVI (Group Violence Intervention) University to assure that our Hampton strategy is sufficient in engaging these individuals. They will focus on call-ins and custom notifications for these vulnerable individuals. Currently, five custom notifications have been done to provide services so that these individuals remain safe, alive and free.

Next, Community Engagement Supervisor, John Davis, spoke about the Hopeful Hampton Divergent Program. This program was highlighted during Youth Violence Prevention Week and graduates of the program were recognized at the Gala of Hope. The program engages candidates seeking to heal, build, rebuild and thrive from firearm-related incidents. This 12-week intensive group program aims to provide comprehensive services through coordinated peer to peer mentoring, therapeutic and mindfulness services and life skills planning. After completing two cohorts and collaborating with community partners, 15 at risk individuals were served. These individuals are youth that were identified as most vulnerable to either being shot, shooting or associates of those. During the program, many of the issues these young people face are tackled, including inadequate conflict resolution, unresolved trauma and the need for improved public health awareness. Mr. Davis noted that while there has been progress, there has also been some resistance to change. This is evident by three of the 15 individuals who have since faced firearms-related charges, affecting our success rate by 20%. This is minor compared to the 80% success rate following the same criteria for success as set out for the Keep the Peace Program.

Mr. Davis continued stating that participants are engaged through the community engagement team (he acknowledged those in attendance), violence interrupters and skilled professionals to provide mental health assistance, mindfulness and recreation through our existing partnerships.

Mr. Davis spoke about the importance of the violence interrupters. Violence interrupters play a crucial role in our GVI ecosystem. They help us connect with vulnerable individuals and their families to diffuse conflicts; offer their shared experiences and peer to peer mentoring support; and increase trust in government and our programming. In addition, the one-on-one mentoring experience was introduced at the last cohort of the Hopeful Hampton Diversion Program. Each participant was paired with a violence interrupter to aid in successful participation and program completion. Their involvement reinforced goal commitments, consistency and learning from challenging moments in the program. This mentorship is invaluable and this model will be supported for future programming.

Mr. Davis highlighted the story of one of the program participants, a young man

aged 24 who spent seven years in a high security facility for second degree attempted murder and discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling: Before prison, life was tough and often dark with nights filled with distant gunshots and disputes among drug users. Eventually, he became entangled with gang activity, which introduced him to a lifestyle of crime and chaos and led to his incarceration in federal prison. While incarcerated, he was physically injured by a rival gang member. When he returned home, this young man was determined to change his life and share valuable life lessons with others involved in violence and harmful social networks. He saw support from our office, was placed in the Hopeful Hampton Divergent Program and assigned a mentor, Mr. Troy Ketchmore, from Ketchmore Kids. Since completing the program, this young man has actively engaged in therapeutic mental health services through the Community Services Board; is employed through the Summer Youth Employment Program; participates in the Hampton City night jam; and is actively pursuing his high school diploma while receiving tutoring services through the Adult Learning Center and Chanel Ketchmore through Ketchmore Kids. Further demonstrating hope and change, this young man was a key speaker at the Gala of Hope during Youth Violence Prevention Week. He has been featured in The Daily Press article focused on gun violence prevention programs, and recently attended Senator Mark Warner's Town Hall discussion to showcase the program's success.

Mr. Davis pointed out that success for these programs begins with referrals to the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities. These crucial referrals are received through the Opportunity Connect System, and utilizing the hampton.gov/youth opportunities website, anyone can refer youth and young adults, ages 14 to 24, and their family members to address issues related to drugs, firearms, violent social networks or behavior challenges.

Mr. Davis announced that during this reporting period, we have realized 148 submissions, representing a 136% increase from the previous reporting period. Sixteen of those referrals were determined to be intensive cases that were referred by our cease fire partners or court services for diversion, or were linked to our office for other firearms related issues. Other requests are directed to partner agencies for life skills, mentorship, counseling, prosocial activities and employment opportunities.

Lastly, Mr. Davis spoke about the cases that have been moved to an inactive status. In these cases, the candidates either chose not to engage with the office after several attempts were made for initial contact; passed away; are currently incarcerated; or have completed their two-year commitment with our office. Mr. Davis also reported that three individuals are expected to graduate from the pilot program in January of 2025.

Ms. Handie returned to the podium to speak about the financial aspects of the work, to include grants and federal and state funding appropriations. She thanked Councilwoman Martha Mugler, for her work in her former role as delegate, which helped the office reach more people and support the divergent program. She spoke about Attorney General appropriations and Council's civic and community support, which funded many organizations and reached hundreds of youths.

Ms. Handie reviewed a few additional slides about recommendations to continue to expand the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunity's reach through current and potential projects, as well as partnerships with organizations and City departments. She also spoke about funding for projects; support for a number of organizations; and the requirements that must be met in order for individuals and organizations to receive funding. Some of the funding sources she spoke of include several grants and Council's General Fund appropriations. More information about mini grants can be found on the website at www.hampton.gov/minigrants.

Ms. Handie thanked her team for their efforts with this complex and demanding work and also thanked the Mayor for catching an error in the numbers in the presentation. She opened the floor for questions, but none were posed. She then introduced Assistant Police Chief Jason Price to provide a few numbers related to crime in the City.

Assistant Police Chief Jason Price greeted those on the dais and provided an overview of the City's gun violence victimization statistics year-to-date January 1-July 31, 2024. He noted that there is a slight uptick in the numbers due to a two-week difference between these numbers and the numbers that were previously provided.

In summary, year-to-date 2024, there were 7 homicide victims, 17 less than 2023 or a 70.83% reduction; and there were 27 non-fatal gun violence incidents, 23 less than 2023 which equates to a 46% reduction. In total, 40 less people were impacted by gun violence in that time frame. This equates to a total reduction of 54.05%.

Ms. Bunting said that Assistant Police Chief Price re-ran the data as of today because there were some incidents over the weekend and yesterday. This changed the numbers slightly, but these figures are superbly better than this time last year.

Assistant Police Chief Price shared the updated numbers. As of this afternoon (year-to-date 2024), there have been 9 victimizations of homicides (compared to 26 in 2023 year-to-date), a reduction of 17 in number or 65%. There were 30 non-fatal gunshot victimizations year-to-date 2024, compared to 52 in 2023, for a

reduction of 22 or 42%. Overall, 39 fewer people were impacted by gun violence (non-fatal/fatal) for a reduction of 50%. This is important, considering the bad year we had last year.

Assistant Police Chief Price explained his calculations stating that he looked at the last four years and took the average of that compared to this year, which showed a reduction of 26 individuals on average, or 40%, which is remarkable.

Assistant Police Chief Price opened the floor for questions from Council, but none were posed.

Ms. Handie thanked Council for allowing the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities to share these outcomes and the outcomes by way of the Hopeful Hampton Initiative. She then opened the floor for questions.

Mayor Tuck said when the regional task force of gun violence began, discussions took place about possibly getting the General Assembly to mandate conflict resolution as a class for early grades and asked Ms. Bunting if that is still being considered.

Ms. Bunting said that she believed it was adopted in our regional legislative package for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. In addition, we are in the process of starting the regional legislative package for the next year. She assured everyone that she will see to it that the Chief Administrative Officers will continue to view it as important and based on what is happening with crime, she believes the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission will, once it reaches them. In addition, we are working to get the school boards, associations and districts to sign on to that. This has been a challenge for some localities because not all localities have the relationship Hampton has with its school system and School Board. She reiterated that it will be put with the legislative package and perhaps for the regional package.

Mayor Tuck announced that he and City of Newport News Mayor Phillip Jones will hold a joint press conference tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Crittenden Middle School. The conference will be about the urgency of obtaining mentors (particularly in middle schools) and the cohort of young black boys, as that's the group that is most at risk.

Vice Mayor Gray asked who compiled the great presentation which includes some excellent content. Ms. Handie stated that she created the presentation and thanked Vice Mayor Gray for the compliment.

Councilwoman Harper gave kudos to those who participated in the presentation and

all who continue to do this work, particularly the work to combat gun violence and put people on the right tract to become productive Hamptonians and citizens of society.

Councilman Hobbs asked if this fantastic news will be shared with the press. He also briefly spoke about an interview he and Newport News Councilwoman Tina Vick did a few months ago about this and then reiterated what a great job the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities is doing.

Ms. Handie thanked everyone for the kind words and strong forces behind her and her staff to make sure the initiative moves forward with passion, hope, enforcement and structure.

Councilman Bowman commended Ms. Handie on the presentation and all that she and her staff do.

Mayor Tuck made closing remarks. He thanked Ms. Handie and her staff for the work they do and shared that this work began with former Councilman Will Moffett. He said a critical part has been the availability of more financial resources thanks to the General Assembly, ARPA funds, Congressman Bobby Scott and the work of many individuals and grass roots organizations to include GVI. In addition, having Council and staff that supports these efforts is important.

The Mayor also briefly spoke about the recent incident at the Convention Center and said that it is impossible to govern people's actions, but it is clear that we are trying to positively influence them and put them on a better path.

Mayor Tuck called a 10 minute recess and the meeting reconvened at 2:54 p.m.

3. [24-0356](#) Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Youth Programs

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, Dave McCauley, greeted those on the dais and noted that he would speak about the programs the department offers for youth and teens to include summer, fall and winter programs.

Mr. McCauley spoke about summer programs related to prevention and alternatives. Some of them include: the Rec 'n' Roll Scuttle Bus which travels to neighborhoods (apartment complexes) every week in the summer where recreation activities and

USDA programs are provided; an outdoor event for teens and their families, called the Making a Splash Program, at Mary Jackson Neighborhood Center and the West Hampton Community Center; summer camps for youth and teens, including the Junior Ranger Camp at Sandy Bottom Nature Park where teens are trained to become youth counselors through the Counseling Training Program; and various partnerships and programs at community centers, including the PALS After School Program, modeling programs, Future Leaders of America, the Healthiest Me I Can Be yoga class, Community of Change self-esteem building, Give Back 2 DA Block, and the Malone Project Creative Writing Program.

Mr. McCauley highlighted some of the programs offered at the four community centers where approximately 200 visitors visit on average each week. A variety of classes, workshops and recurring events are held at the centers, to include a new summer nights basketball camp program that was offered at the West Hampton and Northampton Centers. Other programs include the Teen Life Unplugged Video Game Summer Camp at the Fort Monroe, Northampton and West Hampton Community Centers; and the Open Rec Teen Program at all of our community centers. Mr. McCauley shared that parents receive discounts on weekly fees for these programs if they are Parks and Rec members. In addition, the REC Connect Program provides free community service center memberships to the City of Hampton for school students ages six to 17.

Mr. McCauley continued highlighting some of the programs at the Little England, Mary W. Jackson, Y.H. Thomas and Fox Hill community centers. Some of the programs include a summer basketball league, and a program called Recreation Matters where youth mentors work with kids on topics from sports and recreation to etiquette and life.

Mr. McCauley highlighted the wide variety of sports options offered through the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Athletics Division including basketball, disc golf, fitness equipment classes, beach volleyball, pickleball and a youth tennis camp at the Hampton Tennis Center. The department also partners with athletic associations and various leagues in these efforts. Mr. McCauley also highlighted programs at the City's Therapeutic Recreation Center which serves as a resource for parents and caregivers and offers activities such as field trips, cooking lessons, arts and crafts, games and more.

Mr. McCauley spoke about upcoming programs for the fall and winter months. The primary focus for youth and teens at the four primary community centers is the Beyond the Bell After School Program during winter break and Christmas which later transitions into the spring break camp in April. In addition, there are new game rooms and fitness rooms and a number of fall and winter-themed events. Classes

and activities are also planned, some of which include the pumpkin dunk, Superbowl Sunday, holiday events, trunk or treat and a kid's café. Mr. McCauley then listed a few more activities that take place at the Fox Hill Community Center and the Therapeutic Recreation Center.

Next, Mr. McCauley spoke about additional activities and amenities provided by the department and the City as a whole that are available to youth and teens throughout the year. These provide fun things to do in Hampton at low or no cost. Free activities include, but are not limited to, the outdoor fitness circuit at Gosnold's Hope Park; the Hampton Skate Park at the Woodlands Golf Course; outdoor tennis, basketball, volleyball courses; dog agility equipment at Ridgeway; Air Power Park; Buckroe Beach Playground (improvements underway) and beach volleyball.

Next, Mr. McCauley spoke about fee-based activities offered by the department at affordable rates including carousel rides; indoor fitness; petal boat and other water sports rentals; golf; and other services.

Lastly, Mr. McCauley highlighted additional activities offered throughout the City, but not necessarily through Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services. Some of them include tours through the Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau; the Hampton Aquaplex; and Youth Sailing Virginia, Inc. He also noted that some of these places offer student discounts, fun part-time jobs and other opportunities for young adults.

Mr. McCauley opened the floor for questions and comments.

Mayor Tuck thanked Mr. McCauley for the outstanding presentation and shared that this is a comprehensive program being offered. He also indicated that he is not sure if people realize the extent of what is being offered to them and then congratulated Mr. McCauley and his team for what they do.

Mr. McCauley agreed that it is important to get the word out about these programs and also thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to speak with the Macedonia Group.

Mayor Tuck made a few closing remarks thanking Mr. McCauley and his team for being as inclusive as possible. He also spoke about an event on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Mary Jackson Center where kids enjoy themselves and thought this was great considering that facility does not have a gaming room.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues to report upon.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

4. [24-0352](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711A (1) (3) (5) and (8) to discuss appointments to boards and commissions as listed on the agenda; to discuss the performance of the City Manager and Clerk of Council; to discuss or consider the disposition of publicly held real property in the Downtown area of the City where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the City's bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and to discuss prospective businesses where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses' interest in locating in the City.

At 3:06 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chris Bowman seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

Prior to voting on the motion to convene a closed session, Vice Mayor Gray stated that he would not be participating in the portion of the closed session concerning a discussion of a businesses' interest in locating in the city.

5. [24-0332](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Federal Area Development Authority (FADA)
6. [24-0333](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens Police Advisory Group (CPAG)
7. [24-0339](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA)

CERTIFICATION

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8. [24-0359](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Contact Info:

Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, council@hampton.gov

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, MMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____