



Virginia First Cities 2018 Fall Legislative Board Meeting
“Economic Gardening: Stimulating Local Economies by Growing Our Own”

Williamsburg Inn – Williamsburg, Virginia

November 30, 2018



Virginia First Cities



- **Charlottesville**
- **Danville**
- **Hampton**
- **Hopewell**
- **Lynchburg**
- **Martinsville**
- **Newport News**

- **Norfolk**
- **Petersburg**
- **Portsmouth**
- **Richmond**
- **Staunton**
- **Williamsburg**
- **Winchester**

Executive Director's Report – Providing Value

- **Providing Value** – Community Wealth Building Continues to be a Priority
 - Round 1 (\$7.5 million) in second year; 6 members received 5-year, renewable grants
 - Round 2 (\$3 million) in first year; matching funds reduced to 10 percent for high poverty localities
 - Best Practices Session co-sponsored by City of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building and VFC in June was beneficial and well-attended.
 - Kept members well-informed about **Round 2** of the 5 –year, renewable, \$3 million state TANF for Employment/Community Wealth Building Grant that VFC requested
 - VFC Staff supported our members with emails, personal calls, idea sharing and support
 - Due November 26; several members applied (Hampton, Newport News

Executive Director's Report – Best Practices for Success

Economic Stimulus Committee

- VFC Board approved the new committee at the May 2018 Annual Meeting in Hampton
- Addresses a need expressed by several members
- Each city had appointed an expert to participate on the Committee.
- Well-attended and stimulating meetings with state Economic Development organizations and other relevant entities.
- Purpose: explore strategies and new Economic Development Models that will benefit our members
- Assess the Economic Development Programs in the State
- Research the Efficacy of Amplifying Existing Programs
- Look at Best Practices in the Country
- Staffed by Jim Regimbal

Executive Director's Report - Membership

- We continue to meet with our members to educate and inform
- We look forward to meeting with your city
- Growing our membership is a priority
- We have met with 2 potential members since July to encourage them to join us
- We appreciate your support and participation as we meet with potential members

Executive Director's Report – Eviction Reform

- **Evictions** - Participated in Housing Commission, Poverty Law Center and other committee meetings.
- Variety of options exist including to address consumer protection issues and streamline processes:
 - **Housing Commission** is working on a simplification of the eviction process to balance the needs of Tenants and Landlords including:
 - Reforming the appeal bond process
 - Reforming the Writ of Eviction process, must be issued in 180 days, not 1 year from the date of judgment
 - Requires that leases be in writing or the Tenant gets a one year lease
 - Reform Tenant's Right of Redemption- may pay back rent up until 2 days before execution of the Writ of Eviction
 - Reforms ability to amend filings and limits repetitive filings of Unlawful Detainer Summonses

ALSO:

- **3 year Pilot DIVERSION program** for high eviction communities to lessen evictions and provide needed supports is being considered but needs work, targets low income persons who (Richmond, Danville and Hampton)
- **Campaign to Reduce Evictions** – led by the Poverty Law Center – is proposing a pilot PREVENTION program that would provide wrap around services earlier in the process to prevent evictions.

VFC Business Meeting

Call to Order

Chris Snead, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes

All

Treasurer's Report

Steve Owen, Treasurer

Financials



Virginia
FIRST CITIES