

MAYOR STONEY'S ICYMI Newsletter

Hello Richmonders! I hope you enjoyed the time spent with family and friends this winter and are excited for the spring. This *In Case You Missed It* newsletter is another way I am working to ensure my fellow residents are informed of our city's accomplishments. Thank you for reading!



In Case You Missed It

April 2019



FY20 Budget

On March 6, I released my FY20 budget proposal making bold investments to meet Richmond's long-neglected needs in our neighborhoods and public education. The fully balanced budget proposal presented to Richmond City Council provides an additional \$18.5 million to fully fund the Richmond Public Schools strategic plan and Dreams4RPS, which includes the local match for recently passed state salary increases for teachers. The city's Capital Improvement Program budget also fully funds RPS' maintenance needs of \$19 million.



My budget proposal also provides an historic investment of \$16.2 million toward streets and sidewalks, \$465,000 for Richmond's Eviction Diversion Program, \$2.9 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and \$965,000 for the Greater Richmond Transit Corporation for increased service to those communities needing it most.

To address these priorities, I have proposed a restoration of the real estate tax rate to its pre-recession level of \$1.29 per \$100 of assessed value – the same rate it was in 2006. I am also proposing the City of Richmond impose its first ever tax on cigarettes of 50 cents per pack. These proposals will yield additional revenues of over \$21 and \$3 million, respectively. This budget is designed to build on our successes while addressing years of deferred maintenance and delayed investment in our city.

School Visits

When I was a candidate for mayor, I promised to visit all 44 Richmond Public Schools every year while in office. I continued this promise in 2018 and look forward to visiting our kids again in 2019.



Virginia Values Veterans (V3)



Richmond was chosen as one of eight initial localities nationwide to host a “Mayor’s Challenge” to educate first responders to the specific needs of veterans and to increase access to community services and suicide prevention initiatives among military service members, veterans and their families. In recognition of these efforts, Richmond is now V3 certified under the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. For more information, please call the Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program at (877) 285-1299.

Eviction Diversion Program

During my State of the City Address on January 31, I announced Richmond’s **Eviction Diversion Program**. Under this pilot program, tenants will get the benefit of a clean slate, financial literacy education and access to supportive services; landlords will get the rent owed while avoiding the expense of the eviction process and finding a new tenant. Through this program, our goal is to reduce Richmond’s eviction numbers by hundreds each year.

Three New Schools



On December 19, we broke ground on three new 21st century public schools: a new George Mason Elementary School, a new E.S.H. Greene Elementary School and a new middle school to replace the existing Elkhardt Thompson Middle School. This \$150 million investment was made possible by an increase in the meals tax.

City Lactation Policy

In my State of the City Address I also announced the City of Richmond will become the first city government in the South to have a lactation policy for city employees who are nursing mothers. I am proud to say this policy is now on the books at City Hall!

Shockoe Alliance

Earlier this year I announced the creation of the Shockoe Alliance, a group of city staff, preservation experts and community members charged with guiding the design and implementation of recommendations for the future of Shockoe Bottom, one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods. The Shockoe area was originally inhabited by Native Americans before being colonized by English settlers and later turned into the country’s second largest center for the selling and buying of enslaved Africans. We’ve had our first meeting and I look forward to continuing this work with alliance members and our community on a vision forward.

Let Me Hear From You!

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