

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
August 24, 2020

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 5:15 p.m., in the Board Room of the Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

**Members of the Board Present:**

Thomas M. Branin, Chairman, Three Chopt District  
Daniel J. Schmitt, Vice-Chairman, Brookland District  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District  
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District  
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukias, County Manager  
J.T. (Tom) Tokarz, County Attorney  
Lee Ann Anderson, Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Cari M. Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff  
Steven W. Knockemus, Assistant Director of Public Relations  
Lt. Col. Linda Toney, Assistant Chief Police, Support Operations

Mr. Branin called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m.

Mrs. O'Bannon requested a moment of silence for former Lt. Governor John Hager who passed away earlier in the day.

Lee Ann Anderson, Senior Assistant County Attorney, presented a Power Point on the County's Police Division Complaint and Investigation Process. Mr. Nelson asked if information from the Internal Affairs process is available for public review. Ms. Anderson explained some Internal Affairs documents are excluded from public disclosure because of personal information, but the Police Division sends a letter and discusses the outcome with the complainant. Mrs. O'Bannon questioned what steps a dissatisfied complainant can take, and Ms. Anderson stated they normally reach out to their Board of Supervisors member.

Lt. Col. Toney stated that the Police Division website provides statistics about internal affairs complaints. Mr. Nelson pointed out that if he has a complaint against a police officer, he has no way to see the complaint. He also stated there is no specific data on race and other demographic information.

Mr. Vithoukias advised the Board that there were numerous individuals who were present and on WebEx who had signed up to speak. Mr. Branin stated the Board would allow comments on civilian review boards even though the meeting is a special work session.

The following citizens spoke on the topic of civilian review boards:

- Toni Schmiegelow, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, spoke in support of a civilian review board because she feels there is a lack of transparency and accountability for the Police Division.
- A'tasha Christian, a resident of Varina District, stated she was a mental health professional and feels a civilian review board would hold the Police Division accountable for its decisions.
- Kenny Ragland, a resident of the Brookland District, stated he is a retired Henrico Police officer and supports a civilian review board to help bridge a gap in trust within the African American community.
- Samantha Thompson, a resident of the Fairfield District, gave examples of successful civilian review boards in Chicago and in Washington.
- Henry Haggard, a resident of Tuckahoe District, spoke in support of the civilian review board to give the citizens a platform to advocate for fair and just outcomes.
- Jim Fitzgerald, a resident of the Three Chopt District, stated he is a retired Henrico Assistant Police Chief. He does not believe Henrico needs a civilian review board because the Police Division is certified by CALEA, and he submitted the CALEA Standards for the Board's review.
- Monica Hutchinson, a resident of the Fairfield District, stated she works with youth and favors a civilian review board to strengthen the relationship between community and Henrico Police.
- Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris, a resident of the Three Chopt District, spoke in support of a civilian review board and encouraged the Police Division to break out demographic data about complaints and incidents.
- Rai Beasley, a resident of the Brookland District, stated he is president of the Henrico County NAACP and is in favor of a civilian review board for accountability and transparency.
- Joe and Tricia Bahen, residents of the Brookland District, stated they feel the creation of a civilian review board should be a proactive rather than reactive decision.
- Pearl Wise Crawley, a resident of the Brookland District, supported creation of a civilian review board and stated people should be able to disagree with each other in a respectful manner.

- Caroline Pruett, a resident of the Brookland District, supported a civilian review board because it is the type of good government we need. She stated she trusts the Board will select individuals who represent Henrico and what we stand for.
- Christian Mitchell, a resident of the Brookland District, wanted to know if there are public section unions in Virginia. Mr. Vithoukaskas noted recent collective bargaining legislation passed by the General Assembly.
- Terrell Pollard, a resident of the Fairfield District, stated he feels we shouldn't have to wait for a situation to happen in Henrico for us to address concerns and that having a civilian review board will establish trust.
- Thomasina Cunningham, a resident of the Fairfield District, stated she is a former Police officer and supports a civilian review board to provide integrity, transparency and trust.
- Bryan Horn, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, noted that public collective bargaining could come into play next year and asked the Board to consider that factor when making the decision regarding a civilian review board.
- Greg Baka, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, stated he is not opposed to a civilian review board but does not support one that is appointed or one that has the power to hire and fire police officers because he feels the County Manager as the chief Public Safety Officer handles these issues effectively.
- Bruce Richardson, Sr., a resident of the Fairfield District, stated he applauds the efforts of Mr. Nelson for a civilian review board and believes it is unfair for parents of minorities to have to fear for their children when they go out at night.
- Thomas Crotts, a non-resident, stated he is not in favor of a civilian review board because Henrico has the highest standards in policing and feels communication and education will fix the breakdown between Police and the Black community.
- Mark Crean, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, is not in favor of a civilian review board because it is not needed.
- Raymond Cady, a resident of the Brookland District, supports a civilian review board and encouraged Mr. Schmitt and the Board to vote in favor because it would hold Police accountable.
- Sheri Robinson, a resident of the Brookland District, is in favor of a civilian review board so citizens can have a voice.
- Eric Harris, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, shared an encounter he had with Police and feels a civilian review board will help bridge the gap between citizens and Police.
- Aileen Rivera, a resident of the Varina District, spoke in favor of a civilian review board and feels it should be independent and fully funded to avoid future conflict.

- Sylvester Turner, a resident of the Varina District, spoke in favor of a civilian review board and feels the Board has always been proactive and not reactive.
- Ashby Chlor, a resident of the Fairfield District, feels there needs to be accountability for the Police Division and it needs to be held to a certain set of standards.
- Carla Ingram, a resident of the Fairfield District, spoke in support of a civilian review board, noting there is no professional industry that does not have a quality assurance or quality review measure.
- Greta Randolph had several questions regarding how Internal Affairs complaints are handled and stated once a complaint is finalized, there is no formal policy to address how the case is closed and how the information is sent back to the person who filed the complaint.
- Melissa McKenney, a resident of the Tuckahoe District, would like for the Board to move from considering a civilian review board to having a civilian review board because trust of Police is missing.
- Scott Blevins asked the Board to look at the cities that have successful review boards and use them as examples.

Mr. Branin stated the Board will come back with more information about what direction the County will take.

Mr. Nelson stated he understands the County has to wait for the General Assembly to make legislative decisions about a civilian review board, but he wants clarification on where the Board members stand. He requested that the Board come up with a plan and stated citizens want to hear how the Board feels on the subject. He further stated the County has a great Police Division but feels there is some mistrust of Police that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Thornton complimented the Board for giving the citizens the opportunity to speak and stated this is not a Mr. Nelson problem, it is a Henrico County Board of Supervisors' problem. He stated he is for a civilian review board for the reasons in the letters they have received, and he added that we can't take race out of the discussion because race is a part of the issue. He feels the Board must recognize white privilege is real and we need new tools. In his view, Henrico has always been a leader and establishing a civilian review board will be a good start.

Mr. Branin concurred with Mr. Nelson and agreed about having a civilian review board but is not sure what one will look like. He stated the Board needs to move forward in the direction it is going but wait to see the guidance from the General Assembly.

Mr. Schmitt assured citizens that their letters were read and that they were heard, and he stated he would like to hear more from the General Assembly and the new Chief of Police.

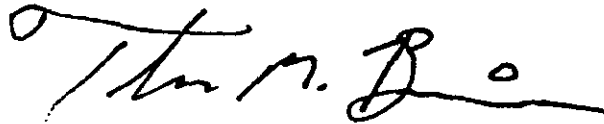
Mr. Nelson requested staff to look closely at Senate Bill 5035 under consideration in the General Assembly, and he requested conversations with the new Chief of Police.

Mr. Branin requested the Manager to get the bills Mr. Nelson requested for the Board and also requested meetings with the new Chief of Police.

Mrs. O'Bannon stated there needs to be more outreach from the Police Division and more communication between Police and the community, and she thought the Board needs to wait for direction from the General Assembly.

Mr. Nelson stated he would like to see more data available from the Police Division and he feels the new Chief of Police can make this happen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. De". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia