

AGENDA

Newport News City Council Work Session

June 12, 2018

*10th Floor Conference Room
City Hall*

- 4:00 p.m. I. Closed Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. II. Briefing on Youth & Gang Violence
- 5:00 p.m. III. Briefing on the State Budget & Impact on Newport News
- 5:15 p.m. IV. Campbell Road Project Q & A
- 5:30 p.m. V. Comments/Ideas/Suggestions
- MLK, Jr. Plaza (City Manager Cynthia D. Rohlf)
- VI. Adjourn
- 6:00 p.m. VII. Dinner

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER


June 6, 2018

TO: The Honorable City Council
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: Building Better Futures Initiative

The Building Better Futures Initiative (BBFI) is the City's Youth & Gang Violence Prevention program that began in FY 2014. This approach to engaging youth and young adults mirrors the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model (Model).

The BBFI operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which represents the collective interests of 11 (eleven) agencies who are resolved to reduce youth gang crime and violence for juveniles and young adults between the ages of 18 to 24. BBFI agencies agree to use the Model to accomplish five (5) primary goals that strengthen evidenced-based practices in the areas of prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry to improve outcomes for at-risk clients in the City of Newport News.

The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Manager, Miss MaRhonda Echols, will provide a BBFI update at your next Work Session on June 12, 2018 to share key program highlights and accomplishments.



Cynthia D. Rohl

CDR:AKA;jlt

cc: Alan K. Archer, Assistant City Manager
Michael C Grinstead, Acting Chief of Police
MaRhonda Echols, Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Manager

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

June 6, 2018

TO: The Honorable City Council
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza

City Council expressed concern regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza being used for loitering and undesirable/illegal activities. The following actions have been taken.

An interdepartmental enforcement team was convened comprised of the City Manager's office, Parks and Recreation, the City Attorney's office, and Police department. A number of meetings were held to develop short-term and long-term action items ranging from stepped-up enforcement presence, additional signage and litter receptacles, enhanced technology, email information/ communication exchange, stepped-up maintenance and litter collection, and changes to the physical environment that are contributing to the criminal activity in the area. Most of the activities are either completed or are underway. The primary recommendation from this effort is to add fencing off the field across from MLK Plaza Park, almost midway between 26th and 25th streets.

Attached is an aerial exhibit that depicts the location of the proposed fence. The fence cuts off the illegal activities that are currently happening behind the buildings and would make it very difficult for those evading law enforcement pursuit efforts. The fence would be 6-foot Iron Rod and would connect with the NNRHA's-Spratley House Apartment's (651 25th Street) existing fence and would run to the barber shop (611 25th Street), and would replace the existing chain-linked fence. The installation would occur after the demolition of the dilapidated structure located at 615 25th Street. NNRHA is currently in the demolition process to remove the structure. It is anticipated that the fence can be installed within 60 days, contingent upon the demolition timetable and weather permitting.

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Monthly progress and enforcement monitoring meetings continue and we will keep you apprised on the continued progress of this on-going initiative.


Cynthia D. Rohlf

CDR:dsf

Aerial exhibit: MLK, Jr. Plaza Park with 6-foot Iron Rod Fence (25th Street)

