

**Work Session Agenda
Staunton City Council
Caucus Room
February 27, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

Invocation/Moment of Silence—Mead

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | 1. | Consideration of Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas |
| 6:05 p.m. | 2. | Discussion and General Overview of Delinquent Taxes |
| 6:20 p.m. | 3. | Discussion of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program and Grant Application |
| 6:35 p.m. | 4. | Discussion of FY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application |
| 6:40 p.m. | 5. | Closed Meeting for Discussion or Consideration of:
(i) the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Position or Negotiating strategy of the Public Body; and (ii) Information Regarding One or More Prospective Businesses or Industries or the Expansion of an Existing Business or Industry Where No Previous Announcement Has Been Made of the Business' or Industry's Interest in Locating or Expanding Its Facilities in the Community, Specifically Including but Not Limited to a Review of the Businesses or Industries and the Considerations that May Affect Location in the City of Staunton and/or Selection of Any Available Properties in the City of Staunton as Suitable Sites |
| 7:15 p.m. | | Break |

**Regular Meeting Agenda
Staunton City Council
Council Chambers
February 27, 2020
7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor's Report

Additional Items by Members of Council

REGULAR MEETING

- A. Volunteer Recognition of David Brown, Former Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission**
- B. Recognition of Lt. Adam Dolan, Staunton Fire & Rescue, Recipient of the 2019 Governor's Fire Service Award**
- C. Annual Report of Shenandoah Valley Social Services**
- D. Annual Report of Blue Ridge Court Services**
- E. Presentation of Citizen Survey Report**

Matters from the City Manager

Matters from the Public

Adjournment

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	City Council
Item #	1	
Ordinance #		
Department:	City Council	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Work Session and Regular Meeting Agendas	

Background: Consistent with Procedural Memorandum No. 3, attached are draft meeting agendas for City Council's consideration and for approval as Council prefers.

Suggested Motion: I move to approve the Work Session agenda and the Regular Meeting agenda [as presented] [with the following changes: as to the Work Session, the addition/deletion of _____; as to the Regular Session, the addition/deletion of _____].

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

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- C. Annual Report of Shenandoah Valley Social Services**
- D. Annual Report of Blue Ridge Court Services**
- E. Presentation of Citizen Survey Report**

Matters from the City Manager

Matters from the Public

Adjournment

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Rick Johnson Treasurer
Item #	2	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Treasurer	
Council Vision:	Responsive Efficient Government	
Subject:	Discussion and General Overview of Delinquent Taxes	

Background: At the request of Mayor Dull, Rick Johnson, City Treasurer, will attend the Council work session to discuss delinquent taxes and collection methods including tax sales of real estate. Attached is a summary report.

Attachment: City of Staunton Delinquent Tax Report for City Council

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

City of Staunton Delinquent Tax Report for City Council

Personal Property collection rates – 2014-98.3%, 2015-98.4%, 2016-98.0%, 2017-97.2%, 2018-94.2%, 2019-85.5%

Real Estate collection rates –2013-99.80%, 2014—99.64%, 2015-99.44%, 2016-98.92%, 2017-98.64%, 2018-98.12%, and 2019-96.93%.

Collection Efforts

- **Sale of Properties** - Sale of properties for delinquent taxes netted \$185,850 as four parcels were redeemed and 13 parcels were sold. Expect the next set of properties to be turned over to Sands Anderson by April 30, 2020, with an estimate of at least 20 properties to be turned over to Sands Anderson at that time. The judicial sale process can take up to a year to complete. Coming out of the “Great Recession”, we have worked with several property owners with payment plans to save their properties both commercial and residential, while still collecting all penalties and interest due to the City.
- **DMV Stops** - Currently, there are over 600 DMV stops in effect which prevent the delinquent taxpayers from renewing tags or conducting other business with DMV. This is an effective collection tool, but sometimes takes time as many people renew vehicles for 2 years at a time – and we have to reset these DMV stops each year. We are currently investigating use of software that may be able to set stops in bulk.
- **Tax Refunds and Lottery Winnings** - Our office intercepted 2,121 Virginia State Income tax refunds totaling \$260,015 in 2019 through the Set Off Debt Program with the Virginia Department of Taxation. We also took 22 state lottery winnings totaling \$10,078. 2020 is on about the same pace. The majority of these payments are for personal property bills, but some are for real estate and utility bills as well.
- **Wage Liens** - Our office has also set 300 wage liens. The Treasurer has the authority to lien 100% of a delinquent taxpayer’s take home pay. Determining where the delinquent taxpayer is currently employed is the time consuming aspect of this collection tool.
- **“Renters Liens”** - We also engage in 3rd party “renters liens” to collect real estate tax. In this case, after the lien is set, the renter of the property is required to send the rental payments to the Treasurer instead of to the landlord until the tax debt is paid.

In today’s mobile community, sometimes the toughest obstacle to collection is locating the delinquent taxpayer (we change over 2500 mailing addresses a year). If they are located in Virginia, collection by the aforementioned methods, although not instant, is effective. Currently we use Virginia DMV records and the Virginia Department of Taxation to help locate individuals.

Collection of delinquent taxes continues to challenge all Treasurers, especially in tough economic times. My office has achieved these collection rates with 25% less staff than when I took office and with a budget that is very close to 2006 numbers.

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Staff Member: Billy Vaughn
Item #	3	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Community Development	
Council Vision:	Built Environment	
Subject:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program and Grant Application	

Background: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program has been instrumental in revitalizing communities across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The purpose of the program is to return vacant or underutilized properties to productive reuse by providing funds for initial assessments and planning that will serve to incentivize investment and jumpstart redevelopment and area-wide revitalization of communities.

While EPA offers multiple types of grants, the City has an opportunity to apply for a Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant totaling \$300,000, which would be funded over a 3-year period. The targeted area for the grant application would be the West Beverley Street corridor. Community groups in the West End, including for example the West End Alliance and the West End Business Association, will be fully engaged during this process. Funded activities include direct costs associated with:

- community engagement, including targeted, site specific efforts as well as broader community education about the program and its benefits;
- brownfields inventory, including initial site characterization, prioritization, access coordination and eligibility determinations;
- environmental site assessments (ESAs), including Phase I and Phase II ESAs, along with associated work plans required by the program;

- planning for site remediation and/or redevelopment, which can include target area or site specific planning, such as marketing/feasibility studies and concept plans; and
- grant administration and required federal reporting.

No direct cash match is required of the City for this grant. Communities typically provide in-kind services toward grant oversight and contract with a qualified environmental consultant to carry out most of the administrative and technical aspects of the program.

At the November 14, 2019 Council work Session, Lori Kroll, Community Resource Specialist with Draper Aden Associates, provided an overview of the program to City Council. Initially, Ms. Kroll recommended that the City apply for a Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment Grant totaling \$300,000, targeting the West Beverley Street corridor during the funding cycle with an application due date of December 3, 2019. However, as a result of a limited time to initiate community engagement efforts, Ms. Kroll subsequently suggested that the City delay submittal of a grant application until the next round.

Beginning in March, three to four community meetings will be held over a 6-month period to gather input for the application. This approach will not only strengthen the application and the implementation should the city receive an award of grant funds, but the impacted community can be at the forefront and serve as champions for these revitalization initiatives. The grant application is due by December 2020.

Ms. Kroll will attend Council's work session on February 27, 2020, to provide a brief overview of the grant program and the community involvement process.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Staff Member: Chief R. Scott Garber
Item #	4	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Fire and Rescue	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Application for FY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant	

Background: The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides financial assistance directly to fire departments to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards. The primary goal of the program is to ensure organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. The program seeks to support organizations that lack the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the life and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards. Cost sharing under the program is based on the population protected by the grantee. Organizations serving populations between 20,000 and 100,000 must agree to match the federal grant funds with an amount of 10% of the total project cost. The Staunton Fire and Rescue Department is pursuing a grant to fund additional thermal imaging cameras (shown below), to increase the effectiveness and safety of personnel and the public, at a cost of \$45,000 with a local 10% match of \$4,500. The 10% match will be funded from the department's annual Virginia Department of Fire Programs Aid to Locality funding.

City Manager's Recommendation: Recommend that City Council authorize staff to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant, as proposed.

Suggested Motion: I move that City Council authorize staff to apply for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant, for the purpose of acquiring thermal imaging cameras, as proposed, provided matching funds are available in the Fire and Rescue Department budget for this purpose.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg



CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 13, 2020	Staff Member: Billy Vaughn
Item #	5	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Economic Development	
Subject:	Closed Meeting for Discussion or Consideration of: (i) the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Position or Negotiating strategy of the Public Body; and (ii) Information Regarding One or More Prospective Businesses or Industries or the Expansion of an Existing Business or Industry Where No Previous Announcement Has Been Made of the Business' or Industry's Interest in Locating or Expanding Its Facilities in the Community, Specifically Including but Not Limited to a Review of the Businesses or Industries and the Considerations that May Affect Location in the City of Staunton and/or Selection of Any Available Properties in the City of Staunton as Suitable Sites	

Suggested Motion(s):**Before the closed meeting:** I move to enter a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of: (i) the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3); and (ii) information regarding one or more prospective businesses or industries or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, specifically including but not limited to a review of the businesses or industries and the considerations that may affect location in the City of Staunton and/or selection

of any available properties in the City of Staunton as suitable sites, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(5).

Second. Discussion. Vote – Clerk of Council to poll members of Council.

After the closed meeting: I move that Council reconvene in an open meeting and certify to the best of each member's knowledge that only lawfully exempted public business matters were discussed and that only public business matters as identified in the closed meeting motion were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting.

Second. Discussion. Vote –Clerk of Council to poll members of Council.

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Steven L. Rosenberg City Manager
Item #	A	
Ordinance #		
Department:	City Manager	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Volunteer Recognition	

Background: David Brown, former Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, will receive recognition on the occasion of his recent retirement from City service. His son, Wyatt Brown, will attend Council's meeting on his behalf.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Steven L. Rosenberg City Manager
Item #	B	
Ordinance #		
Department:	City Manager	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Recognition of Lt. Adam Dolan, Staunton Fire & Rescue, Recipient of the 2019 Governor’s Fire Service Award	

Background: Lt. Adam Dolan, Staunton Fire & Rescue, will attend Council's regular meeting to receive recognition on the occasion of his receipt of the 2019 Governor's Fire Service Award. Details concerning the Firefighters for Literacy program, spearheaded by Lt. Dolan and for which he was recognized, are attached.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

In the spring of 2019, Adam Dolan, Lieutenant for the City of Staunton Fire and Rescue Department, wanted to find a creative way for Staunton Fire & Rescue to become more active with local schools. After wading through the internet and then bouncing ideas off his shift-mates and wife, an idea started to take shape. Adam decided that he wanted to initiate a reading incentive program for grade-school age children in the community.

Adam reached out to Mrs. Emily Rodzinka, the literacy coach at A.R. Ware, a local elementary school, to assist him with developing his idea. Together, they crafted the beginnings of the “Firefighters for Literacy” program. Adam and Mrs. Rodzinka designed a three month reading incentive program for the children with monthly prizes. He also set up a weekly schedule for firefighters from the nearby fire station (SFD Engine 2) to visit the classrooms to motivate the children to participate in this new program. The visiting firefighters were invited to be guest story time readers where they read to the children ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade. They would also spend one-on-one time with students assisting with reading skills or academic work – all the while weaving in an educational competent on the importance of fire safety and building a lasting rapport with the elementary school children.

Adam asked each teacher to set reading goals for their students and developed several prize opportunities to motivate the students. Every student that met their teachers’ reading goals received a small prize from the program. From that group of students, a child from each class was drawn at random to have snacks with the firefighters. Students who met their reading goal were also entered into a drawing to receive a “Firefighters for Literacy” shirt. Additionally, every time a student met their reading goals, their name was entered into a Grand Prize drawing at the end of the program. The winner of the Grand Prize received a ride to or from school in a Staunton fire engine!

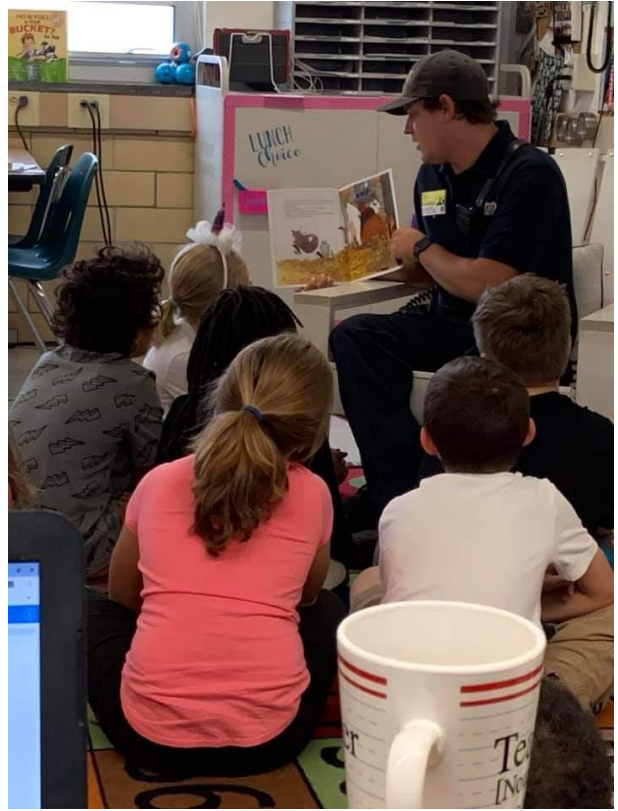
Adam spent his days off canvassing local organizations for the prizes and snacks. Often times, unbeknownst to the Fire Chief, he even spent money out of his own pocket to ensure the program could fulfill its obligation to the children. The program was more successful than anticipated! From the beginning, the children were enthusiastic and excited to participate in the challenge and interact with the firefighters. By the end of the program, the enthusiasm was tremendous! The teachers reported a dramatic change in the children’s attitude toward reading. Five classes reported 100% of their children had achieved the reading goals set by their teachers.

The firefighters who worked with Adam on this project were overwhelmed by the obvious influence they were having on the children. The children loved interacting with local heroes and benefited from the time and energy the firefighters brought to their school. The teachers appreciated the way the program made reading fun and exciting for their students. The firefighters were even thanked by parents in the community who had seen a difference in their child.

Lieutenant Adam Dolan had an idea. He watered and tirelessly tended it. He got other personnel and the Fire Chief’s office on board. He sold that idea to anyone who would listen. As the idea picked up momentum, a program was born that stoked the literacy fire in hundreds of children.

This program not only increased the literacy efforts of the participating elementary school, but also fostered a relationship between the school, its teachers, students and the fire department. The literacy program was only piloted at one elementary school, reaching 850 elementary children. Next

semester the program will be used in all 3 elementary schools. This program is not only new to the Staunton City Schools, but it is also the only one of its kind.





CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Staff Members: Anita Harris Lisa Dunn
Item #	C	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Shenandoah Valley Social Services	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Annual Report	

Background: Anita Harris, Director of Shenandoah Valley Social Services, and Lisa Dunn, Assistant Director, will discuss the highlights of the department's Annual Report for FY 2018-2019. Materials are attached for Council's review.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steve Rosenberg

Shenandoah Valley Social Services Program Highlights and Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2018/2019

Benefit Programs – Financial and medical assistance is provided to eligible residents for benefits under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Virginia Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) and Energy Assistance.

TANF – Provides financial services to children and their families in need.

- TANF applications received – **916**
- TANF cases under care monthly average – **406**
- Diversionary cases FY18/19 – **15**
- TANF benefits issued - **\$1,493,343**

SNAP Program – Provides food assistance for low-income families.

- SNAP applications received FY18/19 – **4178**
- Average # cases served per month – **5069**
- FS benefits issued FY18/19 – **\$13,414,177**



Medicaid – Pays for health and medical care for low income people.

- Families & Children Medicaid and Plan First cases under care – **7645**
- Long Term Care/Aged, Blind, & Disabled, and Auxiliary Grant Medicaid cases under care – **4269**
- Total Medicaid benefits issued FY18/19 – **\$133,127,522**

General Relief – Provides assistance for families with unrelated minors.

- Number of children receiving assistance – **8**
- Total GR spent – **\$27,190**

Burial Assistance – Provides burial assistance for those with no family or resources to pay burial expenses.

- Number of burial applications approved – **55**
- Total Local Burial Expense - **\$26,803**

LIHEAP – Low Income Energy Assistance Program - Provides heating/cooling assistance to low income families, the disabled and elderly.

- Fuel applications processed FY18/19 – **2350**
- Fuel benefits issued FY18/19 – **\$892,110**
- Cooling applications processed FY18/19 – **1531**
- Cooling benefits issued FY18/19 – **\$281,286**
- Crisis applications processed FY18/19 – **838**
- Crisis benefits issued FY18/19 - **\$145,615**



Child Care Services for Children – Provides quality day care services for children.

- Day care cases (monthly average) – **184**
- Day care benefits issued FY18/19 – **\$730,466**

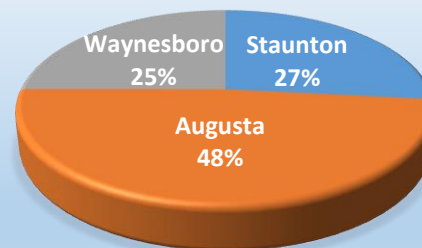
VIEW – Assists, trains, and prepares TANF recipients for employment.

- VIEW total cases (monthly average FY18/19) – **86**
- VIEW customers employed (monthly average) – **60**
- **70 %** of VIEW customers employed
- VIEW avg. hourly wage – **\$10.22**

Welfare Fraud Referrals and Collections

- TANF collections – **\$6,167.58**
- SNAP collections – **\$179,544**
- Daycare collections – **\$1,674.11**
- Medicaid collections – **\$0.00**
- VIEW collections - **\$29**
- Total collections FY18/19 – **\$193,187**

**FY18/19 CASELOAD COUNTS FOR STAUNTON,
AUGUSTA COUNTY AND WAYNESBORO**



Service Programs – Families and Children and Adult Services include the program areas of Child Protective Services (CPS), Adult Services, Adult Protective Services (APS), Foster Care (FC), Adoption, Family Treatment and FC Prevention.

Adult Services and Protective Services – Investigations of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation of elderly and incapacitated adults. Provides services to reduce the risk to adults and assist adult to remain independent.

- APS Intake referrals FY18/19 – **1540**
- APS investigations FY18/19 – **1341**
- APS found in need of services FY18/19 – **125**
- APS ongoing service cases (monthly average) – **273**
- AS Intake Referrals/Contacts – **652**
- AS ongoing service cases (monthly average) – **132**
- Guardianships (monthly average) – **190**
- Volunteer Payee Program (monthly average) – **36**



Child Protective Services and Prevention Services - Investigations of child abuse/neglect. Services opened to families determined at further risk of abuse/neglect.

- CPS referrals FY18/19 – **2902**
- CPS investigations/assessed FY18/19 – **912**
- CPS families opened to service (monthly average) – **29**
- Prevention cases – **25**

Foster Care and Adoption Services – Provides a safe home for children coming into care with an emphasis on seeking permanent placements for the child.

- Number of children entering care during FY18/19 – **55**
- Average monthly caseload – **167**
- Adoptions completed FY18/19 – **25**
- Post adoption subsidized cases completed FY18/19 - **274**
- Number of approved foster homes FY18/19 – **35**

CSA – Children's Services Act

- Number of youth served FY18/19 – **425**
- Total CSA dollars spent – **\$11,801,854**

MISSION: The promotion of self-reliance and protection of citizens through community-based services.

Management Team

Benefit Programs:

Benefit Programs / Fraud Manager	Amber Bokelman, Supervisor (540) 942-6664
Family and Children	Cristi Abshire, Supervisor (540) 245-5860
	Krystina Guerrero, Supervisor (540) 942-6595
Medicaid Expansion	Adrienne Jackson (540) 942-6709
Adult Medicaid/Long Term Care	Holly Pritt, Supervisor (540) 245-5864
	Jonathan Kelton, Supervisor (540) 942-6402

Service Programs:

Adult Services/Adult Protective Services	Nicole Medina, Supervisor (540) 942-6650
Child Protective Services	Amber Martino, Supervisor (540) 245-5848
Foster Care	Cherish Humphries, Supervisor (540) 245-5842
Adoption	Stephanie Huffman, Supervisor (540) 245-5833
Prevention	Shelly Catterton, Supervisor (540) 213-3692
VIEW, Daycare & Family Outreach Program	Christina Jones, Supervisor (540) 245-5884
Children’s Services Act (CSA)	Crystal Breeden, Supervisor (540) 213-3690
Administrative Office Manager	Susan Hughes (540) 245-5813



Anita Harris, Director
Phone: (540) 245-5810
Email: anita.harris@dss.virginia.gov

Lisa Dunn, Assistant Director
Phone: (540) 245-5838
Email: lisa.dunn@dss.virginia.gov



Shenandoah Valley Social Services
Annual Report FY 2018/19

Office Locations

Augusta County Government Center
68 Dick Huff Lane, P.O. Box 7
Verona, Virginia 24482-0007
Telephone (540) 245-5800
Fax (540) 245-5880

1200 Shenandoah Avenue
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980-0748
Telephone (540) 942-6646
Fax (540) 942-6658



CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Staff Member: Megan Roane
Item #	D	
Ordinance #		
Department:	Blue Ridge Court Services	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Annual Report	

Background: Megan Roane, Director of Blue Ridge Court Services, will discuss the highlights of the Blue Ridge Court Services FY 2019 Annual Report. The annual report is attached for Council's review.

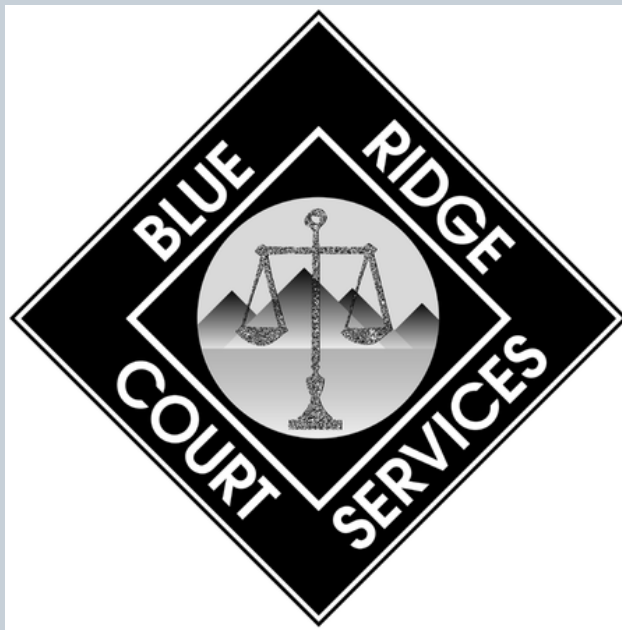
City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

FY 2019

Annual Report



The mission of Blue Ridge Court Services is to provide research proven sentencing alternatives for the local criminal justice system in an effort to reduce jail overcrowding, enhance public safety and offer rehabilitative opportunities to local offender and pretrial populations in the Cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington and Buena Vista and the Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland.

From the Director



TRANSITION

2019 has been a year of transition for Blue Ridge Court Services. David Pastors retired on March 18, 2019, after serving as the Director of BRCS for 23 years. I would like to thank Dave for his incredible leadership and dedication to this agency and our community. On March 19, 2019, I began my role as the Director of Blue Ridge Court Services. I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead an agency that I have been a part of since 1999. I have been extremely fortunate to have Dave as a mentor for so many years. By no means will I be able to fill his shoes, but I certainly look forward to the opportunity to serve this agency and the community to the best of my ability. I would like to thank everyone for their support and guidance as I have transitioned into my new position. The Staff of Blue Ridge Court Services have been amazing during this time of transition, and I am extremely blessed to be a part of this great team.

SUPPORT

Blue Ridge Court Services was able to serve over 2,300 individuals in 2019 due to the continued support from our local criminal justice partners.

The overwhelming guidance and support our agency receives from the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board, judges, magistrates, commonwealth attorneys, defense attorneys, jail staff and court personnel make our services possible. We have been able to increase our placements from 238 in our first year of 1995 to over 2300 in 2019 and expand the programs that our agency offers due to the progressiveness of our criminal justice community.

Also, I would like to thank the City of Staunton for serving as our fiscal agent and providing us with much support. We are very grateful to be a part of such a wonderful entity.

The Staff of Blue Ridge Court Services looks forward to another successful year working with our wonderful partners in the criminal justice community.

Together we can do great things in 2020!

Megan Roane



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Blue Ridge Court Services Staff



Megan Roane - Ms. Roane became the Program Director in March, 2019. She began her career with BRCS in 1999 as a Court Services Technician. Megan was promoted to be a Probation Officer in 2002. In May 2015 she was promoted to be Assistant Director. Megan graduated from Bridgewater College with a BS in Sociology.



Tasha Harner - Ms. Harner joined BRCS in July 2005 as a Court Services Technician. Then, in May 2006 she was promoted to be our Domestic Violence Probation Officer. In 2015 Tasha was promoted to be our Probation Manager. Tasha graduated from Bridgewater College with a BS in Psychology.



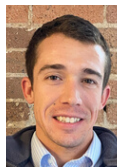
Samantha Honig - Ms. Honig joined the BRCS team in August 2009. She provides pretrial services to Waynesboro and Rockbridge. Samantha is a graduate of the University of Richmond with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and received a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from the Johnson and Wales University.



Martin Schmid - Mr. Schmid began his career at BRCS as a Court Services Technician in September 2009. In 2012, he was promoted to be a Pretrial Officer specializing in mental health cases and our HEM Coordinator. Martin graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS in Psychology and a BA in English.



Luther Hite - Mr. Hite came to BRCS in January 2009. He provides probation services to Augusta County. Luther graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.



Andrew Lightner - Mr. Lightner joined BRCS in July 2013. He provides probation services to Augusta County. Andrew is a graduate of Liberty University with a BA in Criminal Justice.



Diana Fetterer - Ms. Fetterer joined our staff in July 2015. She provides pretrial services and is the Coordinator of the Therapeutic Docket. Diana is a graduate of Christopher Newport University with a BA in Sociology and a Masters Degree in Forensic Psychology from Marymount University.



Alayna Sensabaugh - Ms. Sensabaugh came to BRCS in January 2016 first as an intern and then as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. Alayna now provides pretrial services to Augusta County. Alayna is a graduate of Bridgewater College with a BA degree in Sociology.

Blue Ridge Court Services Staff



Wendy Dodge- Ms. Dodge joined our staff in June 2017. She serves as the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Drug Court Coordinator. Wendy has a BA in Psychology from West Virginia University and a MS in Psychology from Angelo State University.



Brittany Rohrer - Ms. Rohrer joined BRCS in May 2018 as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. Then, in April 2019 she was promoted to be a Probation Officer. She provides probation services to Staunton. Brittany graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Criminal Justice.



Haley Showalter - Ms. Showalter joined our staff in July 2018 as a Post Baccalaureate Fellow. In July 2019 Haley was promoted to be a Probation Officer. Ms. Showalter provides both pretrial and probation services to Rockbridge, Lexington and Buena Vista. Haley graduated from James Madison University with a BA in Justice Studies.



Melissa Wingo - Ms. Wingo came to BRCS in August 2018 as an intern. Melissa joined our staff in January 2019 to participate in the Post Baccalaureate Fellowship. She serves as our Re-entry Specialist. Melissa is a graduate of James Madison University with a Bachelors Degree in Social Work.



David T. Pastors - Mr. Pastors retired in March 2019 after serving as the Director of BRCS for 23 years. Then, in May 2019 Dave returned to BRCS as a Criminal Justice Planner. Dave is a graduate of the Univeristy of Virginia with a BA in Psychology.



Hannah Legarsky - Ms. Legarsky joined the BRCS team in December 2019. Hannah serves as our principal Pretrial Investigator. Hannah is a graduate of William Peace University with a BS in Criminal Justice.



Paul Lightner - Mr. Lightner joined the BRCS team in January 2020 as our Drug Court Technician. Paul is a graduate of William and Mary with a BS in Psychology and received a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Trinity Univeristy.

Blue Ridge Court Services
White Star Mill Building
125 South New Street
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone: (540)886-1008
Fax: (540)886-8029

www.staunton.va.us/brcs

Probation Services

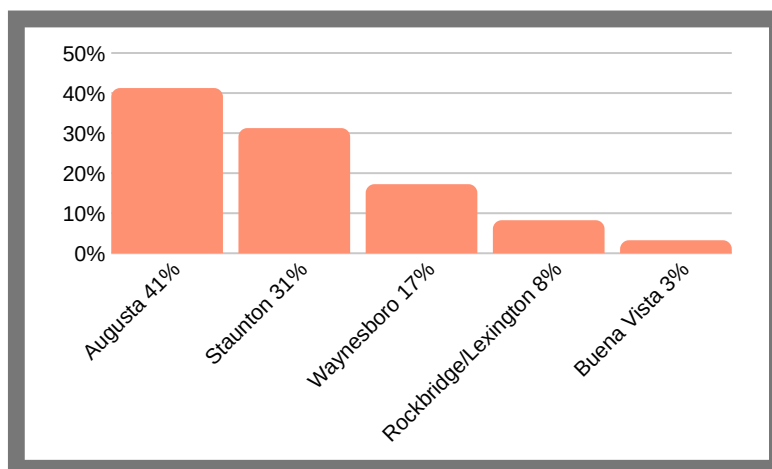
Local Probation Supervision - Local responsible offenders are referred by area courts to BRCS where they are assessed and directed to appropriate interventions in lieu of serving a jail sentence. Offenders with addiction issues are provided substance abuse screening, drug testing, evaluation and treatment. Therapeutic groups are offered for substance abuse, mental health issues and anger management issues.

In FY 2019 Blue Ridge Court Services received 940 probation placements. There were 786 (84%) misdemeanor cases and 154 (16%) felony cases.

- 65% were male, 35% female
- 79% were Caucasian, 18% African American and 3% were Hispanic/Other
- Minimum Age=18, Average Age=33, Maximum Age=76
- 59% were employed, 39% Unemployed, 2% Unknown
- Probationers by Risk: 72% low risk, 21% medium risk, 6% high risk
- 71% success rate (completing all of the court ordered requirements)

In FY 2019 the average daily cost of probation services was \$343,953 / 233,713 supervision days = \$1.47, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Probation Placements by Jurisdiction



Re-entry Services

Re-entry Services - BRCS has provided re-entry services since 2012. BRCS has received an annual grant from CAPSAW, the Community Action Partnership for Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro, which has allowed our agency to assist in successfully transitioning individuals who have recently been released from incarceration back into the community. BRCS staff present a monthly re-entry seminar with soon-to-be-released inmates at the Middle River Regional Jail. The BRCS staff work in partnership with the Re-entry Council of the Central Shenandoah Valley to provide a wide range of re-entry services for recently released offenders.

BRCS staff assisted 200 re-entry clients in 2019:

- 77 clients were provided assistance in obtaining employment
- 120 clients received transportation assistance
- 72 self-care kits were distributed to clients
- 23 clients were assisted in developing a resume
- 6 clients participated in interview skills training
- 21 clients were assisted in obtaining their birth certificate
- 24 clients were assisted in obtaining safe temporary shelter
- 13 clients received reduced cost mental health care

Pretrial Services

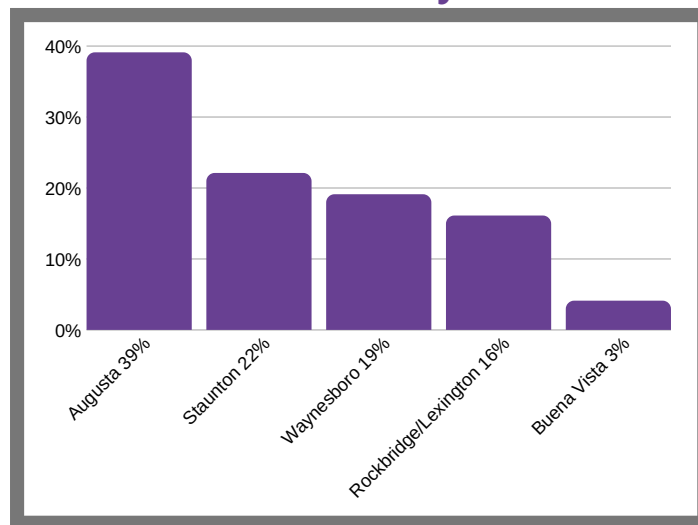
Pretrial Investigations -BRCS staff report to the Middle River Regional Jail each morning to interview the defendants who have been arrested and detained in the previous 24 hours. Then, based on those interviews, a pretrial investigation report and the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument is generated. This detailed report is provided to assist the Courts in making bond decisions. In FY 2019, BRCS staff conducted 1,219 pretrial investigations.

Pretrial Supervision-Magistrates and judges may place defendants on pretrial supervision with BRCS to ensure that they adhere to the conditions of bond and that they appear for their court appearance. In FY 2019 there were 874 pretrial defendants placed on pretrial supervision. There were 271 (31%) misdemeanor cases, 465(53%) felony cases and 121 (14%) misdemeanor/felony cases combined.

- 71% were male, 29% female
- 79% were Caucasian, 18% African American and 3% were Hispanic/Other
- Minimum Age=18, Average Age=35, Maximum Age=70
- 47% were employed, 46% Unemployed, 7% Unknown
- 79% program success rate, 93% appearance rate and a 86% public safety rate while on pretrial supervision.

The average daily cost of pretrial supervision for FY 2019 was \$274,689 / 107,917 supervision days = \$2.55, compared to the average daily cost of a jail bed in Virginia of \$85.83.

Pretrial Placements by Jurisdiction



Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness

Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness (PIMI) - The PIMI program is a collaborative effort between Blue Ridge Court Services, the Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) and Valley Community Services Board. This initiative is designed to target recently arrested defendants at the jail with significant mental health issues. Each defendant who is arrested and detained at MRRJ is screened by pretrial and jail staff using the Brief Jail Mental Health Screen (BJMHS). After identifying those defendants who may benefit from intervention, there are three major objectives for those targeted for the PIMI project:

1. Swiftly move appropriate pretrial defendants from the criminal justice system into the community and into community-based therapeutic treatment
2. Assist those defendants who remain incarcerated to obtain jail based mental health services pending their release
3. For those defendants released into the community, provide intensive supervision by a Mental Health Pretrial Officer, assessments, and weekly therapeutic groups for more intensive outpatient treatment.

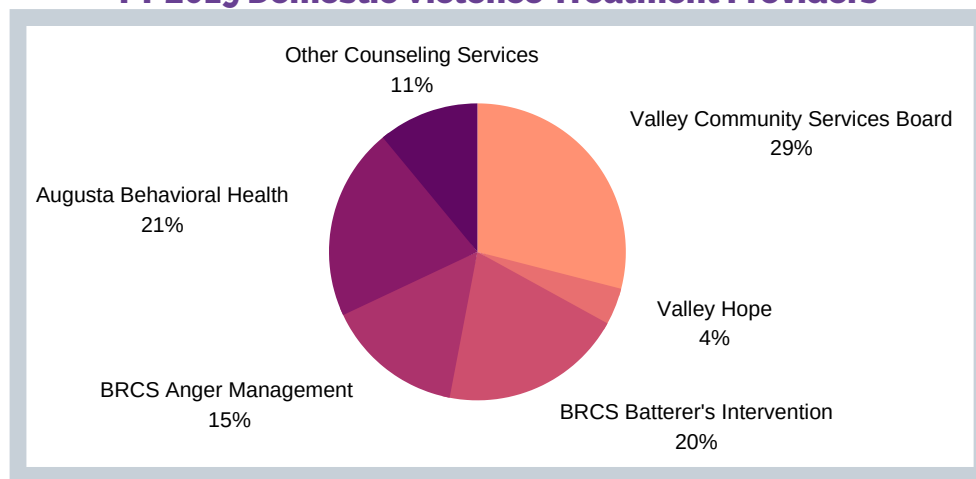
In 2019, a total of 1,050 individuals were administered the BJMHS. 374 qualified as having a serious mental illness and 284 were referred to PIMI. Many of these defendants are referred to the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket program.

Domestic Violence Program

Domestic Violence Program - There were 190 domestic violence placements referred to Blue Ridge Court Services in FY 2019. The Domestic Violence Program targets those offenders from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts involved in family assaults. Each client referred to BRCS for domestic violence is assessed and placed into the appropriate treatment setting. The vast majority of clients participate in anger management or batterer's intervention groups.

- 163 (86%) were Male and 27 (14%) were Female
- 79% Caucasian, 19% African American and 2% Hispanic/Other
- 51% of the placements were from Augusta County
- 25% of the placements were from Staunton
- 17% of the placements were from Waynesboro
- 7% of the placements were from Rockbridge/Lexington
- 80% of the domestic violence cases that were referred in FY 2019 successfully completed their court ordered obligations.

FY 2019 Domestic Violence Treatment Providers



Home Electronic Monitoring

Home Electronic Monitoring - Misdemeanor and felony offenders may be referred for home electronic monitoring (HEM) by the judges of the local court systems.

Both pretrial defendants and post-conviction offenders are eligible. The HEM program targets appropriate defendants and offenders to serve their time at home instead of jail which can benefit both the offender and the community. This program allows the participant to work and support themselves and their families, while at the same time paying the monitoring costs in full. HEM also saves beds at Middle River Regional Jail for higher risk defendants.

BRCS received a total of 44 HEM placements for FY 2019.

- 75% were male, 25% were female
- 70% were Caucasian, 23% African American and 7% Hispanic/Other
- 34 HEM cases were closed in FY 2019. 32 of 34 cases were closed as successful

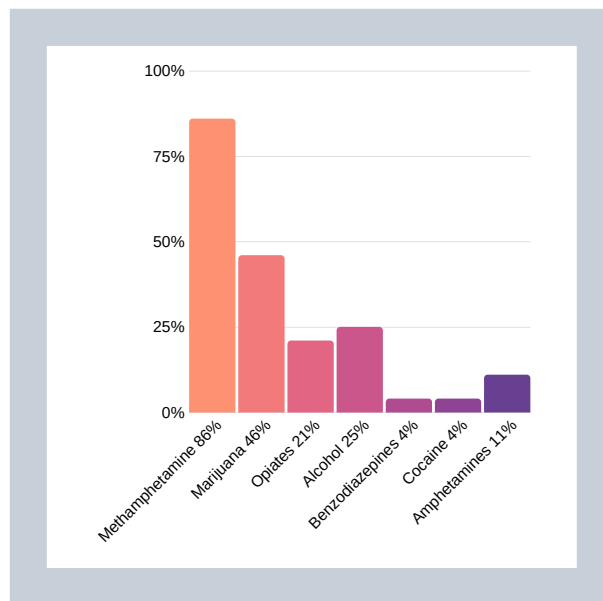
Jail Bed Savings Utilizing HEM in FY 2019

	Staunton	Augusta	Waynesboro	Rockbridge/Lexington	Buena Vista	Other	Total
# of HEM Clients	8	24	5	3	1	3	44
# of HEM Days	829	2,803	780	210	108	500	5,230
Jail Savings @ \$85.83/day	\$71,153	\$240,581	\$66,947	\$18,024	\$9,270	\$42,915	\$448,891

Drug Court

Drug Court - The mission of the Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Drug Court program is to reduce recidivism and drug use within the community by implementing a court-based program that includes supervision, evaluation, treatment, and monitoring for its participants with the goal of promoting a safe and healthy community. This program targets individuals who have been involved in criminal activity arising from their addiction to alcohol or illegal substances. The Drug Court was established in July 2002 and there have been 187 participants and 91 graduates since inception. The profiles for our 2019 inductees include 75% male and 25% were female, an average age of 34.25 years along with an average education of 12.75 years. For FY 2019 a total of 11 individuals successfully completed and graduated from the Staunton, Augusta and Waynesboro Drug Court.

FY 2019 Participants, Drugs of Choice



Therapeutic Docket

Therapeutic Docket - The mission of the Staunton-Augusta Therapeutic Docket is to increase public safety and reduce the costs of mental illness related crime on society. This is accomplished by identifying and treating non-violent mentally ill defendants through an innovative, multi-disciplinary approach enabling these defendants to make positive lifestyle changes in order to save lives, preserve families and reduce recidivism. The Therapeutic Docket was founded in July 2014 to target those offenders whose crimes were influenced by their mental illness. This specialized docket combines prompt entry into mental health treatment, proactive medication review, case management by a mental health clinician, supervision by a specialized pretrial officer and bi-weekly Judicial reviews. Our Docket has had 20 graduates since inception. For FY 2019, 49 individuals were referred to the Therapeutic Docket. Of that total, 3 of those individuals didn't meet serious mental illness criteria and 11 weren't evaluated for various reasons. Of the 35 individuals that were evaluated and met criteria 10 had a diagnosis of depression, 7 bipolar, 7 schizophrenia, 4 schizoaffective disorder, 2 anxiety and 5 with PTSD.

Demographic characteristics of the 2019 Therapeutic Docket referrals include the following:

- 36 Males vs 13 Females
- 39 Caucasians, 8 African Americans and 2 Hispanic/Other
- 17 referrals from Staunton Courts
- 25 referrals from Augusta County Courts
- 7 referrals from Waynesboro Courts
- 8 individuals in the 18 to 25 age group
- 15 individuals in the 26-35 age group
- 26 in the 36 and over age range

Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board

The mission of the Blue Ridge Criminal Justice Board (BRCJB) is to provide and support a broad range of community-oriented justice options in an effort to reduce jail overcrowding, enhance public safety, and offer remedial and rehabilitative opportunities to pretrial defendants and post conviction offenders. The BRCJB was established on July 1, 1995 in response to the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act and Pretrial Services Act. This advisory board is comprised of the region's principal criminal justice stakeholders who represent each of the seven localities served by Blue Ridge Court Services. The Board meets quarterly to receive updates and discuss local issues and set policy relating to local criminal justice.

STAUNTON	WAYNESBORO	AUGUSTA	HIGHLAND	ROCKBRIDGE	LEXINGTON	BUENA VISTA
Peter Boatner	Don McCown	Donald Smith	Roberta Lamert	Spencer Suter	Jared Moon	TBA
Matt Robertson	Joe Harris	Linda Jones	David Neal	Robyn Wilhelm	Mark Riley	TBA
Jeff Gaines	Bud Levin	Tim Martin		Derek Almarode		
Susan Richardson	David Ledbetter	Jeffrey Newton				
Leslie Beauregard	Bob Tucker	Miles Bobbitt				
Charles Ricketts	Mike Wilhelm	Rupen Shah				
		Faye McCauley				

FY 2019 Finances

Financial support for Blue Ridge Court Services is provided from the following sources:

- **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)** for local probation and pretrial services
- **Virginia Supreme Court** for the Drug Court and Therapeutic Docket
- **Augusta Health** for therapy groups and individual counseling services
- **CAPSAW** for the Re-entry program
- **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services** for the Pretrial Initiative on Mental Illness.
- **Participant Fees** which include supervision fees for probation clients and home electronic monitoring fees.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FY 2019

Income	995,975
DCJS CCCA Grant	618,642
Drug Court Grant	77,809
Therapeutic Docket Grant	21,202
Augusta Health	18,354
CAPSAW	20,500
Participant Fees	154,704
DBHDS (PIMI)	59,501
Interest	235
Reserve	25,028
Expenses	995,975
Personnel	894,596
Training/Travel	6,009
Equipment	23,646
Supplies/Other (Rent)	71,724
Fund Balance	- 0 -

CITY COUNCIL



AGENDA BRIEFING

Staunton, VA

Meeting Date:	February 27, 2020	Steven L. Rosenberg City Manager
Item #	E	
Ordinance #		
Department:	City Manager’s Office	
Council Vision:	Responsive, Efficient Government	
Subject:	Presentation of Citizen Survey Report	

Background: Dr. Laura van Assendelft, Director of the Global Honors Scholars Program and Department Chair of the Department of Political Science at Mary Baldwin University, will attend Council's regular meeting to present the citizen survey report. This is an introduction to the results of the citizen survey completed in 2019. The survey will be included on a future Council work session agenda, allowing for a more in-depth discussion of the results. A summary of the results is attached to this briefing. Complete copies of the survey report will be distributed to Council members subsequent to the presentation.

City Manager's Recommendation: Not applicable.

Suggested Motion: Not applicable.

City Manager: Steven L. Rosenberg

The results of the City of Staunton 2019 Citizen Survey - completed by 928 residents - indicate high levels of citizen satisfaction with the quality of life and city services. Staunton is rated highly as an attractive city in which to live and work, both for families and retirees.

The city is perceived as safe and welcoming with effective services and popular amenities. Areas in need of improvement were most often noted in the open-ended comments.

89%

**RATE QUALITY OF LIFE IN
STAUNTON AS
GOOD OR EXCELLENT**

QUALITY OF LIFE

Overall, 89% percent of survey respondents rated the quality of life in Staunton as Good or Excellent. A majority of respondents (83%) rated the overall appearance of the city as Good or Excellent. Over two-thirds also highly rated the city for the availability of leisure activity, attractiveness to both retirees and families, and as a Good or Excellent place to raise a family. As a place to work, a plurality (45%) rated Staunton as Good or Excellent.

83%

**RATE EASE OF TRAVEL IN
STAUNTON AS GOOD OR
EXCELLENT**

TRANSPORTATION

Respondents are most satisfied with travel by car, and more satisfied than not with the traffic flow and public parking. Less than half of respondents are satisfied with public transit, and respondents are least satisfied with the availability of bike and pedestrian paths.

52%

**SAID CITY TAXES ARE
"ABOUT RIGHT"**

TAXES

The majority (52%) of respondents rated their taxes as "about right." More respondents perceive Staunton taxes as High (44%) compared to Low (6%). Most respondents, however, do not want to receive fewer city services to lower taxes.

SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Overall, the Staunton city services that respondents are most familiar with are rated highly. The majority of survey respondents rated the following services as Good or Excellent: snow and ice removal (77%), trash and recycling (74%), leaf pickup (61%), heavy trash pickup (67%), traffic engineering and control (52%), and stormwater management (51%).

Respondents rated the cleanliness of streets and sidewalks in their neighborhoods more highly than the condition of sidewalks, street pavements, or street lighting.

HOUSING

About three-fourths of respondents rated the overall availability and affordability of housing in Staunton as Good or Fair. Less than half rated the availability of quality senior housing specifically, and about a third rated the affordability of senior housing as Good or Fair.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staunton's website is rated highly, including online library book reservations, recreation activity registration, city tax payment, utility bill payment, and the city calendar. The city newsroom and communication with city government were also rated highly, and most respondents were aware of Staunton's official Facebook page but not the Twitter page.

EDUCATION

The majority of respondents with children in Staunton's public schools rated their children's education as Good or Excellent, with teacher quality and school leadership ranking above extracurricular activities, curriculum or facilities.

GOVERNANCE

The majority of respondents either Strongly Agree or Agree that Staunton's city government is effective in meeting community needs and that city employees are helpful and capable. Respondents reported that Staunton treats residents fairly and that the city government has a welcoming environment.

Most respondents rated the City Council's vision and direction for Staunton as Good or Excellent; however, a third rated it Fair or Poor and over a fifth responded "don't know."

LIBRARY SERVICES

More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) have visited Staunton's public library or used its services within the past 12 months. The most common use of services is to borrow materials. Respondents were the most satisfied with the overall condition of the facility and library parking. Adult collections, accessibility, and comfortable seating areas also all received high ratings of satisfaction.

SAFETY

Overall, Staunton is perceived as a safe place to live, and the Police Department and Fire & Rescue Department are rated very highly.

PARKS & RECREATION

A majority of respondents rated Staunton parks highly on cleanliness, maintenance, safety, and accessibility.

Gypsy Hill Park was the most frequently visited park. Its most popular uses were walking and biking (82%), visiting the duck pond (58%), and activities at the bandstand (57%). At Montgomery Hall Park, the most popular amenities were playgrounds (70%), hiking and biking trails (58%), and picnic shelters (28%). Fifteen to 20% of respondents also used the pool and athletic fields at both Gypsy Hill and Montgomery Hall parks.