

## Meeting Minutes

### Health and Safety Coordinating Committee City Hall November 14, 2025

Councilwoman Jacinta Greene attended in person and facilitated the meeting. Mayor Gaskins joined the meeting virtually.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

- Minutes were approved.

#### 2. STATE OF HEALTH UPDATE (led by Natalie Talis, Alexandria Health Department)

##### Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Launch

The City has begun the first round of meetings for the CHIP process.

###### *Mental Wellness Workgroup*

- Approximately 60 attendees (mostly residents) participated in the initial session.
- Participants began shaping a 5-year vision for mental wellness.
- A follow-up meeting in early December will focus on brainstorming priority areas.

###### *Landmark–Van Dorn Planning*

- First neighborhood visioning meeting included about 45 attendees.
- Engagement is shifting to smaller groups (10–15 participants) to foster comfort and candid sharing.
- Model draws on the Healthy Homes small-group approach.
- Additional small-group meetings will be held in apartment complexes and community spaces.
- Cafécito–style sessions begin in Arlandria in December.

###### *Timeline & Next Steps*

- CHIP release is tentatively planned for June 2026, though timing may adjust to community needs.
- Workgroup strategies expected to be largely finalized by April–May 2026.
- Historically, Council receives but does not formally vote on the CHIP.

##### Healthy Homes Initiative Update

- Earlier community conversations informed the current Healthy Homes Action Plan.
- Current focus areas include interagency work on mold and improvements to 311 reporting categories.
- Next phase includes field “user testing” of new tools (e.g., mold website, 311 workflows) at rec centers and community sites.
- Community response has been positive.

#### 3. SAFE HOUSING TEAM UPDATE (LED BY VIRGINIA PATTON, OFFICE OF HOUSING)

## Property Updates — Mason at Van Dorn & Brent Place

- The Office of Housing continues supporting residents at both properties; 311 call volume has been low.
- A relocation was facilitated for a resident experiencing mold issues.
- Code continues daily proactive trash inspections; all units reviewed in October were compliant.
- Public safety logged 89 incidents (Sept–mid-Oct), primarily contact, mental health, and parking calls.
- Brent Place now holds a 4-year RRI certificate due to significant improvement.
- Mason at Van Dorn remains on a 1-year certificate and requires continued daily engagement.

## Rental Inspection Program (RRI)

- Code Administration reported a 37% reduction in violations (2024–2025).
- Certificate types:
  - (1) **1-year:** Property has significant violations requiring annual review and follow-up within 30 days.
  - (2) **4-year:** Property meets standards; reviewed every four years.
- Inspections involve random unit sampling; tenant permission is required.
- Housing's landlord-tenant investigator participates to ensure tenants understand rights and reduce fear of retaliation.

## Dashboards in Development

Two interconnected tools are under development:

- **Housing Code Dashboard**
  - Tracks violations, reinspection cycles, and certificate statuses.
  - Will be publicly accessible.
  - Developed with ITS and OPA; expected in coming months.
- **Early Warning Dashboard**
  - Integrates data from APD, 311, Code, and others to identify concerning property-level trends.
  - Designed to flag triggers such as repeated calls for service.
  - Early version anticipated in **January**; full review planned for **March**.

Until dashboards launch, **311** remains the primary intake system, internally routing cases to relevant departments.

Staff highlighted the need to:

- Filter unit-specific vs. building-wide concerns.
- Ensure anonymity and comply with privacy laws (HIPAA considerations).
- Evaluate IT infrastructure and integration costs.
- Differentiated approaches may be required for condos vs. rental properties.
- 911 data can be included, including EMS/Paramedic data
- A multi-department outreach team (Housing, Code, WDC, Health Dept., RPCA, 311) will be deployed when data triggers are met. Team design is underway; an update is expected at the next meeting.

## **4. REDUCTION IN HARM OF EVICTION PROCESS**

**(Led by Ali Coleman, DCHS & Mary Horner, Office of Housing)**

### **Eviction Data Sharing Agreement**

- A near-final data-sharing MOU between the Sheriff's Office and DCHS will allow eviction information to be shared within one day.
- This streamlines case prioritization and removes the burden on tenants to supply complex paperwork.
- Committee recognized the agreement as a major accomplishment since first proposed in May.

### **Legislative Advocacy**

- Housing remains a major priority in the City's state legislative package.
- Delegate Marcia Price is expected to reintroduce legislation extending the 5-day pay-or-quit period.
- Data shows many tenants resolve payments without court judgments; additional time could reduce filings.

### **Eviction Diversion Pilot Program**

- Multi-agency effort with the General District Court, Housing, DCHS, ACT for Alexandria, landlord attorneys, and legal partners.
- Eligibility criteria are narrow under state law (limited prior late payments, no recent redemption, affirmed income loss/expense).
- Judges support and are actively engaged in implementation; pro bono partnership with Capital one and legal aid is being explored.
- Goal implementation date: February 1; updates expected in March.
- Program will help coordinate community financial assistance to improve its impact.
- Alexandria is among the first Virginia jurisdictions developing an eviction diversion program; others are monitoring its progress.

### **Improve Resident Understanding of Rights and Access**

#### ***Tenant Education & Housing Master Plan 2040 Collaboration***

- Cross-departmental and regional team supporting Housing Master Plan 2040, with focus on tenant education and eviction prevention.
- Tenant-centered engagement underway through surveys and partner outreach (Tenants & Workers United, ALIVE!, Community Lodgings, Carpenter's Shelter, faith groups, and others). Survey Focus includes:
  - (1) What tenant information is most needed?
  - (2) Preferred formats/platforms for receiving information?
  - (3) Where tenants go for information?

#### **Early Findings show:**

- **Top topic:** Understanding a lease.
- **Top format:** Short, interactive videos (<5 minutes).

## **Resource Hub Vision**

- Develop up to 20 short videos covering leases, fees, rights, and housing conditions.
- Content available in multiple languages.
- Clear directions for contacting Office of Housing.
- Videos and survey data will also inform Healthy Homes work.

## **Eviction Prevention Task Force Involvement**

- 40-member group representing tenants, landlords, nonprofits, faith leaders, and City departments.
- Will assist in interpreting tenant feedback and developing video scripts.

## **Timeline**

- Engagement continues through **February**.
- First set of videos anticipated by **October 2026**.

## **5. OTHER UPDATES**

### **Jail Program Participation**

- Participation decline reflects a significantly smaller jail population (45–50 vs. ~96 pre-COVID).
- Programs continue to be promoted via tablets, staff outreach, volunteers, and classification intake.
- Individualized programming available.

### **Juvenile Intakes**

- 140% increase in juvenile intakes this month.
- Considered consistent with typical fall increases when youth congregation/activity rises.
- Overall caseloads remain relatively low.

### **Healthy & Safe Homes Data**

- Current dataset covers **2018–2022** due to state reporting delays.
- Additional data from Housing may be incorporated into future updates.

### **Suicide & Death Investigations**

Two recent suicides noted, APD and Fire/EMS explained:

- Initial reports come in as “death investigations.”
- Manner of death confirmed later by the Medical Examiner.
- Suicide-specific reporting raises HIPAA and confidentiality constraints; departments will explore feasible internal tracking.

### **Crime Trends**

- Prostitution reports are complaint-driven and validated by Vice/Narcotics and federal partners.
- Some increases reflect greater reporting rather than higher incidence; Similar patterns seen with disorderly conduct and property crimes.

### **Action Items Summary**

## Community Health & CHIP

- Begin user-testing new mold website and 311 workflows at rec centers and community sites.

## Safe Housing Team

- Complete development of the Housing Code Dashboard (ITS + OPA) and prepare communications plan.
- Advance Early Warning Dashboard for January preview and March full review.
- Develop outreach team model (Housing, Code, WDC, Health, RPCA, 311) for deployment when trigger thresholds are met.

## Eviction Reduction & Tenant Stabilization

- Finalize Sheriff–DCHS eviction data-sharing agreement and launch expedited 1-day data transfer.
- Track state legislative developments, especially 5-day pay-or-quit extension; explore applicability to City's legislative agenda.
- Prepare for February 1 launch of the Eviction Diversion Pilot; return with update in March.
- Assess feasibility of addressing barriers for residents with criminal histories in future legislative or policy strategies.
- Begin development of short educational videos (20 max), including translation and outreach plans.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 23, 2025 at 8:30 A.M.,  
Lee Center, Gold Room**