Meeting Minutes
Health & Safety Coordinating Committee
Lee Center
September 4, 2026

1. Welcome and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at 8:30am, led by Mayor Gaskins and Councilwoman Greene.

The May meeting minutes were approved by the members present and voting.

2. Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) Update

The committee received a brief overview of the City-level criminal justice board, including its purpose, membership, and role in coordinating across courts, schools, and community stakeholders. Board Chair, Matthew Taylor, discussed opportunities to collaborate on shared priorities and noted its availability to address issues raised by the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager. The next CCJB meeting is December 3 at 4:00 p.m.

3. SHARE Initiative Update

The committee reviewed the first formal working meeting of SHARE (Safe Housing, Alert, Response, Engage). The initiative brings together Housing, the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Code Administration, public safety, and other City partners to identify and respond proactively to trends affecting residential properties.

The latest data review identified four properties with significant changes or concerning trends. Key updates included:

- Building maintenance: Significant elevator concerns at one property had been addressed by Code Administration.
- Youth engagement: RPCA and DCHS were coordinating engagement at a property with youth-related concerns.
- Property management changes: Two properties experiencing multiple issues had recently undergone management changes. Participants identified increased 311 calls and uncertainty about appropriate contacts as common challenges.

The committee agreed that SHARE provides a useful mechanism for identifying emerging issues and coordinating preventive responses before problems escalate. The team will continue meeting during months when the Health and Safety Coordinating Committee does not meet, with its next working meeting planned for October.

Discussion and guidance:

- Mayor Gaskins requested a consolidated monthly report covering all properties being monitored, rather than separate updates on previously tracked properties and those newly identified through SHARE.
- Mayor Gaskins requested clear instructions for forwarding housing-related concerns received directly from residents. Whenever possible, concerns should be submitted through 311 or the appropriate 311 staff contacts so they can be recorded, tagged for SHARE, and tracked.
- The committee discussed the need for documented criteria governing when properties are added to or removed from SHARE. A downward trend sustained over approximately six months was discussed as a potential basis for transitioning a property out of intensive engagement.
- Staff clarified that it can actively engage with approximately two properties at a time, with up to four under consideration depending on departmental needs and available resources.
- Participants emphasized proactive prevention and continued monitoring, including at properties that require longer-term attention.

4. Property Management Changes and Proposed Rental Registry

Mary Horner, Division Chief with the Office of Housing, presented an overview of challenges associated with changes in residential property management. These changes can lead to communication gaps, unresolved maintenance requests, billing disputes, confusion about lease terms, and uncertainty among residents about whom to contact.

Current information-gathering methods

The City currently learns about management changes through resident complaints, 311 reports, monthly outreach to properties with committed affordable units, returned communications, voluntary landlord outreach, interdepartmental coordination, permitting, inspections, and certain affordable housing agreements.

These methods do not provide comprehensive or consistently updated information. Existing Rental Registry Inspection (RRI) requirements apply only to designated districts and do not cover all properties citywide. Management personnel may also change between inspection cycles.

Proposed approach

A local rental registry was discussed as a potential way to establish a more consistent process for collecting and maintaining property management information. The proposal aligns with a recommendation included in the City's Housing 2040 plan.

Meeting attendees identified the following considerations for a potential registry:

- Current property management company and on-site management contacts.
- Emergency and after-hours contacts, particularly for Fire and emergency response personnel.

- Appropriate contacts for routing tenant complaints and maintenance concerns.
- Other properties managed by the same company within the City.
- Significant property policy or procedural changes affecting residents.
- Relevant payment portal or billing vendor information, where appropriate.
- A recurring registration or verification process, potentially every six months, alongside an expectation that changes be reported when they occur.
- Clear communications to property managers explaining registration requirements and available City resources.

The discussion also addressed enforcement, legal authority, outreach methods beyond email, and potential opportunities to verify information during existing City interactions with properties.

The City Attorney's Office noted that civil penalties and potential circuit court abatement or injunction proceedings may be available under applicable ordinance provisions.

Mayor Gaskins requested additional legal and policy analysis addressing:

1. The process for updating the existing RRI ordinance and the criteria used to designate inspection districts.
2. The legal steps required to establish or expand a rental registry, and the key elements such an ordinance would need to address, including:
    a. Potential enforcement mechanisms and consequences for noncompliance,
    b. Information to be collected, and
    c. How the City could use existing service interactions to verify compliance.
3. Opportunities to provide property managers with information about City resources and support for residents.

5. Alexandria Police Department (APD) Summer Safety Initiative

APD presented an overview of its 2026 Summer Safety Initiative, which operated from July 1 through August 31, primarily between 3:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

The initiative focused on six priority areas identified through crime analysis, calls for service, intelligence, and community concerns. The approach integrated public safety, quality of life, and community well-being through targeted enforcement, prevention, and partnerships.

Strategies included directed patrols, traffic enforcement, retail theft mitigation, narcotics enforcement, community engagement, data analysis, public safety cameras, crime mapping, and license plate reader technology.

APD reported a decrease in citywide Part I offenses across the comparable summer periods discussed:

- 2024 to 2025: 32.5% decrease.
- 2025 to 2026: 3.1% decrease.

APD cautioned that these reductions could not be attributed solely to the 2026 initiative. A similar initiative in 2025 contributed to the broader trend, and staffing and other factors also affected implementation and results.

The department reported positive outcomes in targeted areas, including enforcement activity, reduced disorder, and stronger business partnerships. APD offered to provide more detailed results for specific locations, including Potomac Yard and Old Town.

Discussion and follow-up

Mayor Gaskins emphasized that the end of a time-limited initiative does not necessarily mean that underlying concerns have been resolved. She requested continued monitoring of the same priority areas and information on how the City will sustain improvements.

APD explained that weekly crime review meetings will continue to guide deployment using existing patrol, traffic enforcement, and tourism policing resources. The department also agreed to follow up with information on specific geographic areas receiving additional focused attention and how those priorities are determined.

The committee requested a subsequent update on outcomes and ongoing responses in the previously identified areas.

7. Health and Safety Data Report

The committee reviewed the data report and discussed several indicators requiring additional context.

Fire and emergency response

A 21% increase in total incident responses was raised for clarification. The Fire Department attributed part of the increase to extreme weather, fireworks-related incidents, and medical assistance calls. Staff indicated that activity had moderated in August and that trends would continue to be monitored over a longer period.

Alexandria Mentoring Partnership

Councilwoman Greene raised concerns about the lack of recent reporting on adult referrals to mentoring programs and the ongoing need for mentoring opportunities for young people.

Staff reported that the partnership includes approximately 10 mentoring programs following recognized mentoring practices. Two programs had been piloted with crime prevention grant funding, including a program serving middle-school youth through the Nature Center and Ramsey Recreation Center.

Staff also noted that approximately 1,200 young people were being mentored by 2,700 volunteers. A challenge remains in finding appropriate programs for youth with the highest levels of need, who may require more intensive professional services.