



City of Petersburg

Office of the City Manager
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Petersburg, Virginia 23803

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 5, 2021
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
From: Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides, City Manager
Subject: **City Manager's Report – January 5, 2021**

Utility Assistance Program

- Program is for applicants with past due water and/or wastewater balances that began March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020
- Minimum of \$20 and a maximum \$1,500 past due bill is required for consideration
- Application went live on December 22nd
- Applicants can apply online, by mail, or through the drop box at Billing and Collections
- Hard copy applications were mailed to those who qualified, and those applications are to be brought to the Billing and Collections drop box
- Application deadline is 5:00 pm on January 8, 2021
- To date, 922 applications have been received (this number is both online and hard copy applications).

Litter Campaign

- Petersburg General Services (*Streets and Grounds Division*) has begun a "Give Litter The Boot" - Keep Our City Clean Campaign to focus on cleaning up litter around the City.
- To kickstart this effort, General Services retrieved litter from Petersburg streets on December 21, 22, and 23.
- On the first day, more than 250 trash bags of litter were collected.
- Streets included in litter cleanup on Dec. 21-23 were: East Washington St., Crater Road, Rives Road, Fort Mahone, Liberty Street, Vaughan Road, Bank Street, Augusta Avenue, Flank Road, Defense Road, Baylor's Lane, and Halifax Street.
- Electronic signs promoting this campaign have been placed throughout the City.
- This campaign will include additional phases throughout the year.



Peabody Fire Update

- The fire was in the basement of the center building electrical room in the ceiling area.
- It's been officially determined as an electrical fire.
- All power to the building was cut for firefighting.
- An Accelerant K9 was brought in to walk through the basement to rule out Arson; the K9 did not hit on anything.
- The building has been secured by City Public Works Dept.
- The cause of the electrical failure cannot be determined as two large raceways (large electrical conduits) and a large electrical junction in the electrical room were damaged.
- The damage to the first-floor level is limited to smoke and heat that requires thorough cleaning. The basement has fire, heat, and smoke damage.

Petersburg Area Transit

- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, FY 21 grant awards by the Commonwealth's Department of Rail and Public Transportation were delayed until December 9, 2020. Petersburg Area Transit was awarded an additional \$59,000 for operating due to its increase in ridership (*an appropriation is forthcoming to City Council*).
- PAT was also awarded 68% of the cost for the following capital projects: three (3) medium heavy-duty buses (\$395,878), security cameras at the bus garage (\$10,000), seven (7) benches for bus stops (important for those with disabilities and ADA

requirements) (\$17,000), Shop Equipment for the maintenance facility (\$50,000), (400) bus stop signs (\$33,200)- these signs will replace current signage with signs with stop numbers - which will help patrons more effectively learn routes. The total local match for these capital projects was budgeted in the FY 21 budget and totals \$20,243 which is 4%. The FTA funds the remaining 28%.

- PAT currently has \$2,469,054 of the \$3,581,786 remaining in CARES funding. Unlike the City's CARES funding, the CARES funding provided by the FTA to PAT does not have an expiration date, is used for operations, and is not project specific.