

DOUG HOLROYD

York County Supervisor, District 1

(757) 903-9908

Website: www.friendsofdougholroyd.com

Email address: Douglas.Holroyd@YorkCounty.gov

Personal Email address: Doug.Holroyd@gmail.com



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District 1 Update: February 14TH, 2024



Supervisor Holroyd with Delegate Chad Green and Pastor David Magruder from Seaford Zion United Methodist

I met with Delegate Green recently to express my concerns with several bills in the current General Assembly.

House Bill 1478 brought forward by Lobbyists of Princess Cruise Lines promoting matters involving operating cruise ship casinos while in Virginia waters.

Senate Bills 304 and 544 were brought forward by Airbnb and the Virginia Realtors Association to promote Short-Term Rentals and Auxiliary (Garage) Apartments. The two bills sought to eliminate local jurisdiction over Short-Term Rentals in residential neighborhoods.

February, very much like last month, continues to be quite busy with the slate of agenda items before the Board. Key areas I will be focused on this month:

District 1:

- Review of the FY 2025 Budget as Staff make presentations to the Board.
- Considering the application coming to the Planning Commission and the Board for a 33 acre parcel on Penniman Road across from the entrance to Marquis Shopping Center.
- Follow up with VDOT on the estimated traffic count for the NorthPoint Development application on Lightfoot Rd.

York County:

- Beginning two new roles assigned to me as a Supervisor for York County:
 - Policy Council and Board for the York County Head Start Program
 - Board of the Williamsburg/JCC Chamber of Commerce
- Reviewing the key issues facing the BOS: 2024 Property Tax and Personal Vehicle Tax Adjustments, York 64 Trade Center proposal on Lightfoot Rd, and the need for tighter guidelines on the approval of Short-Term Rentals
- Review/consideration of manpower levels within the County as we address upcoming budget proposals

KEY ISSUES OVERVIEW

Capital Improvement Plan

The BOS considered the County Administrator's Preliminary Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Many items in the CIP are carryover from previous years and reflect the ongoing spending necessary to complete projects begun in past years.

Several new items, such as traffic improvements for Lightfoot Rd., the York County contribution to the Williamsburg Regional Library, and planned Capital expenditures received debate. The overall increase in spending relative to 2024 CIP is up 18%. Concern was expressed about the affordability of this increase.

Princess Cruise Lines

In late January, Princess Cruise Lines announced plans to eliminate their visits to Yorktown following considerable opposition raised by residents.

With the action by Princess Cruise Lines to hire 5 lobbyists to promote inshore gambling within Virginia waters, I became firmly opposed to the Yorktown visits.

While I had previously considered the pro's and con's of the economic value cruise lines would add to our tourism in the Historic Triangle, I remain deeply concerned with the lack of transparency of this industry, and the continued steps Princess Cruise lines is taking to push this initiative forward within the General Assembly.

Marquis Crossing Development

An application has been put forward to the Planning Commission to review a proposal for 314 apartments on a 33 acre parcel across from the intersection at Water Country Parkway. At a ratio of 10 apartments per acre, this is considered a High Density development. The land is currently zoned for Economic Opportunity and would require a rezoning for this application to move forward.

I have reached out to the citizens living in that area, primarily those at Whittaker's Mill and to the American Battlefield Trust for their input on this proposal. The application is on the February 14 Planning Commission meeting agenda and will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors in March or April.

York 64 Trade Center – NorthPoint Mega Warehouse

In the January 16th BOS meeting, I introduced a motion under New Business to address NorthPoint Development on Lightfoot Rd. and Rochambeau Rd.

County staff provided a review of my requested resolution, introducing the need for a Special Use Permit, and it was denied. Per the review the current zoning ordinance that allows for an Industrial Park within an Economic Opportunity zoned property has been followed correctly.

Concern remains the traffic load associated with this warehouse and distribution hub will exceed the capacity of Lightfoot Rd. VDOT agreed during our February 6th meeting to conduct an independent review of the traffic impact assessment submitted by the Applicant.

Short Term Rentals

During 2023, then BOS Chairman, Tom Shepperd placed a halt on consideration of any further Short-Term Rental applications, until the new Board is able to convene and engage on the matter of standards for Short Term Rentals. The Board has now agreed to review this item in our March work session.

As one would expect, the introduction of a new Regional Sports Facility is expected to put further stress on the County (and particularly District 1) for review of Short -Term Rental applications.

As I previously stated, I am opposed to whole house short-term rentals, unless the applicant resides on the same street as the rental unit and is present during rentals. I will continue to vote against this intrusion to our neighborhoods.

York County staff have reached out to Newport News and JCC staff for discussion, and to better understand what provisions of their respective codes are working well.