

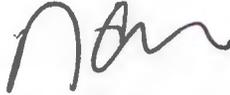
COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2023

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



SUBJECT: Special Appropriation Request - Virginia General Assembly

The attached letter was sent to the following State Representatives seeking assistance in securing funds for a newly proposed partnership between the Watermen's Museum, Princess Cruise Lines, and the County to construct a cruise ship pier facility in Yorktown.

- Delegate Amanda Batten
- Delegate A.C. Cordoza
- Senator Mamie Locke
- Senator Monty Mason
- Delegate Michael Mullin
- Senator Thomas Norment

Please contact me if you have any additional information regarding this proposal.

Schott/3326

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Neil A. Morgan



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Walter C. Zaremba
District 1
Sheila S. Noll
District 2
W. Chad Green
District 3
G. Stephen Roane, Jr.
District 4
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
District 5

December 20, 2022

The Honorable Amanda Batten
Delegate
Virginia General Assembly
Room W432
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Delegate Batten:

York County needs your assistance in securing funds from the Commonwealth for a newly proposed cruise ship port-of-call tender pier facility in Yorktown. A proposed partnership with the Watermen's Museum and York County with a commitment from Princess Cruise Lines for a multi-phased facility development is envisioned. We are requesting a \$15 million special appropriation for the initial phase to support this major cruise line tourism commitment to Yorktown. With your help, it is the intent of Princess to initiate service during 2024 via shore tender operations. Over several years a new pier could be constructed and the Watermen's Museum campus would be completely reconfigured. The Commonwealth's funds would be used for pier construction and transportation improvements required by VDOT to support the tourism commitment.

There are two interrelated aspects to this project important for your understanding. Most importantly, the visitors arriving at Yorktown would be immersed with history-themed tours. Over the course of a year, thousands of additional tourists would contribute to the Greater Williamsburg economy, benefiting regional attractions, and generating revenue for both the Commonwealth and multiple local governments.

Within the next decade, Princess volume would create the economic value necessary to progress to a second phase cruise ship pier at York County's discretion. The number of cruise visits with York County's support could grow from six per year to an increase in frequency over time, with corresponding increases in visitation. Princess Cruise Lines has a unique system of crowd management which would allow passengers to access land in an orderly manner with minimal impact on the local infrastructure.

The second aspect of the proposal is the opportunity to reimagine and reconstruct the Watermen's Museum. With revenue generated from cruise lines, the non-profit museum can improve the experience and overall educational content.

224 Ballard Street • P.O. Box 532 • Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 • (757) 890-3320
Fax: (757) 890-4002 • TDD (757) 890-3621 • Email: bos@yorkcounty.gov
A Hampton Roads Community

The Honorable Amanda Batten
December 20, 2022
Page 2

The Watermen's Museum will be able to expand its educational contributions, providing more in-depth, year-long programs that support primary, elementary, and high school SOL standards in science and history, specifically in maritime trades, colonial-period culture, and the American Revolution. The reimagining of the Watermen's Museum would also strengthen the region's museum offerings, further enhancing the visitor experience.

Please contact us or the County Administrator if we can provide more information as you consider this important request. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors



Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Vice Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

Copy to: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator