

Economic Development Authority

York County, Virginia

November 8, 2023

The Honorable Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown, VA 23690

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

We, the members of the York County Economic Development Authority, wish to take this opportunity to express our support for the *York 64 Industrial Park* proposed to be located on the northwest side of the intersection of Lightfoot Road and Rochambeau Drive. As we understand the proposal, the industrial park is to be developed in multiple phases, with Phase 1 consisting of two separate parcels bisected by a publicly dedicated roadway. Warehouse/office facilities are proposed on both parcels – Building 1 (584,908 s.f. total area, of which up to 129,000 s.f. could be office space) and Building 2 (237,809 s.f. total area, of which up to 73,000 s.f. could be office space). Future phases of the *York 64 Industrial Park* are envisioned to involve the potential construction of three additional buildings comprising (speculatively) approximately 1.4 million square feet.

This industrial park project, with its potential for approximately 2.2 million square feet of warehouse/office space and its proximity, convenient access to, and potential visibility from the Interstate 64/Route 199 interchange, will represent the realization of the Economic Opportunity land use designation established for the subject area by the 2015, 2025, and 2035 Comprehensive Plans, as well as the Draft 2040 Plan that has been recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission. The Economic Development Authority has endorsed and supported these previous designations for the subject area as well as its designation, since 1991, as an Economic Development Priority Area. Likewise, the existing EO – Economic Opportunity zoning classification and the opportunity for development of industrial parks within that zone has been in effect for many years in recognition of the locational and physical attributes of the properties. With the already-completed phases of I-64 widening and the widening of the “gap” segments extending to Richmond now scheduled, the potential locational and logistical advantages of this proposed development will only be enhanced.

We understand that projects of this magnitude may cause concerns related to appearance, compatibility with surroundings, traffic generation, and infrastructure. We have great confidence that the County’s land use regulations and development review and approval processes are well-positioned to address these potential issues. With respect to appearance and compatibility, we trust that the Corridor Protection Overlay provisions dealing with building construction materials and the Greenbelt provisions dealing with landscaping along the Lightfoot and Rochambeau frontages will ensure quality and compatibility in appearance. With respect to potential traffic impacts, the Traffic Impact Analysis requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the involvement of VDOT in the review process will ensure that any improvements required by traffic engineering standards will be addressed. Likewise, we know that infrastructure

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improvements related to utilities and stormwater management will be carefully addressed through the site plan review and approval process.

We are pleased that the economic development policies endorsed by the Economic Development Authority and contained in the Comprehensive Plans adopted by the Board have prompted a proposal involving a significant capital investment and, consequently, a significant tax revenue benefit to the County. We commend the Board for the foresight to recognize the potential of this area of the County and for the establishment of land use regulations, including the EO-Economic Opportunity zoning district, that allow development such as this to move forward without the need for rezoning. Having properly zoned property, and avoiding the time associated with a rezoning or special use permit process, is an important criterion that developers use when evaluating and selecting sites like this for a potential project. We look forward to the addition of this project to the County's commercial/industrial community.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our comments concerning this proposed development and for the Board's support of the Economic Development Authority.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Carter



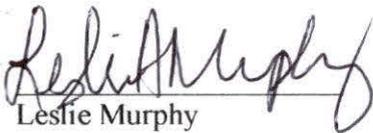
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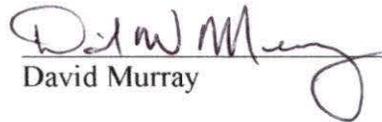
H. J. Coxton



Steven Meade



Leslie Murphy



David Murray



Vernald E. Lockwood II

Copy to: Neil Morgan, County Administrator
Kristi Olsen-Hayes, Director of Tourism and Economic Development

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The Honorable Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Chairman
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P.O. Box 532
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Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

The Economic Development Authority was pleased to learn that the Planning Commission has forwarded the Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for approval and adoption. The EDA believes that the Economic Development element of the Draft Plan accurately recognizes current conditions and development character as well as setting appropriate goals and objectives related to future commercial, industrial and tourism-related development. We encourage the Board to move forward with adoption of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

We believe that the Comprehensive Plan as a whole, and specifically the Economic Development element, will support the Board's strategic priority to "*Facilitate quality economic development that is sensitive to community character and the environment.*" An up-to-date Comprehensive Plan, supported by its implementation tools such as zoning and subdivision ordinances and the County budget and capital improvements program, will provide assurances to existing and prospective business/industrial entities that York County is focused on providing a supportive environment for their investments. In our opinion, the adoption of the Plan will help the Board and the EDA fulfill our joint mission *to create a diverse economic base through recruitment, expansion, and retention of businesses, industries, and tourism, thus expanding the tax base and capital investment in the County and providing new employment opportunities for its citizens.*

The Economic Development Authority commends the Planning Commission and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for the thorough and inclusive public involvement process and deliberations that led to development of the Draft Plan. Again, we recommend and encourage adoption by the Board.

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York County Board of Supervisors

November 8, 2023

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We appreciate the Board's support of the Economic Development Authority and the opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,



Mark Carter



Jeff Clemons



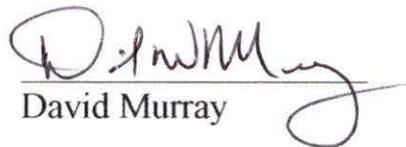
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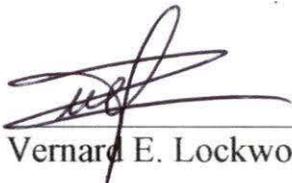
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November 17, 2023



County's Director of Emergency Communications Wins National Award

Terry Hall is the recipient of the Richard DeMello award, the highest honor presented by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC). The award is given to an individual in public safety communications who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public safety communications arena. Mr. Hall oversees the operations of the York-Poquoson-Williamsburg-

James City County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center. He has guided the design and construction of the state-of-the-art 9-1-1 center and the consolidation of several municipal emergency communication centers into one professional operation known globally for its outstanding capabilities and cutting edge technology. Congratulations, Mr. Hall, on this well-deserved recognition! More information about Mr. Hall and this award can be found in this week's [press release](#).

Complete Your Thanksgiving Menu Shopping at the Harvest Festival!

Bring your reusable shopping bags to tomorrow's (11/18) Harvest Festival and *stuff* them with everything you need for your Thanksgiving Day meal. Purchase desserts, seafood, meat, fresh produce, bread, beverages, and even artwork from over 50 vendors from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a *cornucopia* of family-friendly activities including a hay maze, hayrides, petting zoo, inflatable axe throwing, kids crafts, balloon art, a live animal show courtesy of the Virginia Living Museum, a pie-eating contest, and entertainment from Ralph Motley and the Last Minute Grass on the Riverwalk Landing stage. Complete details are available on the Visit Yorktown [website](#).



Youth Winter Indoor Sports are Filling Up!

Register by December 22 for Indoor Pickleball for kids ages 8 to 12 and 12 to 17. Tuesday sessions are January 9 – 30, with Wednesday sessions from February 7 – 28. These classes are a great way to learn some new moves, stay active, and socialize. Indoor Tennis for kids ages 5 to 7 is now taking reservations for Wednesdays from January 1 – 31, and Tuesdays from February 6 – 27. If you are interested in registering your child(ren) for these indoor sports, act fast because spaces are filling up. Registration is available [online](#).

Experience Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

Feast your eyes on how colonists prepared meals and preserved food. During the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown's Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia celebration November 24 & 25, guests will learn how Continental Army soldiers earned their rations, and witness how produce and proteins fresh from the fields transformed into tasty stews, pies, and breads. Cooking demonstrations will occur throughout the day in re-creations of a Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm. The Museum is open 9 a.m to 5 p.m. daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days) and admission is free for residents of York County, James City County, and the City of Williamsburg. Details are available [online](#).



Toll Relief Program Expands for Downtown, Midtown Tunnels

Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) has made significant enhancements to the Toll Relief Program to provide much-needed financial assistance to a broader range of residents in the Hampton Roads region. Changes include increased income eligibility from \$50,000/year to \$65,000/year; additional discounted weekly trips permitted from 10 to 14, which saves 50% on up to 14 trips through these tunnels each week; and no enrollment deadline. Residency requirements include all jurisdictions within Hampton Roads. For more information, including where to apply, visit the Toll Relief Program [website](#).

Dominion Energy Offers Bill Payment Assistance

The EnergyShare program offers up to \$600 in bill payment assistance from October 1 through May 31. The program is not income-based, so anyone needing help paying heating bills may qualify for assistance. Individuals 60 and older, military veterans, and people with disabilities may be eligible for additional assistance. A free home energy assessment and free energy efficiency upgrades may be available to those who receive EnergyShare assistance. Information about these and other programs, including energy saving tips, is available on the Dominion Energy [website](#).

Additional Notes for the Week . . . The County's **Leaf Collection program** continues through January. In the first two weeks (one week in each zone), over *96 tons* of leaves were collected! Check the [website](#) for leaf collection information, including the pick-up schedule. November 30 is the deadline to apply to be a **Teen Camp Counselor or Counselor-In-Training** at next summer's **4-H Junior Summer Camp**. Information and the application are available [online](#). Roadwork on the **Coleman Bridge** this Sunday (11/19) will require the closing of one lane northbound from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Rain date is December 3.



Garbage and Recycling are not collected on Thanksgiving (11/23) and are delayed one day through Saturday.

Complete details are available in this week's [press release](#).

Citizen News Weekly is compiled and published by York County Public Affairs each Friday to share news and events with our citizens and neighbors. This weekly newsletter is placed on our [website](#) and delivered directly to your inbox. Questions? Contact Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer: 757-890-3310 or whittgl@yorkcounty.gov.