

Economic Development Authority

York County, Virginia

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown, VA 23690

Dear Madam Chairman and Members of the Board:

The members of the Economic Development Authority look forward to another year of efforts and initiatives in support of the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Priority to pursue *value-driven economic development*. We are optimistic that in 2025 York County will continue to experience exciting and positive news with respect to new or expanded commercial/industrial activity, establishment of new businesses, revitalization and improvements on highway corridors, and the resultant enhancement of the County's non-residential tax base.

As you begin your deliberations on FY26 Budget issues, we wish to take this opportunity to express our support for including sufficient funding to allow the resumption of the entrance and commercial corridor mowing and maintenance efforts at the weekly or semi-weekly frequency that existed prior to last year's budget reductions. The Economic Development Authority has long been an advocate for efforts intended to enhance the appearance of the County's major road corridors. In fact, over 20 years ago, Mr. Coxton (as a member of the *Industrial Development Authority*) chaired a special committee composed of business and community representatives tasked with developing recommendations for enhancement of the Route 17 corridor. One of the *Action Items* included in the Committee's final report was to provide increased funding to allow County work forces to expand median/shoulder mowing on a weekly or semi-weekly frequency to the majority of the corridor.

That recommendation was implemented by the Board of Supervisors and, because of the positive reactions of businesses and residents, was expanded over the years to include additional major corridors. The resultant positive visual effects of well-maintained medians helped make York County attractive in the eyes of residents, businesses, tourists, and economic development prospects. In contrast, the high grass and weeds that appeared

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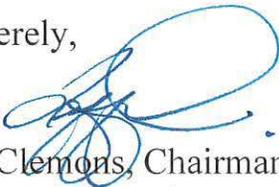
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in the previously well-maintained medians after the FY2025 Budget's staffing reductions took effect created a noticeable and disappointing change in appearance.

The Economic Development Authority respectfully requests and recommends that the Board restore sufficient funding in the FY2026 Budget to allow re-establishment of the staffing/work crew positions that will support the corridor mowing/maintenance coverages and frequencies that previously existed. In addition, we recommend that any opportunities for resumption of the mowing frequency for the start of the upcoming mowing season (i.e. – before the FY26 Budget takes effect) be explored.

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

Sincerely,



Jeff Clemons, Chairman
Economic Development Authority

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