

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 13, 2025  
**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator   
**SUBJECT:** Annual Update on County Boards and Commissions

At the request of the Board, the staff has prepared an overview of the activities and accomplishments of York County's Boards and Commissions over the past year. These groups play an essential role in supporting County operations, advising the Board of Supervisors, and enhancing services for residents.

A summary of each Board and Commission's work during the past year is provided below for the Board's review.

### **Arts Commission**

The York County Arts Commission supports cultural programming by reviewing and recommending funding requests. This year's timeline included accepting grant submissions from January to March, hosting an FY2026 applicant seminar, reviewing 27 applications with 19 recommended, evaluating FY2025 grantees in July, participating in a joint luncheon in October, and preparing for FY2027 grants. These efforts ensure strong arts engagement and transparency in the allocation of resources.

### **Board of Building Code Appeals**

The Board of Building Code Appeals had no hearings in 2025. Members James Ealey and Rodney Ware, Jr., were reappointed to new three-year terms in June. No additional activity occurred this year.

### **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)**

The Board of Zoning Appeals, appointed by the Circuit Court Judge, reviews variance requests and appeals of Zoning Administrator decisions. The BZA had no cases in 2025.

### **Chesapeake Bay Board**

The Board held seven meetings with full quorums, approving 17 applications and denying one. Staff trained members on the new state Resiliency Assessment requirements. Two members will require replacement due to term expiration and relocation. DEQ's Bay Act Coordinator attended a meeting for a program compliance review.

### **Colonial Behavioral Health**

Colonial Behavioral Health advanced governance work by updating policies, developing the annual budget, and addressing temporary space needs through agreements with CCSI. Collaboration with York County continues, including oversight agreements and

coordination of employee benefits. The development of the Center for Support & Wellness is progressing, with new staff members hired to support fundraising and plans to partner with the Southeastern Virginia Health System for integrated care services.

### **Colonial Juvenile Services Commission**

The Commission continued providing evidence-based programs for youth across six localities. Virtual education via Zoom improved efficiency and regional participation. A Department of Juvenile Justice audit awarded the program its highest rating and requested that its manuals be used as statewide models. The Check and Connect truancy-reduction initiative achieved an 87% success rate in improving student attendance.

### **Community Services Grants Advisory Committee**

The Grants Advisory Committee, with one representative per district, reviewed applications in January and February and recommended \$62,080 in funding for 18 civic and cultural organizations. Priority was given to programs supporting youth development, hospice care, veterans' services, emergency shelter, food distribution, elder care, and rehabilitation services.

### **Economic Development**

Economic and Tourism Development works to strengthen the local economy by recruiting, growing, and retaining businesses while supporting tourism and entrepreneurship. Key partners include VEDP, the Hampton Roads Alliance, the SBDC, and local chambers. The Economic Development Authority assists by issuing revenue bonds, owning and developing commercial real estate, and providing incentives to close business deals.

### **Friends of the York County Library Foundation**

The Friends experienced a revitalized year, expanding to a five-member Board of Directors and more than fifty active members. Their fundraising generated more than \$50,000, with over \$10,000 dedicated to programs and special events. Their support brought well-known authors—including S.A. Cosby, Elle Cosimano, and Donna Andrews—to York County, enriching the community's programming.

### **Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee**

The Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee continued recommending projects under the Regional Bikeways Plan, including York County proposals such as Victory Boulevard trail segments 1 and 2 and several multimodal improvements supporting Trail 757.

### **Historic Yorktown Design Committee (HYDC)**

The Historic Yorktown Design Committee reviewed proposals throughout 2025 to ensure architectural consistency within the Yorktown Historic District. Cases included new front doors for the Freight Shed, approval of an unpainted fence amendment at 114 Ballard

Street, and a black metal rooftop railing for the Yorktown Beach Hotel. Each request was carefully reviewed to uphold the district's historic character.

### **Historical Committee**

The Historical Committee delivered key community events throughout 2025, including Memorial Day, Veterans Day, the Christmas Tree Lighting, and seasonal lecture series at York Hall. Members also participated in the History Fair, July 4th celebrations, Yorktown Day, and other events. The Committee is expanding outreach and welcoming new members to promote York County's heritage.

### **Library Board**

The Library Board provided guidance to the Library Director and assisted with updating the Five-Year Strategic Plan, approved in January 2025. The plan aligns with County priorities and state funding requirements. In September, the Board revised the Rules and Regulations of Conduct to ensure a safe and welcoming environment, including updates on tobacco, vaping, marijuana use, and patron behavior.

### **Middle Peninsula Juvenile Detention Commission**

The Commission noted strong performance by the Merrimac Detention Center under Executive Director Gina Mingee. The Center successfully adapted to statewide program changes, maintained effective bed-leasing partnerships, improved facilities, and addressed staffing challenges. Maintaining a quorum across 18 jurisdictions remains a concern.

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)**

PRAB meets bi-monthly to guide and support County parks and recreation initiatives. The Board works closely with staff to align projects with County priorities and is supporting implementation of the Comprehensive Plan with consultant McGill. Efforts focus on strengthening parks, trails, and amenities for residents.

### **Peninsula Agency on Aging (PAA)**

PAA supported 9,127 older adults in 2024 through in-home care, Meals on Wheels, adult day care, and health promotion. The organization celebrated its 50th anniversary and honored President/CEO William Massey, who is retiring in late 2025. PAA continues focusing on innovation, accountability, and high-quality care for older adults.

### **Planning Commission**

In 2025, the Planning Commission advised the Board of Supervisors on numerous rezoning and development matters. Special Use Permit applications decreased, while text amendments significantly increased. Newly adopted uses included data centers, sexually oriented businesses, cruise ship docking centers, self-service ice vending units, and food truck parks. The Commission remained focused on alignment with the Comprehensive Plan, *Charting the Course to 2040*.

### **Senior Center Board**

The Senior Center Board supports programs promoting healthy aging, education, and social engagement. Activities included War Stories and Pizza, Recipe Workshops, Newcomer Coffees, and group travel such as a Lancaster, PA trip. A Book Club is being developed, and preparations are underway for the Center's 35th anniversary in 2026.

### **Social Services Advisory Board**

The Board monitors social support programs for York County and Poquoson, advises the DSS Director, and prepares an annual report for the Board of Supervisors and City Council. It supports numerous outreach efforts, including the Fatherhood Engagement Event, Resource Fair, Safe Sleep and Water Safety campaigns, elder fraud prevention, Foster Parent Training, and holiday giving programs.

### **Wetlands Board**

The Wetlands Board held six meetings with full quorums, approving nine applications, granting extensions on five, and closing three completed projects. The Board remains fully staffed.

### **Youth Commission**

The Youth Commission connects high school students with the Board of Supervisors. Members volunteered at county events, hosted the annual Town Hall Meeting, supported donation drives, and sponsored the Outstanding Youth Award. Next year, they plan to expand surveys, launch a peer initiative, increase Commission visibility, and strengthen collaboration with the School Board.

The staff extends its appreciation to all Board and Commission members for their dedicated service, leadership, and continued commitment to York County. Their volunteer efforts significantly strengthen County programs, improve the quality of life for residents, and help advance the Board's Strategic Priorities. We look forward to supporting these groups in the year ahead and welcome any further direction from the Board.

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