

A RESOLUTION NO. 21-22

Expressing City Council's support for the continued operation of the Riverside Regional Jail.

WHEREAS, the Riverside Regional Jail Authority was organized on August 27, 1992 with the execution of Service Agreements by and between the Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg and the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Prince George, and Surry; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Regional Jail was opened in July 1997 and has housed 100% of the City's inmates since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Jail successfully operated for over twenty years under the leadership of two superintendents and the governance of a collaborative regional board; and

WHEREAS, the Jail houses over 1,300 local, state, and federal inmates per day and processes over 22,000 inmates per year; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia placed the Jail on a three-year probationary status in June 2019; and since that time the Jail has complied with the requirements imposed on it, including passing unannounced audits by the State Board of Local and Regional Jails; and

WHEREAS, the Jail recently was recognized by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care as an accredited facility, demonstrating a commitment to providing a nationally accepted standard of care in health services delivery; and

WHEREAS, recently the Jail Review Committee of the Board of Local and Regional Jails has taken the unprecedented step of recommending that the Jail be decertified and its incarcerated individuals returned to their locality of origin; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colonial Heights does not own or operate a facility for the incarceration of the City's inmates; and

WHEREAS, decertification of the Riverside Regional Jail would have huge and far-reaching detrimental financial, administrative, economic, and social effects on the City, the

region, the Jail inmates, the inmates' families, the Jail employees, local attorneys, and the bondholders of the Authority's debt;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS:

1. The Council fully supports the ongoing operation of the Riverside Regional Jail and urges the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to reject the recommendation for decertification the Jail Review Committee has made.

2. The Council recognizes ongoing initiatives by the Riverside Regional Jail Authority Board and Management, including but not limited to: changing health services providers, conducting an operational and organizational needs assessment, and instituting multiple staff recruitment and retention initiatives.

3. The Council supports future initiatives the Riverside Regional Jail undertakes, after consultation with the State Board of Local Regional Jails, to maintain the facility's viability, including development and implementation of an action plan.

4. This resolution shall be in effect upon approval.

Approved:

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

I certify that the above resolution was:

Adopted on _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Absent: _____ Abstain: _____

The Honorable Michael A. Cherry, Councilmember: _____

The Honorable John E. Piotrowski, Councilmember: _____

The Honorable Dr. Laura F. Poe, Councilmember: _____

The Honorable Robert W. Wade, Councilmember: _____

The Honorable John T. Wood, Councilmember: _____

The Honorable Elizabeth G. Luck, Vice-Mayor: _____

The Honorable T. Gregory Kochuba, Mayor: _____

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney