



Powhatan County Board of Supervisors Agenda Item

Meeting Date: January 4, 2016

Agenda Item Title: Virginia's Urban Crescent Letter to Governor McAuliffe and the 2016 Virginia General Assembly

Motion: Move to authorize the Chairman of the Powhatan County Board of Supervisors to sign the attached Virginia Urban Crescent Letter dated January 6, 2016

Dates Previously Considered by Board: n/a

Summary of Item: On December 11, 2015, more than 150 government, school division, and business representatives from Virginia's Urban Crescent met to discuss concerns regarding the Commonwealth's share of funding for public education. March Altman, Deputy County Administrator, Dr. Eric Jones, PCPS Superintendent and Mr. James Kunka, PCPS School Board Chairman attended.

The proposed letter states that local governments cannot realistically sustain the extraordinary funding demands of the past several years without continued dramatic impacts on other essential local government services. Urban Crescent member jurisdictions are invited to sign the attached letter calling upon the 2016 Virginia General Assembly and Governor to meaningfully increase the Commonwealth's proportional and required share of funding for a high quality public education system.

Staff: N/A Approve Disapprove See Comments

Planning Commission/Board: N/A Approve Disapprove See Comments

PAW

County Administrator: Approve Disapprove See Comments

Comments: None

Budget/Fiscal Impact: None

Attachments: Virginia's Urban Crescent letter dated January 6, 2016

Staff/Contact: Patricia A. Weiler, County Administrator, (804) 598-5612, pweiler@powhatanva.gov

If Board members have questions, please call the staff / contact prior to the meeting.



Virginia's Urban Crescent

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SURRY
SUSSEX
VIENNA
VIRGINIA BEACH
WILLIAMSBURG
WINDSOR
YORK

January 6, 2016

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor
The Honorable Members of the 2016 Virginia General Assembly

Dear Governor McAuliffe and Members of the 2016 Virginia General Assembly:

On December 11, 2015, more than 150 government, school division, and business representatives from Virginia's Urban Crescent met to discuss the following concerns regarding the Commonwealth's share of funding for public education:

1. Since FY 09, the Commonwealth has reduced its share of funding for public education by more than \$1 billion.
2. State funding on a per pupil inflation adjusted basis has decreased from \$4,275 per pupil in FY 09 to \$3,655 per pupil in FY 15.
3. Virginia local governments are contributing double the amount required under current statute for public education, even as property values have significantly declined.
4. In comparison with other states, Virginia is in the top ten in both per capita and median household income, but in the bottom ten for public education funding.

Although the Urban Crescent comprises only 24 percent of the land area in Virginia, it is home to over 70 percent of the Commonwealth's school-aged children. The Urban Crescent's governments, school divisions and business community understand the importance of an excellent public education system as Virginia competes in a global economy. Our Commonwealth needs funding to support the current and future costs of a quality education system. However, local governments cannot realistically sustain the extraordinary funding demands of the past several years without continued dramatic impacts on other essential local government services.

The local governments, school divisions and business partners of the Virginia Urban Crescent call upon the 2016 Virginia General Assembly and Governor to meaningfully increase the Commonwealth's proportional and required share of funding for a high quality public education system.

Sincerely,

The Mayors and Chairs of Virginia's Urban Crescent
The School Divisions in Virginia's Urban Crescent
The CEOs of Virginia's Urban Crescent Chambers of Commerce

SIGNATURES START HERE

DRAFT

From: Pat Weiler
To: [Angela Cabell](#); "[District 1](#)"; "[District 2](#)"; "[District 3](#)"; "[District 4](#)"; "[District 5](#) "
Cc: [Dr. Eric L. Jones](#); [James Kunka \(James.kunka@powhatan.k12.va.us\)](#); [March Altman](#); [Thomas E. Lacheney](#); [Kalli Jackson](#); [Brigid Paciello](#)
Subject: FW: Urban Crescent Letter Re: Public Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 1:15:32 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[121115 Letter - Draft.pdf](#)

Board,

Dr. Jones, Jim Kunka and March Altman attended the meeting on December 11.

At your meeting on January 4, we will ask you to vote as to whether or not to have the Chairman sign this letter on the Board's behalf?

Thanks

Pat

From: Robert A. Crum, Jr. [<mailto:rcrum@hrpdcva.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 12:36 PM
To:
Subject: Urban Crescent Letter Re: Public Education Funding

As discussed at our December 11, 2015 meeting, attached is the letter to the Governor and General Assembly from the Urban Crescent Mayors & Chairs, School Divisions and Chamber CEOs requesting that the State increase its share of funding for a high quality public education system. This letter incorporates the comments expressed at Friday's meeting and has been endorsed by the Urban Crescent meeting co-chairs. Our goal is to have as many local governments, school divisions and business organizations as possible sign this letter and to transmit this correspondence the first week in January.

Please review and let me know of your willingness to sign the letter. If agreeable to signing, please email your electronic signature to Kelli Arledge at karledge@hrpdcva.gov by January 6, 2016, so that it may added to the letter. Please note that Ms. Arledge will maintain your signatures in a secure file, and it will not be used without your express permission.

I want to thank everyone for making the December 11th meeting in Fredericksburg a success. The signatures on this letter will convey a strong message to the Governor and General Assembly of the importance of increasing state funding for Virginia to have a high quality public education system.

Thank you,
Bob



Robert A. Crum, Jr.

Executive Director

[Hampton Roads Planning District Commission](#)

723 Woodlake Drive

Chesapeake, VA 23320

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