THE CITY OF NORFOLK

April 22, 2016

City Council;

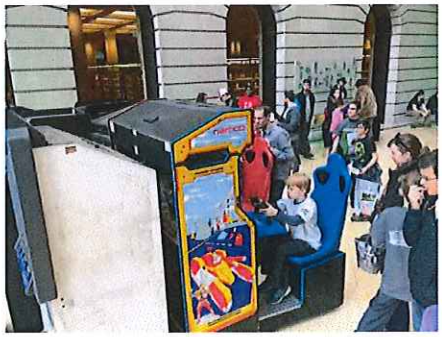
Today's memo includes information from the April 12th Council meeting. Highlights include:

- Landscaping Update
- Neighborhood Quality Efforts
- Short Term Rentals

The City recently received national recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association for the FY 2015 Budget Document. This award includes special recognition for performance measures included in the budget which demonstrate progress toward achieving goals and objectives.

We also climbed the rankings for having one of the best fleets in the country! 100 Best Fleets just announced the 2016 best fleets in America. Norfolk ranks #55 this year. Last year, we ranked #66.

Earlier this month, Slover Library transformed into a gamers paradise at Pixelfest. More than 4,600 visited Slover during the weekend – the largest attendance at Slover since opening weekend!



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MEMORANDUM

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Lori A. Crouch, Corporate Communications Director
COPIES TO:	City Clerk, City Attorney
SUBJECT:	Council Interests
DATE:	April 22, 2016

Today's memo includes information and updates from the April 12, 2016 Informal City Council Session.

Neighborhood Quality Update: Staff conducted a comprehensive sweep of the following streets:

- Portview Av, from 1st View to Mason Creek
- A View Av, from Granby to Mason Creek
- W. Balview Av, from Granby to Mason Creek
- W. Seaview Av, from Granby to 1st View
- D View Av, from Granby to Tidewater
- W. Government Av, from Granby to Tidewater
- Statler St
- Capitol Av
- Lakeside Dr
- Dulwich Cres

The following enforcement actions took place and staff will follow-up to ensure these issues are corrected:

- 15 Tall Weed Grass
- 15 Trash And Debris
- 5 Code Enforcement Case
- 2 Residential Parking (1 parking ticket)
- 1 Inoperable Vehicle

Police Technology: The Norfolk Police Department is working on several technology upgrades that will remind an officer to turn on the body worn camera. The first effort will re-program the computer aided dispatch system to include a reminder to turn on body worn cameras when dispatched to calls for service. In addition, the Police are working with the Emergency Operations Center to integrate a reminder in radio dispatch procedures. Chief Goldsmith is currently reviewing new technology that will automatically turn on body worn cameras when officers complete tasks such as turning on their emergency lights, removing their weapon or opening the car door.

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Bose Investigation: The Bose case remains an active investigation and all leads are being pursued. Norfolk Police is collaborating with other agencies. A Norfolk officer is assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Violent Crimes Task Force as part of this collaboration. In addition, Norfolk Police are utilizing various state and federal resources available to them.

Short Term Rentals: Staff will provide information on short term rentals during a presentation scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th.

Body Worn Cameras: The Office of Professional Standards maintains the discipline history of officers failing to activate their body worn cameras. The City's progressive discipline philosophy is followed to address these instances. In 2016, there have been 11 instances resulting in command counseling and 1 instance resulting in a letter of reprimand. No officer has been in violation more than 2 instances which would result in suspension.

Outreach Plans for New Employee Management System: Human Resources staff is scheduling several workshops beginning in June which will provide employees an opportunity to learn more about the time/absent management systems and payroll scheduling revisions. Staff is already sending messages about the improvements and efficiencies to employees.

High-Speed Internet: Staff will provide a comprehensive presentation to Council in May about efforts to expand and enhance high-speed internet in the City. Staff will also include an update on the COX franchise agreement review and renewal process.

Verizon Fios: Staff is scheduling a meeting with Verizon next week to discuss FIOS and other emerging technology for high speed data and cable that Verizon is currently exploring.

Verizon's goal with FIOS was to reach 18 million homes nationally. They were actively engaged in negotiations with several cities nationwide and in Virginia to bring FIOS to communities. When they reached the 18 million milestone in 2010, they ceased discussions on new installations and expansion into several cities including Norfolk, Alexandria, Falls Church, as well as Baltimore (city), Minneapolis, and Los Angeles. Nationally, although FIOS reaches 18 million homes, a vast majority of U.S. cities don't have FIOS available to them (see attached maps). In the cities where FIOS is offered, availability does not extend to all locations. For example, New York City has FIOS, but it is not available in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Staff received notification via phone and e-mail from Verizon external affairs and/or engineering in 2010, 2012, 2013, and December 2015 that they have no plans to resume discussions with cities to expand FIOS at this time.

Code Enforcement Shifts: Neighborhood Development is evaluating several models for alternative shifts and expects to launch in pilot program for this summer. We think there is value in code enforcement personnel meeting with residents while they are at home. This provides an opportunity to build relationships which would encourage volunteer compliance. We currently have an Emergency On-Call Inspector who is available 24/7 that reports to fires, demolish, board-up etc.

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Landscaping Update: Parks and Urban Forestry staff are performing the spring cleanup of the medians and triangles at the Military Highway-Little Creek Road intersection. The spring cleanup includes pruning, weeding and mulching of the bed areas. Staff will also remove two juniper plantings causing sight obstructions for left turns from Little Creek to Military Hwy/Pythian Road. Crews will complete the work the first week of May.

Police Officer Standards: The police department has demonstrated an authentic commitment to transparency and accountability to build trust and communication as well as collaboration with our citizens. The Chief and command staff have lead proactive measures in preventing misconduct through the appropriate training to include fair and impartial policing training as well as procedural justice and ethics training. Norfolk Police has zero tolerance for police misconduct and takes affirmative steps to remove those officers engaged in such activity.

Fort Norfolk Redevelopment: City Council on April 12 approved (R-15) a Downtown Certificate to permit the substantial rehabilitation of the existing 4 story historic warehouse; converting the vacant warehouse into 57 dwelling units. Neighborhood Quality (Code Enforcement) along with Norfolk Police will continue to monitor for any code violations.