Public Engagement Results

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

City Council Retreat

March 4, 2022

Presentation Overview

- ARPA Overview

- Timeline

- Resident Resources

- Results

Background – ARPA Overview

March 11, 2021 –
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- City of Norfolk receives $154M in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Act Funds (SLFRF)

- NPS receives $113M in ESSER III Funds

- Virginia receives additional $414M in ERA II funding for VA Housing

Must be encumbered by Dec. 31 2024 and spent by Dec. 31 2026

$154,141,050

$106,991,262 Metropolitan City Funds

$47,149,788 County Funds

Engagement Timeline

City Council Retreat

October 15-16
City Manager Presents Preliminary ARPA Investment Plan.

Public Meeting
November 15
Pretlow Library

Public Meeting
January 27
Virtual Public Meeting

ARPA Website
October 15
City Launches ARPA website

Public Meeting
November 18
Norview Recreation Center

Engagement Dashboard
December 7
City Launches Engagement Dashboard

City Council Update
December 7
Presentation on Dashboard launch

Engagement Period Ends
February 16
All platforms are closed for submissions

City Council Retreat
March 4-5
Engagement results summarized and presented

October	November	December	January	February	March

Prioritize Online Tool — **November 3rd – February 16th**

Online Survey of Priorities — **November 23rd – February 16th**

arpacommunciation@norfolk.gov — **November 30th – February 16th**

Drop Boxes — **January 12th – February 16th**

Resident Resources: Multiple Engagement Platforms

Prioritize Online Engagement Tool

- An online interactive engagement tool. Residents would review, select, and rank projects as well as write-in their plans for the ARPA investment plan.

Online Survey of Resident Priorities

- An online survey that helps residents prioritize categories that provide a unique opportunity to invest in projects and programs that benefit residents and help the community rebound from the pandemic.

Public Meetings

- The city held two public meetings in November and a virtual townhall in January

Email

- ARPAcommunication@norfolk.gov

Drop Boxes

- Ten drop boxes were placed at recreation centers and libraries throughout the city

# Resident Resources: ARPA Webpage

www.norfolk.gov/ARPA

- Launched on October 15th

- A one stop shop for the latest ARPA news

Resident Resources: Engagement Dashboard
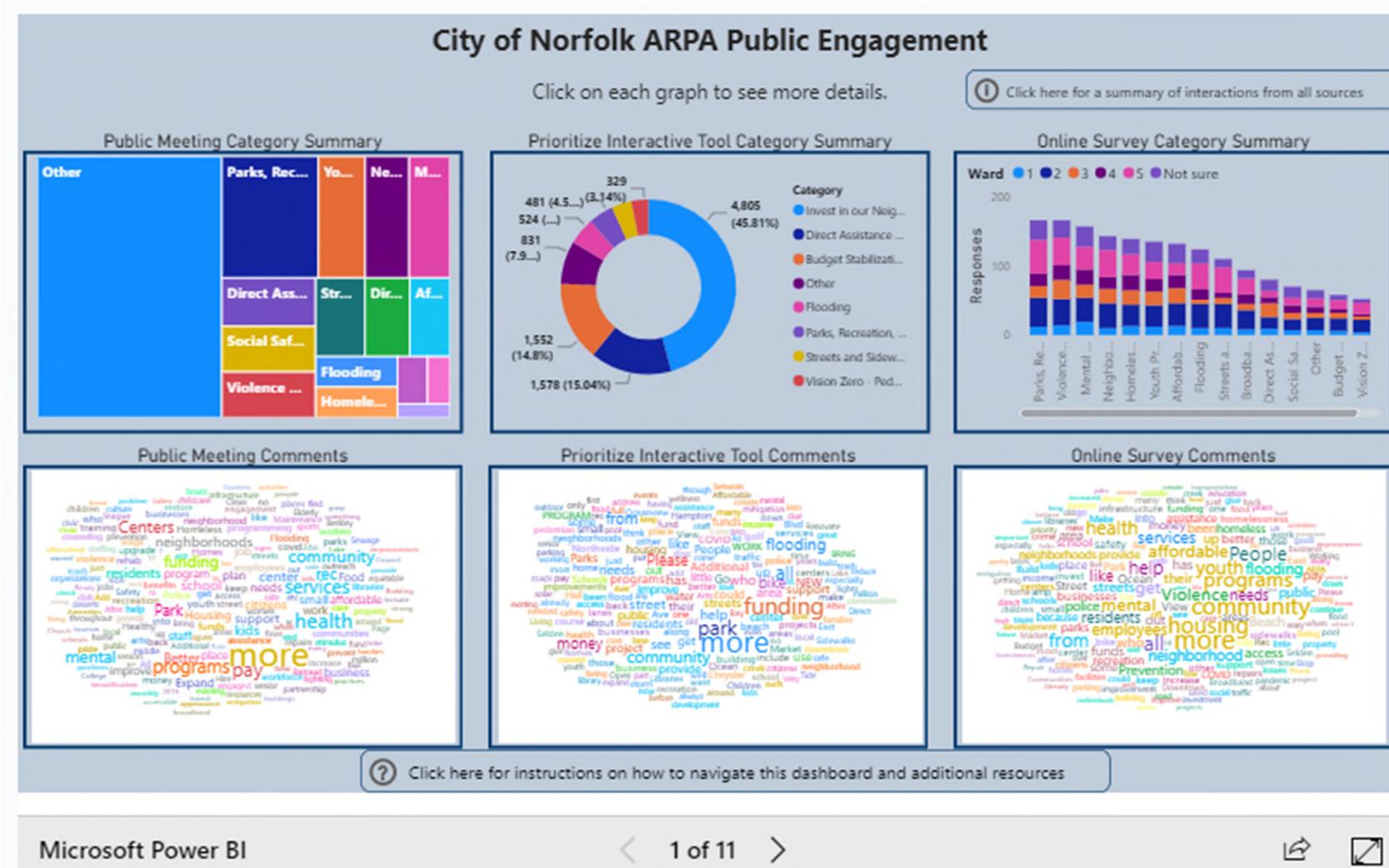
Engagement Results: Total Interactions

Prioritize	Online Survey	Public Meetings	Email	Drop Boxes
888 Submissions	**614** Completed Surveys	**326** Comments	**63** Emails	**15** Comments
485 Comments	**615** Comments			
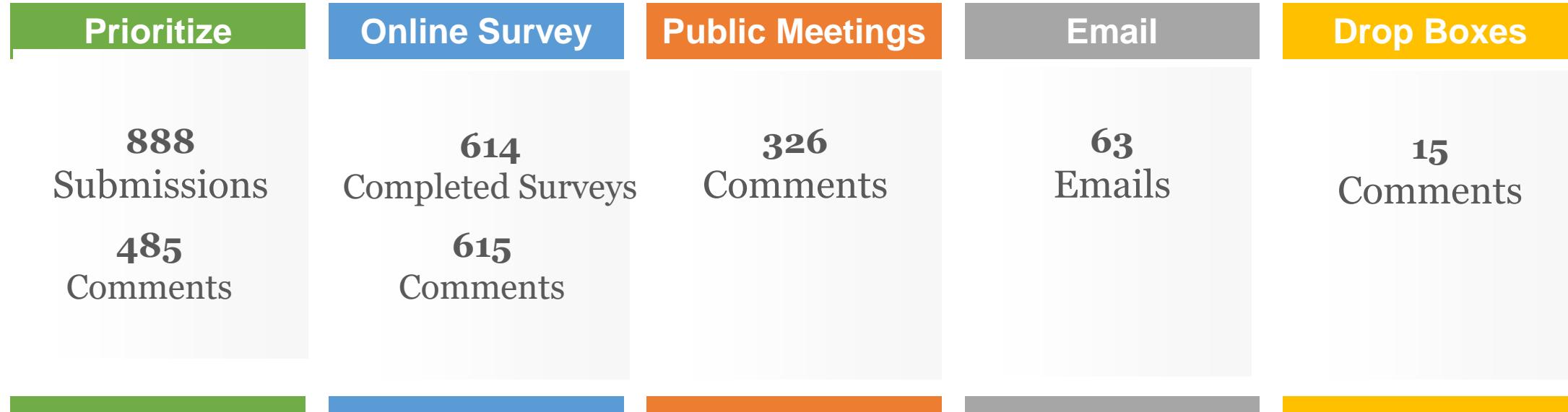
⬤ 1,504 Comments   ⬤ 3,006 Interactions

Prioritize Submission Results

Top Five Priorities

1. Maintain Continuity of Services

2. Additional Funding for Flooding

3. Construct Regional Broadband Ring

4. Construct Southside Trail

5. Fund Arts, Culture and Tourism Events

- Residents used the prioritize online tool to select and rank projects included in the city manager's original ARPA plan, along with other general funding areas

- Submissions and comments were received through prioritize

- A full list of all submission rankings is included in the resource guide

- Comments received will be discussed in the comment section of the presentation

Survey Submission Results

Top Five Priorities

1. Parks, Recreation, and Libraries

2. Violence Prevention

3. Neighborhood Investments

4. Mental Health

5. Affordable Housing

- Residents used the online survey to select their funding priorities and leave comments

- Submissions and comments were received through the survey

- A full list of all submission results is included in the resource guide

- Comments received will be discussed in the comment section of the presentation

Survey Submission Results – by Ward

Ward 1

Category	Number of Responses
Mental Health	26
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries	23
Homelessness	23
Violence Prevention	22
Affordable Housing	22

Number of Responses

Ward 2

Category	Number of Responses
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries	89
Flooding	80
Affordable Housing	78
Neighborhood Investments	71
Homelessness	70

Number of Responses
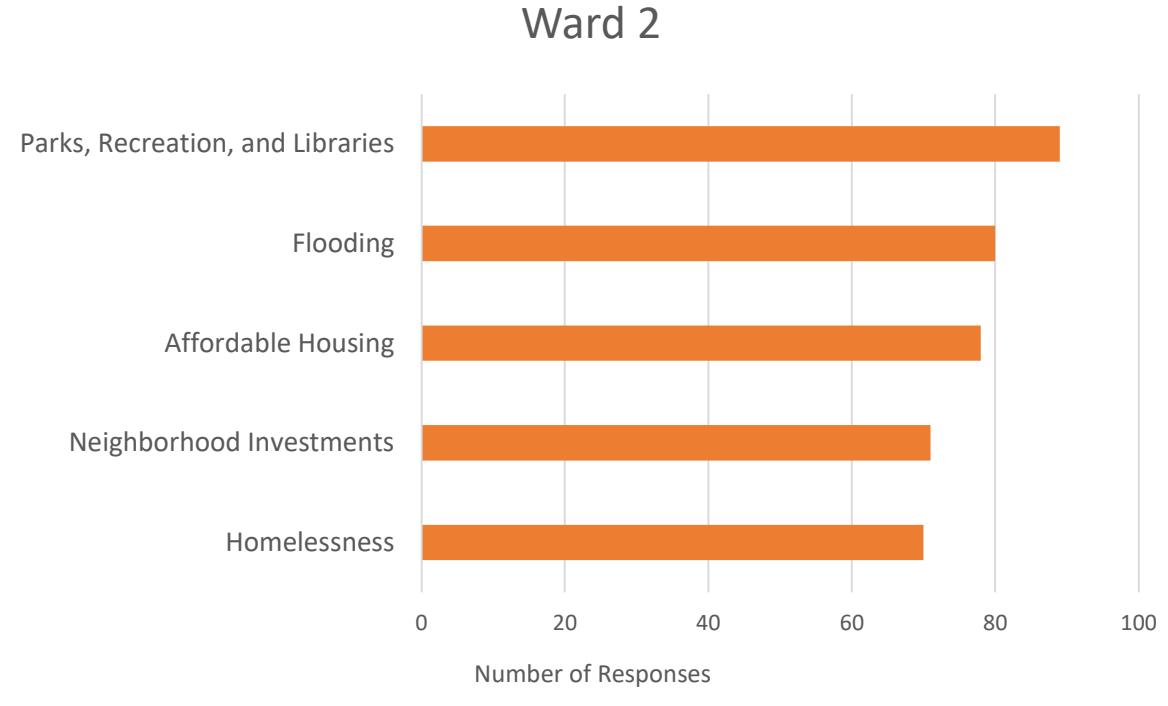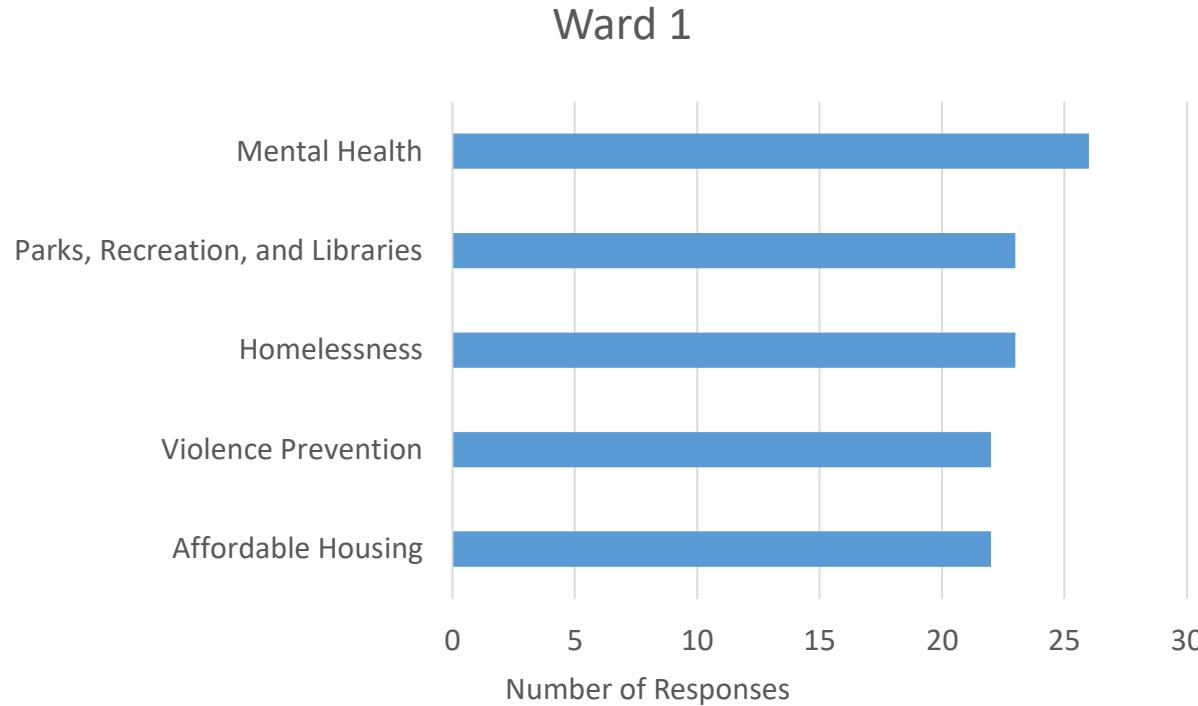
- Ward 1 submitted 55 responses

- Ward 2 submitted 176 responses

Survey Results – by Ward

Ward 3

Category	Number of Responses
Affordable Housing	41
Violence Prevention	39
Youth Programs and Services	37
Direct Assistance to Residents	37
Neighborhood Investments	31

Ward 4

Category	Number of Responses
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries	34
Homelessness	34
Mental Health	33
Youth Programs and Services	33
Violence Prevention	32
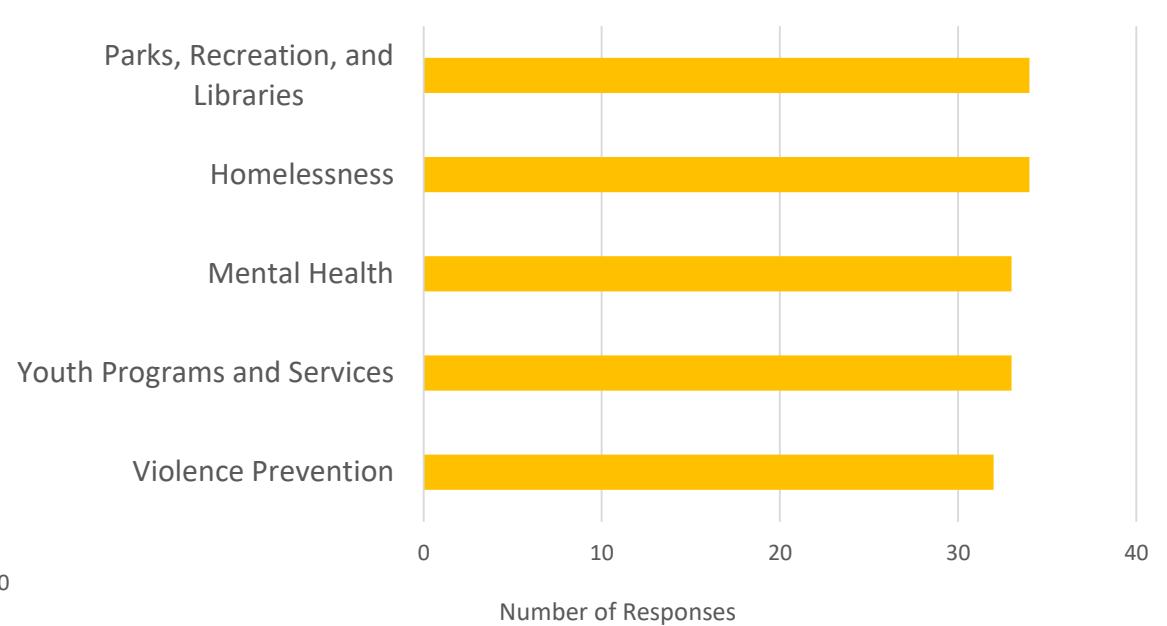
- Ward 3 submitted 77 responses
- Ward 4 submitted 60 responses

Survey Results – by Ward

Ward 5

Category	Number of Responses
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries	~78
Neighborhood Investments	~68
Streets and Sidewalks	~64
Flooding	~61
Violence Prevention	~58

Number of Responses

Not Sure of Ward

Category	Number of Responses
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries	~46
Youth Programs and Services	~42
Affordable Housing	~41
Mental Health	~39
Flooding	~36

Number of Respones
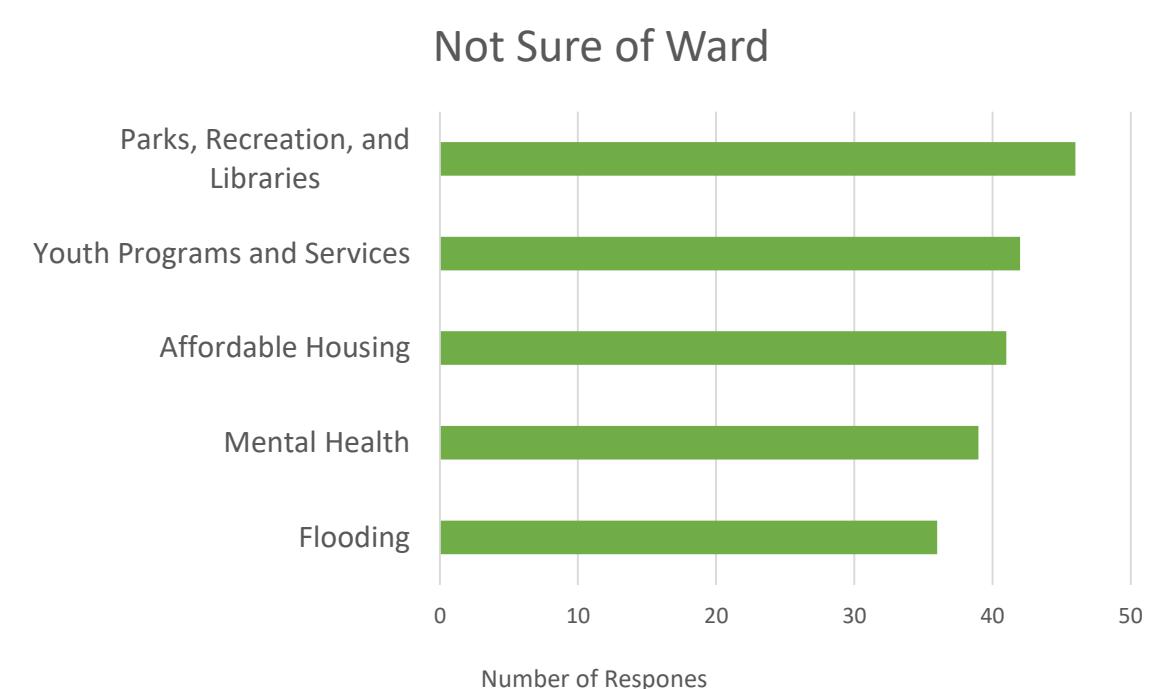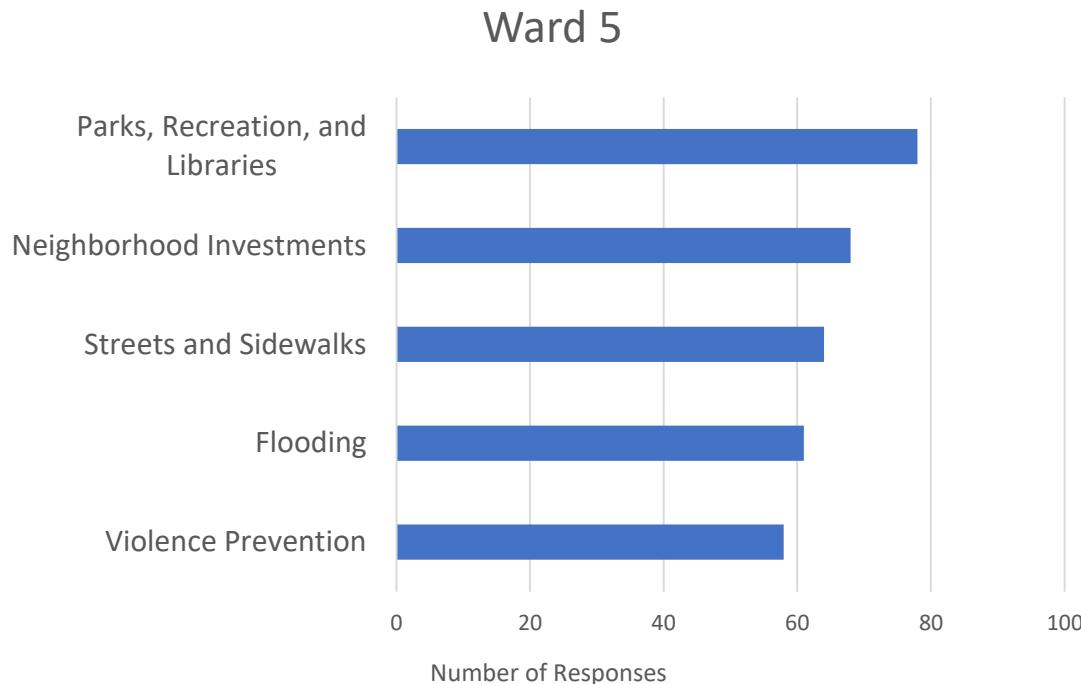
- Ward 5 submitted 154 responses

- Not sure of ward submitted 92 responses

Resident Comments

Comments were received through:

- Prioritize online tool
- Online survey
- ARPA email
- Drop box comment cards
- Public meetings/virtual town hall
- Comments emailed to city council and staff members

- Many comments included multiple priorities

- Captured each priority separately

- Identified and mapped every location mentioned in comments

1,504 comments **3,105** priorities

Resident Comments Results

Top Five Priorities

1. Parks, Recreation, and Libraries

2. Other

3. Neighborhood Investments

4. Invest in Team Norfolk

5. Flooding

- Opinions on ARPA Process
- Better City Services Generally
- Litter Prevention
- Economic Stimulus / Development
- Climate Change

Resident Comments Results

Top Five Locations

1. Northside Park
2. Ocean View
3. Park Place
4. East Ocean View
5. Barraud Park
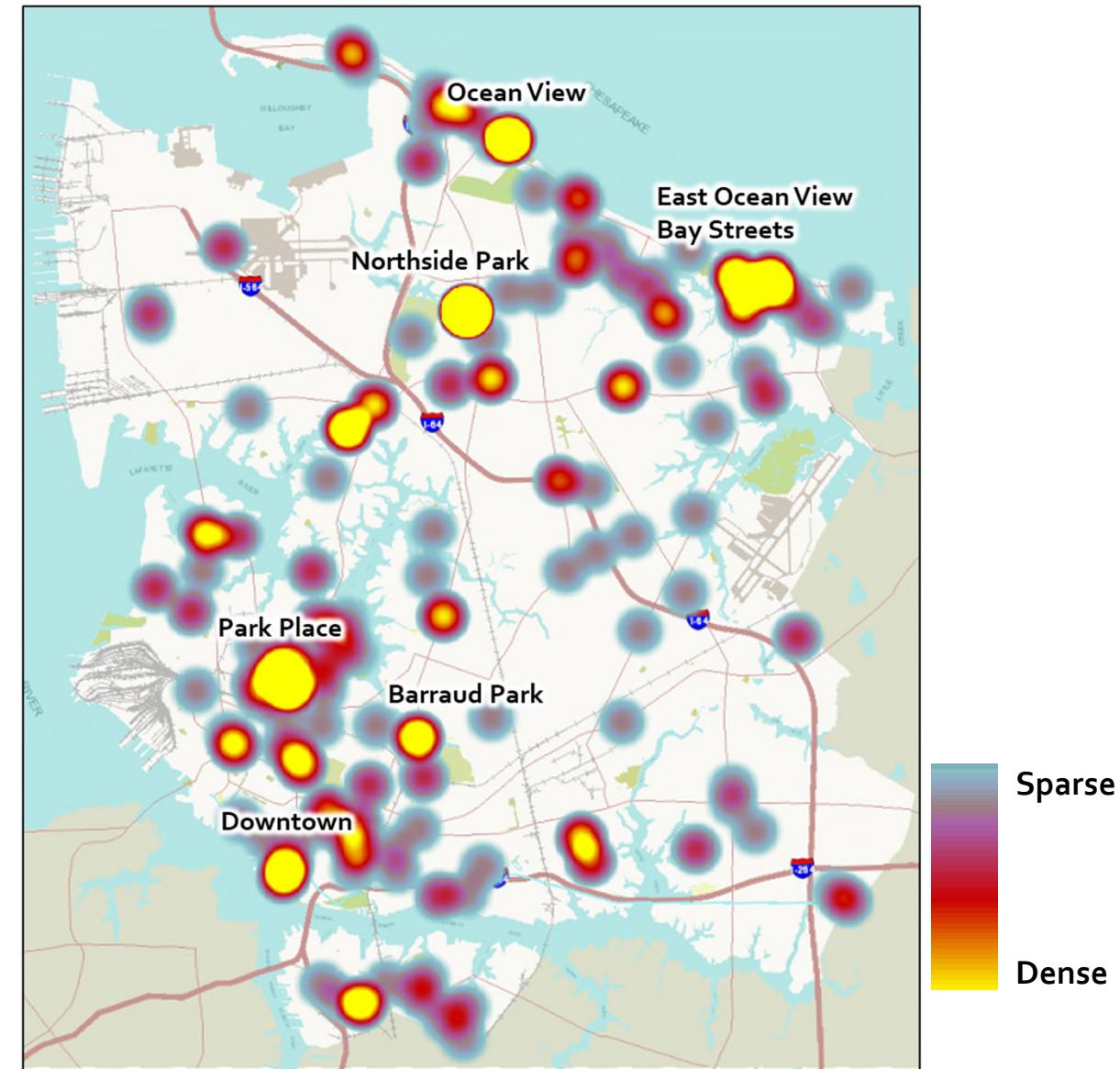
Combined Results from All Engagement Platforms

- Resident participation surpassed even the most optimistic expectations

- Comments primarily fell into two buckets:
    - Process
    - Priorities

- Comments on the process had common themes (sample comments on the next slide)
    - Residents want more opportunities to be heard in a meaningful way on topics beyond ARPA funding
    - Residents convenient access to engagement events and good communication of when, where, and how events will take place
    - Residents want to know how the city will use the information collected in the engagement process
    - After a rocky start, residents appreciated the opportunity to participate in this process

- Comments on Priorities
    - Top priorities across all platforms detailed in next section

Examples of Comments on Engagement Process

- "Thank you for the meeting last night and for helping to be our voice in the city."

- "I am glad the city is changing their course of action to gain input from all its citizens...Can we make sure when setting the dates for community input that multiple dates/times are available for communities of color and that a significant amount of time is given to get the word out about the meetings?"

- "Can we make sure that grassroot leaders, civic and civil leaders are included in gathering people who live in hard-to-reach communities?"

- "Thank you so much for reaching out for feedback!"

- "Have conversations with civic organizations"

- "Hold ARPA suggestion meeting on South side of Norfolk"

- "More community engagement events"

- "Engage the community -> everyone has an opinion"

- "Thank you for the opportunity for the public to give input into use of American Rescue Plan Act funding"

- "Thank you for at least asking; I hope my and others' comments are heard and acted on"

- "City leadership needs to prioritize getting out in the community, hearing from community representatives, and taking action on those recommendations"

- "Thank you for allowing community members to be heard. Please do more to improve opportunities to speak to city leaders besides social media and council meetings"

- "The meeting should've been at a central location"

- "Community has no input here, this has to be taken around to the city. The ones without digital, ones that dont go to the meetings, the ones that dont have transportation"

- "City Council come into break out sessions - Q & A"

- "Church Engagement"

- "Include Citizens at the table"

- "Don't dismiss the community -> involve them"

- "Elected officials and City administration move interaction/conversation/listening so citizens know what is being discussed and action steps"

Summary of Results: Top Priorities

Tier 1 Priorities

- Parks, Recreation, and Library Services
- Neighborhood Investments

Tier 2 Priorities

- Affordable Housing
- Flooding
- Mental Health
- Violence Prevention
- Youth Programs and Services

Examples of Comments

Parks, Recreation & Libraries

- "Request that an indoor pool with walking and swimming lanes be rebuilt at NFWC…"
- "…either repair or replace the NF&W pool as it is sorely missed…"
- "…fix all our city tennis courts and mark many of them also for Pickleball play…"
- "Build an 18-Gould disc golf course at north side park."
- "More disc golf courses!"
- "…I would like to see trees planted in Willoughby Terrace"
- "Cut down trees (in neighborhoods)"
- "Library needs to be opened… "
- "Restore library hours… "
- "…increase library hours. "
- "Improve the Janaf library"

Neighborhood Investments

- "Neighborhood to market their unique features/history… "
- "…brighter lights in neighborhoods.. "
- "Tear down and clear old run down and abandoned buildings… "
- " Fix crumbling infrastructure in the city. "
- "…storm water improvements… "
- "…vacant spaces and buildings that could use revitalization… "
- "Infrastructure within local neighborhoods"
- "Low income neighborhoods investment"
- "…stormwater improvements… "
- "Homeowner rehabilitation program"
- "…neighborhood cleanup projects"
- "Neighborhood revitalization… "
- "Every vacant lot should be turned into a community garden… "

Examples of Comments

Flooding

- "...look at the impact of climate change and flooding..."

- "...flooding (more ohio creek projects that invest in public space and resilience at the same time)"

- "I would like to see flooding issues addressed as a priority"

- "Tidal flooding and hurricane protection. Storms and getting stronger. The Army Corps announced a big floodwall project, let's use this money to help them get that build quick!"

- "provide $5.3 million in direct assistance to homeowners to address flooding on their properties"

- "Downtown flooding + Lafayette river also crossroads"

- "...tidewater drive flooding"

- "Affordable housing is sorely needed?"

Youth programs and services

- "College prep and career centers for youth"

- "Do more to help the youth in Norfolk. Provide more spaces and activities that promote self-esteem, self-respect, and future upstanding citizens."

- "Science and tech for youth"

- "Low staff causes no children's programs"

- "...parenting classes for those whose children are into drugs and violence..."

- "...get these teens busy; mentors and violence will decrease..."

- "...Youth, once we invest in youth we can help the city out..."

Mental Health

- "...Improve mental health services..."

- "Mental health/trauma services"

- "...Improve access to mental health and wellness resources..."

- "...Free mental health couseling..."

- "Prioritize mental health and meeting the need of equipment and materials for mental heath workers..."

- "...start-up adult mental health programs to reduce hospitalization and incarceration..."

- "...mental health/addiction recovery"

Examples of Comments

Affordable housing

- "...the number of individuals without stable, affordable housing in Norfolk is astounding"
- "Affordable housing for everyone regardless of age"
- "Affordable housing is important because it addresses the needs of the mentally ill, homeless and the general population..."
- "Affordable housing with safe and human living conditions..."
- "Affordable housing/canceling rent is the biggest one for me. I think sable housing goes hand in hand with access to education and ability to work/maintain a job..."

Violence prevention

- " Violence prevention (and more funding for police)..."
- "I am hopeful that focusing on youth will prevent homelessness and violence"
- "...decrease the violence occurring daily in the city"
- "...work with more anti-violence groups"
- "Violence prevention
- "Change the culture of violence-create/do activities that unite citizens/strengthens neighborhood/get to know your neighbor"...mental health/addiction recovery"
- "Ending gun violence"
- "Stop the violence needs to be a priority"

Next Steps

- Engagement Resource Guide distributed to City Council today
  - More detail on the engagement results from each platform
  - All comments received from residents
- Resource Guide distribution:
  - Posted online today
  - Will be sent via email to all residents who provided their email address at public meetings by the first part of next week
  - Will be printed and distributed to all facilities that hosted an ARPA Drop Box