

**Minutes of the
COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

January 9, 2026

1:00 pm

Virginia Housing Center

4224 Cox Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

Members Present

Robert Lauterberg

Terry Payne, Chair

Edwin Rosado

Members Absent

Heather Cordasco, Vice Chair

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Maggie Beal, Director

Kenrick Cameron, Jr., Policy Analyst

Joseph Dennie, Policy Analyst

Alan Jones, Senior Public Finance Analyst

Trisha Lindsey, Policy & Legislative Services Director

Sulaiman Safi, Board Coordinator

Chase Sawyer, Policy Manager

Call to Order

Commissioner Lauterberg, Chair of the Commission on Local Government, called the regular meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones reported that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Lauterberg asked whether any Commissioner proposed changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted without objection.

Election of Officers for 2026

Commissioner Lauterberg opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Rosado nominated Commissioner Cordasco. No other commissioners were nominated, and the floor was closed for nominations. Commissioner Cordasco was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

Commissioner Lauterberg opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Rosado nominated Commissioner Payne. No other commissioners were nominated, and the floor was closed for nominations. Commissioner Payne was elected Chair by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Lauterberg to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2025, regular meeting of the Commission. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Public Comment

Commissioner Payne opened the floor for public comment.

After seeing no speakers, Commissioner Payne closed public comment.

Staff's Report

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Kenrick Cameron, Jr., the new Policy Analyst at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Mr. Cameron introduced himself and provided a brief background on their previous roles and experiences.

Mr. Sawyer spoke to the Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) and reminded Commissioners to complete their financial disclosure statements by February 2, 2026. Mr. Sawyer also provided a reminder ahead of the General Assembly Session that Commissioners are appointees to a regulatory body and should not comment on General Assembly matters on behalf of the Commission or in their capacity as a Commissioner. Mr. Sawyer added that Commissioners may participate in the legislative process in their capacities as private citizens.

Commemorative Resolution –
Ceasar Johnson

Commissioner Payne reminded Commissioners that Commissioner Ceasar Johnson's term expired December 31, 2025. Commissioner Rosado spoke to Commissioner Johnson's professionalism and attention to community needs. Commissioner Payne spoke to Commissioner Johnson's focus on issues affecting localities and everyday people, as well as being instrumental to the success of the Commission on Local Government. Commissioner Lauterberg echoed the points made by Commissioner Rosado and Commissioner Payne.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lauterberg and seconded by Commissioner Rosado. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Electronic Meetings Policy

Mr. Jones reviewed the Commission's Electronic Meetings Policy and highlighted the technical changes that had been made for the Commission's annual reapproval. A motion

was made by Commissioner Lauterberg and seconded by Commissioner Rosado. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Cases Before the Commission

Mr. Jones provided an update, stating that no new cases had been received since the last meeting.

Local Fiscal Distress – Town of Tangier

Mr. Jones provided an overview of the local fiscal distress process and related statutory provisions, as well as an update on the Town of Tangier. Mr. Jones explained that the 2024 legislation, SB645, established a process for identifying when a locality is fiscally distressed and outlines the framework for state assistance, oversight, and intervention to address such conditions. Mr. Jones reminded the Commissioners that the Governor had provided notice of a plan for state assistance for the Town of Tangier and the Commission took action to acknowledge its oversight responsibility at the previous meeting. Mr. Jones noted that the Berkley Group was selected by the Governor to provide assistance to the Town of Tangier and develop a turnaround plan. Mr. Jones added that staff, the Berkley Group, and representatives of the Town of Tangier had a kickoff meeting on January 8, 2026, to begin the Berkley Group's engagement with the Town and the Berkley Group will produce a report by February 20, 2026. Mr. Jones responded to questions from Commissioners regarding the Town of Tangier and the local fiscal distress process. Mr. Jones noted that the Town of Tangier has been cooperative and willing to engage with staff, the Berkley Group, and other state entities.

Fiscal Stress Methodology

Mr. Jones explained that the presentation from Dr. Eric Scorsone regarding fiscal stress methodology would be rescheduled due to a pressing personal matter that prevented Dr. Scorsone's attendance at the meeting. Mr. Jones provided an overview of fiscal stress methodology and noted items for the Commission to consider, such as what the intended goal of the fiscal stress index should be and to be mindful of not duplicating the efforts of the Auditor of Public Accounts related to fiscal distress. Mr. Jones stated that staff would obtain Dr. Scorsone's permission to share the presentation materials intended to be used for this meeting and would coordinate with Dr. Scorsone to reschedule the fiscal stress methodology presentation. Commissioners discussed the significance of the fiscal stress index and ensuring it is a useful tool.

Schedule of Regular Meetings

Mr. Jones presented the Commission with the proposed 2026 schedule of regular meetings. Mr. Sawyer noted that Commissioners should, at this time, plan for all meetings to be held in-person in order to preserve maximum flexibility in utilizing the all-virtual meeting format based on future meeting and travel demands of the Commission. Mr. Sawyer added that staff will coordinate all-virtual meeting utilization with the Chair and Commissioners. Commissioners discussed their respective availability for rescheduling the Commission's March meeting but agreed to keep the meeting scheduled for March 6 for now, with the understanding that the meeting may ultimately be rescheduled for a later date in March. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Lauterberg to approve the 2026 regular meeting schedule. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Other Business

Director Beal noted that the Governor-elect will be sworn in on January 17, 2026, and the next Director of DHCD has not been announced.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Lauterberg to adjourn the meeting of the Commission. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None). The meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.