

# MAYOR STONEY'S ICYMI Newsletter

**Hello Richmonders!** I hope you enjoyed time spent with family and friends this summer and are now excited for the fall. This *In Case You Missed It* newsletter is another way I am working to ensure my fellow residents are informed of our city's accomplishments. Thank you for reading!



In Case You Missed It  
Nov. 2018



## Free GRTC Bus Passes for High Schoolers

In my budget this year, I included funding for free, unlimited bus passes for high school students in Richmond Public Schools. By establishing this partnership and removing the cost barrier for our students, we will help set our high schoolers up for greater success now and in the future.

## Diversity and Inclusion in RVA



This summer, I worked with the Richmond City Council to create the first Human Rights Commission and establish non-discrimination laws in the City of Richmond. The commission will investigate cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation, transgender status or gender identity.

Richmond also openly celebrates its diversity and inclusion. I became the first mayor in Richmond to raise the pride flag in celebration of Pride Week. This ceremony was a monumental event and one I will never forget!

## More for After School

On August 29, I announced an initiative to close the out-of-school time opportunity gap. Over the next two school years, the expansion of new and existing after school programs will ensure every public elementary and middle school in Richmond will host a quality, full-service extracurricular program.

This makes it possible for more than 1,000 additional students to receive supervised care, ranging from help with homework to recreation and enrichment activities.

This past summer, I issued several mayoral proclamations, including:

## Proclamations!

**Black Breastfeeding Week • Gabriel Week • Grandparents Day • LGBTQ Pride Week**

These proclamations acknowledge the diversity of the City of Richmond and recognize several groups as core pillars of this diversity.



## Expanded Family and Parental Leave

This summer, I also expanded the parental leave policy for the City of Richmond. Our policy now provides eight weeks of paid maternity leave for birth mothers, eight weeks of paid bonding leave for the non-birthing parent, eight weeks of paid parental leave for the adoption/foster care placement of a child and four weeks of paid leave to care for a sick parent with a serious health condition.

## Richmond Works for All People of All Backgrounds



We worked with the Department of Economic Development and Office of Community Wealth Building to create and launch a video series spotlighting various job training programs available to Richmonders. Through this process, I learned **Richmond Works** for all people, of all backgrounds.

If you missed the videos, check out them out on my [Facebook](#) page!

## Housing and Community Development

City Council passed my ordinance separating the previous Department of Economic and Community Development, creating one department focused on economic development and another dedicated to housing and community development.

This initiative will create a more strategic approach to housing needs in the city, including affordable housing and the development of an evictions diversion program.

## Community Office Hours

This summer I hosted community office hours, visited all nine city districts and engaged in neighborhood conversations with my fellow Richmonders. I plan to continue this next summer, so stay tuned for an announcement of more to come next spring!

Additionally, in an effort to ensure *all* Richmonders, young and old, have access to services and programs they need to thrive, I extended the operating hours of [five community centers](#) from 1 pm to 9 pm on both Saturdays and Sundays.

## Best of Richmond

I was honored to be included among those in *Richmond Magazine's* "Best of Richmond" issue. But to me, the best of Richmond are people like you: our teachers, first responders, small business owners and artists. All of you contribute to our efforts and progress in the work to build **One Richmond** — a welcoming, inclusive and equitable city; a great place to live, work and play. I am grateful for your citizen efforts every day, and I thank you for your support!



## Let Me Hear From You!

Call me:  
(804) 646-7970

Email me:  
[rvamayor@richmondgov.com](mailto:rvamayor@richmondgov.com)

Visit my page on the city website:  
[richmondgov.com/mayor/askthemayor.aspx](http://richmondgov.com/mayor/askthemayor.aspx)