



# VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Senator Mamie E. Locke, Chair  
Delegate Marcus B. Simon, Vice-Chair

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## ***VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL***

**June 6, 2022 - 1:00 pm**  
**Senate Committee Room A, Pocahontas Building**  
**Richmond, VA**

[Click HERE for the Live Stream of the Meeting.](#)

### **SUGGESTED AGENDA**

**\*ANNOTATED\***

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Introduction of members.** *Stephanie Hamlett replaced Pamela O'Berry as the FOIA representative for the Office of the Attorney General. Ms. Hamlett has previously served two full four-year terms on the Council as a Governor's appointee.*
- 3. Recap of FOIA and Related Access Bills from 2021 Session of General Assembly.**
- 4. [HB 444](#) (Bennett-Parker) Workgroup Progress Report.** *The second enactment clause of HB 444 directed the Council to form a workgroup to make certain best practices recommendations as follows:*
  - That the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council shall convene a work group, no later than May 1, 2022, to develop recommendations for best practices for public bodies holding all-virtual public meetings, including but not limited to how to take public comment virtually and the proper use of video by public body members. Such recommendations must be completed by August 1, 2022. The work group shall

include representatives of the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, and the Virginia Press Association and such other stakeholders the Council deem appropriate.

*The workgroup met on May 6 and May 24 to discuss these issues and make best practices recommendations, and will meet again if needed. These best practices recommendations will be incorporated into the Electronic Meetings Guide published by the Council when it is updated to reflect the changes made by HB 444.*

**5. Bills Referred to the FOIA Council:**

- **HB 980 (Williams Graves) Virginia Freedom of Information Act; exclusions to application of chapter; local administrative investigations; disclosure.** Adds email addresses as information that, when furnished in confidence to the local governing body, with respect to complainants in local investigations are exempt from disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The bill expands the applicability of the exemption to zoning enforcement complaints for all such complaints, not just individual enforcement complaints. The bill also adds local public health and safety, nuisance, and waste and recycling complaints to the list of complainants whose personal information is exempt from disclosure.

**6. Assignment of Subcommittees.**

- **HB 980 Subcommittee.** *It is suggested that the Council form a single subcommittee this year to study HB 980 because it was the only bill referred to the Council by the 2022 Session of the General Assembly.*

**7. Discussion.**

**8. Other Business.**

**9. Public Comment.**

**10. Set Future Meeting Dates.**

**11. Adjournment.**

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**Council Members**

**Senator Mamie E. Locke, Chair**  
**Senator Richard H. Stuart**  
**Sandra G. Treadway**  
**Bruce Potter**  
**Amigo Wade**  
**William "Billy" Coleburn**  
**Stephanie Hamlett**

**Delegate Marcus B. Simon, Vice-Chair**  
**Delegate William Wampler III**  
**Lee Bujakowski**  
**Matthew Conrad**  
**Chidi James**  
**Cullen Seltzer**  
**Lola Rodriguez Perkins**

**Staff**

Alan Gernhardt, Executive Director

The FOIA Council's website is: [http:// foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov](http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov). To assist us in providing Internet dissemination of materials, presenters are requested to submit written comments and handouts in electronic format by email to staff prior to meetings. Presenters are also requested to bring 20 copies of their remarks or handouts to meetings. These copies will be provided to FOIA Council members and the public.  
E-mail: [foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov).