

**Minutes of the
COMMISSION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
November 25, 2025
1:10 PM
All-Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

Members Present

Robert Lauterberg, Chair
Terry Payne, Vice Chair
Edwin Rosado

Members Absent

Heather Cordasco
Ceasor Johnson

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

Joseph Dennie, Policy Analyst
Alan Jones, Senior Public Finance Analyst
Trisha Lindsey, Policy & Legislative Services Director
Andrew Malloy, Senior Policy Analyst
Sophie McGinley, Senior Policy Analyst
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 1:10 p.m.
Roll Call	The roll was called by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones reported that a quorum was present.
Approval of Agenda	The Chair asked whether any Commissioner proposed changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted without objection.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2025, regular meeting of the Commission. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).
Public Comment	Commissioner Lauterberg opened the floor for public comment. After seeing no speakers, Commissioner Lauterberg closed public comment.
Staff's Report	Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Joseph Dennie, the new Policy Analyst, and Ms. Sophie McGinley, the new Senior Policy Analyst, at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Mr. Dennie and Ms. McGinley

introduced themselves and provided a brief background on their previous roles and experiences.

Cases Before the Commission

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

Regulatory Updates

Mr. Sawyer provided an overview of the Commission's efforts related to regulatory reduction in accordance with Executive Order 19, which mandates a 25% reduction in regulatory requirements. Mr. Sawyer noted that the regulations (1VAC50-20) are currently in the Final Stage and have undergone executive branch review, which includes approval from the Office of Regulatory Management, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Planning and Budget. Mr. Sawyer added that the final regulations are scheduled to be published in the Virginia Register next week for the final public comment period and are anticipated to take effect on December 31, 2025. Mr. Sawyer emphasized that these steps would fulfill the Governor's goal of achieving a 25% reduction in regulations.

Additionally, Mr. Sawyer briefly addressed fiscal distress and emergency regulations (1VAC50-30), noting that efforts are underway to make the emergency regulations permanent prior to their expiration.

Cash Proffer Survey and Report

Mr. Sawyer presented the results of the FY2025 Cash Proffer Survey and Report. Mr. Sawyer provided an overview of cash proffers and reminded the Commission that the report is an annual requirement prescribed by State Code. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Local Fiscal Distress – Town of Tangier

Commissioner Lauterberg provided background information regarding the Town of Tangier and work previously performed by the firm he works for, VML/VACO Finance. Commissioner Lauterberg noted that VML/VACO Finance was engaged by the Town of Tangier to conduct a brief assignment, which consisted of an accounting consultant from the firm spending two days at the Town and preparing a letter outlining her findings. Commissioner Lauterberg clarified that his firm is no longer working with the Town of Tangier and stated that he does not believe there is any conflict of interest that would require recusal from Commission proceedings relating to the Town of Tangier.

Commissioner Lauterberg responded to questions further clarifying his and VML/VACO Finance’s previous role with the 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 responded to questions from Commissioners.

Mr. Sawyer requested that the draft letter to the Governor be amended to include the Chair’s signature, not the Vice Chair’s signature. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve the letter to the Governor acknowledging oversight, with the amendment to the signature. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Commissioner Lauterberg noted that the Commission’s regulations require coordination of a schedule with the Town of Tangier and the fiscal turnaround specialist, The Berkley Group. A motion was made by Commissioner Payne and seconded by Commissioner Rosado to direct staff to coordinate the schedule. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Fiscal Stress Index and Report

Ms. McGinley presented the FY2023 Fiscal Stress Index and Report. Ms. McGinley provided an overview of fiscal stress and highlighted key takeaways from the report. Ms. McGinley responded to questions from Commissioners related to the report. A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne to approve the report with the inclusion of missing maps and appendices. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote (YEAS: Lauterberg, Payne, Rosado; NAYS: None).

Commemorative Resolution – Ceasor Johnson

Commissioner Lauterberg requested a deferral of action on the commemorative resolution for Commissioner Johnson until after Commissioner Johnson’s term expires and he is no longer a member of the Commission. There was no objection to this request.

Schedule of Regular Meetings

Mr. Jones proposed January 9, 2026, as the date for the next Commission meeting. The Commissioners tentatively agreed to this date. Commissioners also expressed a general preference to continue holding regular meetings on Friday afternoons. Mr. Jones stated that the Commission will be presented with the proposed 2026 schedule of regular meetings at the January 2026 meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business to be discussed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Rosado and seconded by Commissioner Payne 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 2:36 p.m.