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Prince William Board of County Supervisors Meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2026

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[00:22:31] No, stay here, keep coming. All right, everyone. It is 2 o'clock on Tuesday, November 17th.

[00:22:52] Please rise. I'm sorry, no. We got the moment of silence first. Please rise if you are able for the Pledge of Allegiance.

[00:23:30] Thank you so very much. We are going to skip over agenda item number three. And we are going to go to approval of the minutes. Can I get a motion? So moved.

[00:23:46] Second. It's been properly moved and seconded in any discussion. All right, if not, let's go ahead and take our votes. Vote unanimous. Supervisor Gordy absent from meeting and all subsequent votes.

[00:24:06] All right. Thank you so very much. We're now moving on to the accommodations and proclamations. Can I get a motion? I'll move, Madam Chair. Second. I've been properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? All right. Let's go ahead and take our votes. Vote unanimous.

[00:24:26] All right. Thank you very much. Supervisor Bailey, if you can join me for the first two. And I actually would like to hold, even though we don't have a lot, I would like to hold photos for everything to

the end. because we have a 100-year-old constituent here, and I would like everyone to be able to come down for that photo.

[00:24:45] So thank you.

[00:25:00] If we can have Mr. Calvin Farr and the men and women of Prince William Water, please come forward.

[00:25:29] Hey. Well, good afternoon, everyone.

[00:25:45] It gives me great pleasure to present these proclamations, and we're recognizing Calvin D. Farr, Jr. and the men and women of Prince William Water. Ah, you made it, huh? Okay. Every morning, more than 380,000 people in Prince William County turn on a faucet without a second thought.

[00:26:06] They may be the highest compliment we can pay the men and women of Prince William Water because reliability does not happen by accident. Since 1983, Prince William Water has delivered clean drinking water to our homes and returned clean water to our environment.

[00:26:29] Today, it is the largest combined water and wastewater authority in the Commonwealth. Since 2021, it has been led by Mr. Calvin Farr, an engineer who believes a utility's job reaches well beyond just the pipes.

[00:26:46] Under his leadership, the H.L. Mooney facility has earned its 17th consecutive National Award for Excellence. The public utility also launched a pre-apprenticeship program that opens careers to residents seeking a second chance.

[00:27:05] Therefore, we, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, hereby commends Mr. Calvin D. Farr, Jr. and the operators, engineers, and crews of Prince William Water, who answered the call even at 2 a.m. in a January freeze.

[00:27:22] Congratulations, and thank you for your service. I'd like to have one. So all I can say is, wow, this is the individual name. My name is something I'm not used to because I feel it's a team effort.

[00:27:41] It's Prince William Water. But I'm more than honored, and we have a bunch of people here from Prince William Water, and I promise the water's still flowing. It's getting done, all right? So quickly, I just want to say, Madam Chair, Supervisor Bailey, and members of the board, on behalf of Prince William Water, thank you for recognizing the dedication and commitment to excellence in serving Prince William County.

[00:28:06] Providing clean, safe, and dependent water and wastewater services is essential for a thriving community, and our employees take great pride in protecting public health and the environment. Prince William Water has received national recognition from our industry.

[00:28:24] Of course, we're proud of it, but it isn't why we do this work. We go about our work with our community first. Every decision we make starts with the residents and businesses of Prince William County. That's why your recognition means more to the men and women of Prince William Water than any national award.

[00:28:43] It comes from the community we serve. I just want to thank you for unanimous. I also want to thank you for a little bit of business. Thank you for the unanimous support of the recent Aquacorn

Resolution on September 15th. Protecting Aquacorn Reservoir safeguards our region's drinking water supply.

[00:29:01] Thank you, Supervisor Bodie, for leading this resolution. And finally, this commendation doesn't necessarily belong to me. Belongs to our water and wastewater professionals who put this community first every single day. Thank you.

[00:29:27] Next, if we can have, so we're going to do all of our photos after the end of all the accommodations and proclamations. If we can have everyone associated with the National Museum of the Marine Corps come forward.

[00:29:49] Oh my, as a Marine Corps wife, I'm excited. Yes, we're commending the National Museum of the Marine Corps on its 20th anniversary.

[00:30:07] I'm so excited to do this. 20 years ago, on November 10, 2006, the Marine Corps' 231st birthday, a soaring still mass rose above Triangle, Virginia, and we still see it today, in Prince William County, and it became the home of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

[00:30:29] For two decades, the museum has put 250 years of courage, sacrifice, and service within reach of everyone, anyone, who walks through the door. A grandfather shows his grandson the uniform he once wore. A school group stands silent before the story of Iwo Jima.

[00:30:48] Admissions is free, and the doors are open every day, every year, for everyone. The museum keeps growing. This year, it opened an exhibit on Marine Corps football and announced four new galleries.

[00:31:04] Thank you for that. Therefore, today, the Prince William Board of Supervisors hereby commends the National Museum of Marine Corps, its staff, its volunteers, and the Marine Corps' Heritage Foundation on 20 wonderful years. We will always honor the sacrifice of those who have served and proclaimed our pride in being its home.

[00:31:25] Semper Fidelis. Sir, would you like to come to us? Good afternoon, Chair Jefferson, members of the Board of County Supervisors, distinguished guests, and friends. Thank you, Supervisor Bailey, for this proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and for your steadfast support over the years.

[00:31:49] It was an honor to welcome many of you to the museum for the Prince William County Make Your Mark Awards last week. Events like that remind us that the museum is very much a part of the community that we call home. Today, as we recognize 20 years of the museum, we are really celebrating something even more enduring, partnership.

[00:32:07] The bond between Prince William County and the Marine Corps is a special one. Few connections are stronger than those forged through shared land and shared purpose. Many years ago, the Marine Corps transferred land to Prince William County, creating what is now Locust Shade Park, a place for recreation and community.

[00:32:26] Then, when the Marine Corps sought a home for a new museum near Quantico, the county responded in kind, transferring 135 acres back to the Marine Corps. That act of partnership gave rise to the Marine Corps Heritage Center and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

[00:32:42] It was once what was once a vision is now a place of reverence and remembrance where visitors from around the world can reflect on 250 years, 251 years of Marine Corps history, sacrifice and service. To thrive, any successful relationship must be nurtured.

[00:33:00] In 2008, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation funded the first Prince William County teacher in residence. Nearly two decades later, that partnership continues to flourish through classroom visits, educational outreach and our traveling trunk program. programs, generations of students have been introduced to history not as something distant and abstract, but as something alive and relevant. Earlier this year, we welcomed our 8 millionth visitor. Among those millions are countless Prince William County students who have walked our galleries, discovered stories of courage and sacrifice, and gained a deeper understanding of

[00:33:37] the men and women who have worn the eagle, globe, and anchor. Now, I must confess that educational outcomes vary by student. Despite our best efforts to align our educational programs with the Virginia Standards of Learning, there are still some students who leave believing it was called the Cold War because it was cold. If you visit our Korean War Gallery, you'll understand exactly why they came to that conclusion. And if you haven't visited the museum recently, I hope you'll take this as an invitation. One of the greatest signs that an institution has become part of a community is when it becomes one of its landmarks. For 20 years, the soaring mass to the National Museum of

[00:34:17] the Marine Corps has risen above the tree line, welcoming travelers and marking the southern gateway to Prince William County. It has become a familiar sight to residents and visitors alike. Perhaps no recognition speaks more clearly to that fact than seeing the silhouette of the museum featured on the Prince William County I Voted sticker in 2024 and again this year in 2026.

[00:34:40] that image tells a powerful story it says that the museum is no longer simply located in prince william county it is part of prince william county on behalf of the staff volunteers and supporters of the national museum of the marine corps thank you for this recognition thank you for your partnership and thank you for helping make these first 20 years such an extraordinary success we're proud to call prince william county home thank you very much and we'll take all photos

[00:35:14] at the end thank you so very much do you want to stand to the side or is it too hard it's up to you

[00:35:29] this is for 5c proclaiming november 17th 2026 is anna crutchfield day in prince william county some people change a community with a single headline others change it what one neighbor

[00:36:04] one act of service at a time anna crutchfield is one of those people anna crutchfield is a beloved and longtime resident of prince william county and who has reached the extraordinary milestone of 100 years of life. A century is a rare gift, and she has filled hers with purpose as an engaged and involved member of this community. In a single lifetime, she has watched our nation and this county change in ways most of us can only read about. She is also a breast cancer survivor, and her strength and resilience inspire all who know her. I actually had a chance,

[00:36:43] I met her when I was standing out at Saunders Middle School for the election. And when her son said that she's 100 years old, I was like, whatever. I just was not fully believing you. But when she came out, I have to say, when she came out from voting, I, you know, ma'am, would you like for me to walk you to your car?

[00:37:04] She's like, no, I got to get in my 5,000 steps. And she did. And I know I don't do 5,000 steps. So every day, it is an honor to have someone who has reached this milestone here today.

[00:37:24] And that is why we're holding all pictures to the end for anyone who wants to be a part of it. But today, therefore, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby proclaims November 17, 2026, is Anna Crutchfield Day in Prince William County.

[00:37:40] Ma'am, would you like to enlighten us? I just want to thank the county for recognizing her in her 100th year.

[00:38:00] it's amazing because I'm 19 years younger than she is yeah I will be too so thanks everybody you know I made it to 50 and that's a lot okay oh yes oh I forgot

[00:38:40] she also we will hold this in the photo because it talks about god a dozen of eggs with 68 cents oh okay We will definitely take this down for the photo. Next, if we can have everyone associated with Small Business Saturday come forward.

[00:39:09] When you buy a cup of coffee in Occoquan, you get your hair done in Woodbridge, or pick up a gift in Haymarket, you are not just making a purchase. You're paying a neighbor's mortgage, funding a teenager's first job, and keeping a dream alive. Small businesses are the heartbeat of Prince William County.

[00:39:25] They hire our residents, sponsor our Little League teams, and give our neighborhoods their character. and this county supports them. Our small business programs have helped owners secure tens of millions of dollars in capital and guided more than 3,000 owners through permitting.

[00:39:44] We also look forward to the opening of the Calibrate Small Business Resource Center in partnership with the Prince William County Department of Economic Development and Tourism and our libraries. The center will connect aspiring and established business owners with education, support, and resources they need to grow.

[00:40:01] Today, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby proclaims November 28, 2026 is Small Business Saturday. We encourage everyone to shop small, dine small, and shop local first. And to our entrepreneurs, we see you and we are very proud of you.

[00:40:20] Director Nguyen, do you have some remarks for us? Thank you, Chair Jefferson and members of the board for recognizing the importance of the small business community.

[00:40:37] Small businesses are the heart of Prince William County. Behind every storefront, restaurant, and local service, there is an entrepreneur who has taken risk, invested in our community, and worked incredibly hard to build something of their own.

[00:40:53] At the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, along with our partners, we have the privilege of working with these small businesses every day, and we see firsthand their determination, creativity, and resilience. As we head into the holiday season, I encourage everyone to make a conscious choice to shop local, dine local, and support the businesses that make Prince William unique.

[00:41:17] And we've made it easy for you. Visit pwcded.org backslash news for a list of all the small businesses to shop at this holiday season. On behalf of our small business community, thank you for this recognition and for your continued support of their success.

[00:41:35] And remember to shop local, shop small all year long. Thank you. All right, if everyone from National Adoption Day can come up for this, come down for this.

[00:42:23] Every child deserves someone who will be there at the school play, at graduation, and especially when life gets hard. Every child deserves a family. Nationwide, more than 100,000 children in foster care are waiting to be adopted. Each one has a name and a story.

[00:42:39] Each one has a future that should not be left to chance. Every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courts across America open their doors for National Adoption Day. Here in Prince William, that tradition has gone on for more than two decades.

[00:42:55] Our Department of Social Services works with Manassas and Manassas Park Social Services, or courts, and the Prince William County Bar Association and Bar Foundation to make adoptions final. On that special day, a courtroom fills with balloons, hope, and laughter.

[00:43:11] And a child walks out as a new member of the family. We, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, hereby proclaim November 21st, 2026 is National Adoption Day and commend our adoptive and foster parents, social workers, attorneys, and judges for the families that they create.

[00:43:33] Would you like to offer some remarks? Good afternoon, Madam Chair Jefferson, Vice Chair Angry, members of the board, and county exec Mr. Shorter, Phyllis Jennings-Holt, Department of Social Services Director.

[00:43:55] Today I have with me Deputy Director Holly Handy, Assistant Director Jessica McCauley, Program Manager Diane Gestrick, Paul Thompson, Senior Human Services Caseworker, Rihula Nasiri, and Fannie Moffitt.

[00:44:12] On behalf of the department, we thank you for this proclamation and continue to support the importance of recognizing and celebrating National Adoption Day. This day allows us to celebrate the children and families whose lives are joined through adoption. We celebrate the families who have opened their hearts and homes through adoption and recognize the children still waiting for a forever family.

[00:44:37] Within the past year, Prince William County DSS has finalized 25 adoptions, and 10 children with their forever families will be celebrating their adoption with us this Saturday, November 21st, at the Prince William County Circuit Court.

[00:44:52] I hope you can attend. It is truly a feel-good day, and I will urge you to bring your tissues if you attend. As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, I would like to take this time to say how thankful and grateful I am for my staff, Prince William County courts, the county attorney's office, and supporting professionals for their hard-working commitment in helping children to find permanency.

[00:45:19] Every child deserves to have a solid foundation and family connections. thank you for celebrating the promise of adoption and the families who make that promise a reality. Thank you. And our final one is from the Veterans Commission, Commending and Honoring Veterans of

[00:45:53] Prince William County. If all of you can come forward. Last week on November 11th, our nation honored those who have worn the uniform of the United States. Today, Prince William County does the same because few communities are as closely tied to military service as ours. We are neighbors

[00:46:28] to Quantico and to the home of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Veterans live on nearly every corner in this county. They coach our children, teach in our classrooms, run our businesses,

and serve in our police and fire departments. They answer the call. Most of us never had to answer. Some came home with wounds we can't see. Some carry wounds we cannot. And then some never came home. Honoring veterans means more than making sure they can find a good job, a stable home and the care they earned. Our Veterans Commission keeps those needs before

[00:47:03] this board, and we are grateful. Today, we, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, hereby commends and honors the veterans of Prince William County and the families who served alongside them today and every day. Thank you for your service. Good afternoon, Board, Chair Jefferson, members of the board, and Mr. Shorter. I'm Tony Turnitz, Assistant Director with the Department of Social Services, Homeless Services Division, and I serve as the liaison to the

[00:47:40] Prince William County Veterans Commission. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the board for recognizing and honoring individuals for their military service through this Veterans Day commendation. At this time, I would like to invite Jesse Citizen, chair of the Veterans Commission, to share a few short remarks. Good afternoon. Chair Jefferson, if I can just take

[00:48:08] some liberty. I would like for all active and retired veterans to stand up. And while they're still standing, I'd like family members of veterans to stand up. Thank you very much.

[00:48:40] I did this so we can see just how the veterans are continuing to support our community. Good afternoon, Chair Jefferson and members of the Board of County Supervisors. On behalf of the Prince Williams County Veterans Commission, thank you for this commendation.

[00:48:58] It also reflects the hard work of my fellow commissioners and whose dedication to our veterans and our families made this recognition possible. We also thank County Executive Christopher Sharder, Chris Sharder, for supporting our work, especially Mr. Tony Turnage and Ms. Kylie Phillips, who is not here, whose administrative support keeps us running.

[00:49:26] As an Air Force veteran who served 32 years, I know service doesn't end with the uniform. we're proud to keep serving prince william county and as just a heads up chairs and and and boys remember we're coming in we spent some of our last three years looking at the environment and the landscape and what our prince william county needs and we're coming forward through the commissioners for each of the supervisors with some initiatives for 2027 so with that we say thank you for all that you do for us everyone if we can um take a short recess for photos so anyone

[00:50:05] who wants to join the photos you are welcome we're going to do them all outside thank you madam chair real quick supervisor gordy's not here he is a veteran and actually serving right now um with the navy so certainly want to acknowledge him as well all right before i ask for a motion does anyone have anything to pull off the consent agenda madam chair supervisor bode yeah madam

[00:50:39] chair can i can we please pull off 6l 6n and 6o 6l 6m or n and this is nancy and 6o yes All right. Does anyone have anything else to pull off? All right. Can I get a motion from 6A through 6K, 6M, and 6P through 6W?

[00:51:06] So moved. Second. It's been properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? Supervisor Bode. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just very quickly, appreciate transportation and capital construction. still working through the Old Bridge Road and Prince William Parkway intersection improvement project.

[00:51:25] 6B is another step in that process. So I wanted to highlight that work and also appreciate all the funding opportunities the county continues to seek other folks' money to pay for our projects. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you so very much. Anyone else? All right, let's go ahead and take our votes.

[00:51:47] I'm a yes. It was here and then it left, so I'm a yes. Same. Yes, ma'am, thank you. Vote unanimous. All right, thank you so very much.

[00:52:03] Um, supervisor Bodie. Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Um, I don't necessarily have any concerns or issues, but I've had some contingents reach out. So I see, uh, chief notion coming in. So for six L, um, that's all these are related to, uh, MOUs or MOAs with different, uh, law enforcement agencies for the, uh, Mike Pennington scenario based training center.

[00:52:26] So, um, I guess for chief Newsham, just a couple quick questions, um, for six L, for example it's with u.s customs and border protection air and marine operations manassas air branch um these folks aren't associated with any sort of um immigration enforcement ice anything like that can you help define what some of these folks are doing uh yeah that's they're not they're not they do not have the same mission as our immigrations and custom enforcement that's accurate appreciate that and for six in and six oh both of those are for um homeland security federal air marshals and the Federal Protective Services, same

[00:53:06] question there. Again, those missions are separate and apart from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Appreciate the clarity. Again, just had some questions from constituents who wanted to put that on the record. I've had those same questions, so I appreciate that. Thank you. Thank you so very much, Supervisor Bode. Sure. Thank you for that, Chief Nushim. With those, I would like to move forward. 6L, 6N, and 6O for approval. Second.

[00:53:26] So we probably moved and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, let's go ahead and take our votes. Supervisor Vega. Hi. Thank you, ma'am. Chair Jefferson. oh i hit it i like am i not working all right thank you vote unanimous all right we are moving on to agenda item number seven and that is public comment time so while i'm waiting for the sheets just some instructions because i see some new faces when i call you up i'm going to call people

[00:54:01] in groups of five my apologies if i get named wrong you're going to go to the back microphone you have three minutes please watch the timer you will see a countdown i ask that everyone please clearly state their name in the magisterial district where they reside. Don't need your exact address, just the magisterial district where you reside. We have some people coming in and out, so I'm going to call people, but you don't have to. Well, let me just let people get situated.

[00:54:40] I got a new gift. Thank you, Jeannie. It's not even Christmas. Can help me with my grip. Or maybe I stress the rest of you less. All right. So if I can have Lauren Stevenson, Michael Slater, Chris Higginbottom, Neil Kelly, and Irene McGinney, I'm sorry, Kelly.

[00:55:14] If the three of you guys can step up. Hello, hello. All right, give us a moment. And before you begin, I want to say, I'm going to ask my team is watching if they can come out and get your contact information.

[00:55:35] Because you have a grandmother who is 103, but she lives in Loudoun, so I will pass it on to friends in Loudoun. Thank you. So with that, if you would like to begin. My name is Lauren Stevenson, Gainesville District, I guess, Prince William County, Manassas. Again, here on the data centers that are destroying my life, they seem to just getting worse.

[00:55:56] It's getting worse and worse and worse and worse by the day the last two weeks. Literally put me out of bed. It puts me out of my bed and the pressure on my head, the vibrations, it's the most disgusting thing. And just to let you know, all these things I'm reading about these health centers, again, I'm going to keep bringing it up.

[00:56:13] What about the babies and people that are being born and the children that are growing up with neurological diseases, nerve damage, going to, you know, seeing these doctors for reasons that you guys are allowing to happen. I don't know how many more data centers are going to go up on Wellington Road, but it's disgusting.

[00:56:32] I'm also hearing things about they're not data centers for AI. I'm hearing things that they're actually power generating grids for underground bunkers and cities that they're building. And I also want to mention a couple other things about the Prince William County police and the lawlessness.

[00:56:49] I'm sorry, I'm shaking right now. There's so many horrible things that are going on in Prince William County. I don't know how you guys are sitting here and clapping and laughing and all these crazy things. And I feel like I grew up here in Virginia. Can't function anymore. Can't sleep. Scared to drive down the road.

[00:57:05] I got people driving next to me going 80 miles an hour in a 35 mile an hour zone. sheriffs writing their tales and not pulling them over and then putting their hands up because they can't do anything about it. Why is that? I got it on video. Anyone wants to see it after this. Going to reporting these problems. It's just one problem after another. I wish you guys would get it together, man. You're ruining my life and many others' lives. And again, I bring up the babies and the children that you're going to destroy. Absolutely destroy. Not to mention make health care go through the roof, huh? Pay those doctors and the health care is going to just go through the roof now, right? Everyone's going to get paid. And then we're just going to die. And people are

[00:57:42] just going to die. That's all I have to say. I'm just fed up. I wish you guys would stop the crap. Like I said, 30 of them on Wellington Road, man. Wow. 30 of them. Well, it happened to be 36 miles away from the White House. And then the megatunnel over in Norfolk that's being built. Something's going on. And when it's underneath me and I'm sitting on the couch and then the toilet and then of the bed. You can't sit down. You got to keep moving. Two years I've been enduring this. My whole body feels like a noodle, like a limp noodle. I can't get my anxiety down. I'm not going to go

[00:58:18] see a neurologist because there's, you know, these are things that are beyond my control. I don't know what to do. I just don't think they're going to stop, guys. They're not going to stop them because they are underground bunkers. They are not going to stop these data centers. That's all I got to say but they are so horrible you're going to lose people you're killing people you're making people move out of their homes that they've been in that they bought oh half a million dollars it's insane it's absolutely insane stop it thank you next speaker please afternoon my name is michael slater i live in four seasons of the potomac please adjust the microphone so we can hear you

[00:58:56] better move it closer to your mouth well i'm about three inches is that close just a little bit my name is michael slater i live in four seasons of potomac district uh madam chair members of the board, you cannot imagine how pleased we are at Four Seasons to know that you have decided to revisit the issue of noise tolerance, especially in view of the persistent possibility of data centers in our backyards and on behalf of those who are already suffering from the noise of data

[00:59:30] centers in their community. Anything less than what is recommended by real acoustic experts would placate the developers and remove yet one more obstacle in their quest to gain approval for their proposals. The Community and Environmental Defense Services, better known as CEDS, conducted a survey last year of residents living near data centers in 25 states that reported that data center noise and air pollution will adversely affect those living up to a mile away or even

[01:00:07] further in some cases. Now, having said that, in four seasons, from the edge of our community property to the adjacent segment of I-95 is approximately one-third of a mile. Now, this removes the possibility of mitigating the noise hazard by simply putting more distance between us and them. There's no room to do that. So one recourse we have is to simply move. Sure, people do it all the time. We could do that to avoid the hazards of these data centers, but in our younger years, it was not difficult to just pack up and move to another town or another state when

[01:00:47] circumstances or job changes required it. But Four Seasons is a 55 and older community. But you should know that the majority of our residents are well over that 55 benchmark. We are not the youngsters we used to be, but rather we are a retired population, and such a disruption in our lives comes at a much higher price. Any noise hazard such as those produced by data centers would be psychologically damaging to the health and well-being of senior citizens who have earned

[01:01:20] their role as retirees, a role that all of you someday will experience. So we ask you consider the human side of this issue as you make your decisions. Noise hazards are simply too big a price to pay for anyone, anywhere. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker, please.

[01:01:42] Turn on Elmo, please. Sure, thank you. Great. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair Jefferson and members of the board. My name is Chris Higginbotham. I live on Cat Harpin Valley Drive

[01:02:16] in Gainesville District. I'm here about item 12D, the Heritage Tourism Directive. When it was deferred last month. It gave residents time, but it did not give us a seat. What I'm showing today, everything, comes from the county's own records. It shows that a private working group met with Supervisor Stewart's office at least 12 times from April to September to shape this directive, and its fixed boundaries were written by just one private citizen. You heard me correctly,

[01:02:51] the boundaries for up to 44,000 Gainesville residents was written by one person. The county confirmed that planning and GIS had no role. The version each of you received on October 6th did not reach county staff until 12 hours later.

[01:03:11] My neighborhood learned about this directive on October 16th, four days before the scheduled vote. Since September, about 150 people have emailed Supervisor Stewart's office opposing it and roughly 20 in support. I have asked four times in writing to be included in that group's discussions.

[01:03:29] When Supervisor Stewart called me on October 26th, he told me he would have me join, and I have yet to be included in any email, meeting, text, or phone call. On that same day, he told me, this is a quote, we're not even close to the point where we would start laying down any sort of lines on the map.

[01:03:54] But I knew that the directive already had its described boundaries, so I drew the map myself and it's right here. It covers 58 square miles, 81 at least developments and as far as the county records show not one resident was asked about it. To be transparent a land use application covering my neighborhood is pending with the county but I'm not here about that. I would be here regardless because

this directive could affect the use and value of my property and that of more than 40,000 others. A directive of this magnitude should be built with

[01:04:33] residents at the table, not drafted by one private citizen. I respectfully ask you to vote no on item 12D. Thanks very much. Thank you. Next speaker, please. Good afternoon, County Board of Supervisors.

[01:05:00] My name is Neil Kelly from the Gainesville District. I'd like to thank you for addressing the item that is on Agenda Item 11C, revisiting and hopefully updating our country's noise ordinance. As a resident, I urge you to adopt the recommendations of the former Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group, drafted on August 25th of 2025.

[01:05:22] Ever since data centers were built, people have questions how their noise affects the nearby neighbors. I remember standing here years ago and warning about noise and sharing reports from places like Chandler, Arizona. The county's funded study by Nelson Acoustics found the following, effective noise control planning should be required in advance to avoid stimulation in which the facility causes excessive noise as it initially comes on online. Residents have thus been overexposed. Many development enhanced sensitivity to noise requiring that even noise control is to achieve

[01:05:58] satisfactory results. In fact, it is hoped that these recommendations will provide Prince William County with a robust enforceable criteria that balances the needs of the residents with future growth. We all know that noise is a problem and now is the time to act. Please pass a realistic and enforceable noise rule and let us enjoy a peaceful quality of life thank you all right thank you before i get to the next speaker i want to call up the next group um it's either dale or

[01:06:25] dole penenberg awesome um forenza sindha marlene nasri um james rahimi and kimberly melman oran aronsko kimberly you can also stand if you want so we're in a queue all right ma'am you may Good afternoon. Irene Mignani-Kelly from Gainesville. Been here before requesting

[01:07:01] controls on data center development. It's beyond public now. It's nationwide. We know the issues of noises. Unfortunately, Dr. Liver and his work with our now dissolved noise ordinance group,

[01:07:28] They had regulations set up, and they were watered down, and now we know there's a new way to register sounds and the damages they do. You all sitting up there, you're sitting there because I believe you always wanted to protect your constituents.

[01:07:53] You wanted to protect your neighborhoods. Now's the time that you really have to reevaluate your stance. So I implore you, just enforceable regulations, Chandler, Arizona, if these data centers went beyond the sounds that were allowed, they were shut down.

[01:08:24] They were immediately closed up until they took care of the problem. Enforceable regulations are what we need. We need to protect not only the children, but our seniors, every single one of us in here in Prince William County.

[01:08:40] We want data centers, but let's put up serious guardrails to their development. And I thank you for your time. Thank you so much. Next speaker, please. Hello, again.

[01:08:57] It's Dale Penenberg. Good afternoon, Chair Jefferson, members of the board. My name is Dale Penenberg. I'm a resident of Cat Hartman Valley Estates in the Gainesville District. I'm here to express our community's strong opposition to Supervisor Stewart's proposed directive, Gainesville District Heritage

Tourism, Recreational Small Area Plan, Item 12d on today's agenda this is the same directive that was on the item 12a on october's agenda supervisor stewart deferred it that the last meeting extensively to take into account those of us who were not consulted in the first place no such meetings have taken place yet supervisor

[01:09:33] stewart continues to force this directive even though it has little to no support of anyone in the impacted communities my concerns remain the same they are straightforward the proposal contemplates future land use that could directly affect our properties and our community, yet no one has consulted with us and asked what we, the landowners and the residents, envision for our neighborhood. We live here, we've invested here, we have businesses here in Prince William County or neighboring counties, so we're not going anywhere. Nothing in this directive has changed and Supervisor Stewart has not taken into any accounts of our viewpoints. The directive focuses

[01:10:11] on heritage, tourism, and recreational destinations, which simply doesn't reflect our area. Cat Harpin Valley Estates is a residential neighborhood surrounded by increasingly developed area. It is not an isolated rural community, nor is it historic terrorism destination.

[01:10:28] We recognize the importance of thoughtful land use planning, but the planning needs to begin with an understanding of the communities being affected. also the needs that begin that needs meaningful input from the people who own the land. Now that I've regurgitated my position as well of our neighborhoods from last month, some interesting details have emerged. Like, did you know that George Stewart nor the staff didn't create the small area plan? That's crazy. One individual frequent flyers you've referred to him before

[01:11:00] did? That's bananas. How can one non-elected resident have so much influence over a supervisor? This group that he has assembled consists of 10 to 12 anti-development activists. Not one person is allowed or included to give an opposing view. If you haven't read the text messages and emails, you have to. In my opinion, there's no way you can vote in good conscience to support this small area plan amendment. We therefore respectfully urge the boards to vote no on item 12D and reject

[01:11:38] this directive. Thank you for your time and attention again. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker, please. Good afternoon, chairs and members of the board. My name is Ms. Marlene. I'm the administrator of Strong Foundation Academy in Dumfries. I have served this community for the past 14 years, helping families, including parents who could not afford child care. Today, I speak for all small businesses facing unexpected business, tangible personal property taxes bills.

[01:12:08] Before I begin, I want you to know that I have kept emails, forms, recordings, recording conversation as I am prepared to share records. I am not standing here making claims without a proof. I had reached out to Supervisor Bailey's office and I had spoke to Karen Mills. Thought that she can offer some help and support.

[01:12:27] I had requested to schedule a meeting. As of today, I have received no response or a meeting date. Where is the support of our community? We had elected those leaders to listen and help. We are asking to be heard. In July 2027, after the past 13 years without unnotice of this yearly filing requirements, we had received a letter for the tax tangible.

[01:12:46] I had called Rosa at the county. She said they want our information going back for five years. When I had asked her where you had been all those years, she said that we were show of inspectors. I told

her, show of inspectors, and now you just woke up? I had told her I was preparing for a major surgery, and I was already under serious stress.

[01:13:03] I could not handle this matter. At the meantime, I had told her to take the owner and go to court. families and businesses are struggling some of our parents cannot even keep up with the payments and we are trying to help them out while keeping our doors open I have parents who can advocate for this as an educator I cannot break child to staff ratio rules because I'm sure of staff why should the county use a shortage of inspectors to explain years of delayed action without accountability during my surgery an assistant had filed those forms incorrectly and I had told rosa about those mistakes that had was made incorrectly she told me just explain on a piece

[01:13:38] of paper and just send me that email and i will um have a look at it i never got a response back and she had told me oh just put zero which everything had kept following instruction and it kept changing the instruction then i had spoke to rosa's supervisor her name is miss parla she asked me can i ask you a question do you pay your car taxes i told her of course i do and i pay property taxes and i received those bills in mail she had told me no the county does not send reminders for your car or your property taxes. I had replied back, really? I don't know which county are you living in because I received my tax bills in the mail. My point was that we had

[01:14:13] not informed about this business filing for the past 13 years. Why did you wake up now when everybody's struggling? She promised to look into this and I never responded. I never heard back. We pay taxes on purchases item to begin with. We pay property and we pay both counties. We pay Prince William County and we paid the town of Dumfries so I had went and made my time yesterday and I stopped by every shopping center and I had told them show them that documentation they told me we don't file those documentation and we never filed them and nobody had came and issued those forms for us why because Rosa's Latino and there's Hispanic today I asked the board to look at every

[01:14:51] legal option to begin this assessment in 2026 for businesses only recently informed removed past thank you very much someone from my team will come out to speak with you next speaker please today i asked the board to look at every legal option to begin these assessments in 2026 for businesses only recently informed removed past penalties and trusts were allowed investigation

[01:15:25] poor notice the confusion instructions and arrange a meeting with the county tax leader town office officials, supervisors, Bailey's office, and affected owners. Even if our balance is current, collected to zero, I will keep speaking for other businesses. We are not refusing to follow the law. We are asking the county to take responsibility. We have spent years supporting this community. Now we ask our leaders to support us. We deserve answers, respect, fairness, accountability, and justice. Thank you. Thank you so very much. Before I call up the next

[01:16:05] speaker, I want to call up my next group. I have Elena Schlossberg, Mohammed Gill, Donna Gallant, and Kathy Kulik. You may begin. My name is Dr. Kimberly Melman-Orosko. I'm a resident of the Gainesville District. I want to remind from hearing everybody speak, there's clearly a lot of emotion, a lot of discontent about what's going on within the county. I would just like to remind every person who lives within Prince William County that 2027 is an election year.

[01:16:40] the school board will be up for reelection 2027 the board of county supervisors i think will be up for reelection and i think that it's really important that you put your vote your voice to good use to make change to that effect i would also challenge every democrat to consider voting republican and every

republican to consider voting democrat vote every incumbent out of office if you're not happy with the way things are going.

[01:17:10] To that effect, several months ago I came and spoke about how Prince William County School Board is misusing federal, or government funds that are allocated by this Board of County Supervisors. When I said that, Chair Jeffers said that it wasn't her purview, it wasn't her responsibility to look into that, and I disagreed.

[01:17:33] Specifically, under Virginia Code 22.1-89, it prohibits expenditures outside of the majority classifications appropriated by the county supervisors without their consent. Another code establishes malfeasance in office for school officials who violate the statutory prohibition against spending beyond available funds without consent. There's another law that makes it a crime to knowingly misuse, misappropriate, or unlawful disposition of public funds by covered officials or employees. It's actually class for felony. I challenge every person sitting on this board, if you want to get reelected,

[01:18:12] I really do challenge you to look into what's going on with the schools. The literacy crisis going on with high school seniors graduating, not knowing how to read. I really hope that you look into it and that you actually make an effort to pursue justice for children, in particular children with disabilities who are being discriminated in mass. And with that being said, I've heard a lot of kind of criticism of Supervisor Stewart. I'm a resident of his district. He's one of the only supervisors to reach out to me, and I would actually commend him. When I talked to him about

[01:18:48] just a moment ago about what's going on within Prince William County Schools, he decided to reach across party lines and actually say that, yes, Lee Vega, that you're someone who cares about kids as well and that you are actually intent on potentially making a change in this upcoming election year. I look forward to speaking with both of you. I look forward to seeing what, if anything, that you will do. And if nothing gets done, I look forward to making change within this county and voting every single incumbent out of office. Thank you. Thank you. Next speaker, please.

[01:19:20] Hello, everyone. My name is Gil, and I live in Prince William County for the last like 26 years and I have a problem like with a commercial parking because like I think like 30-40 percent of residents living in Prince William County they have a commercial truck or commercial trailer with that I do auto transport and within like 10 to 15 miles like 20 miles there is not a single spot like I can park my trailer or truck if and I usually like last like month I'm trying

[01:20:00] searching like just to park my trailer and i just live across the uh this office and my trailer was like toured like two times i have to pay like six seven hundred dollars for that i went to the churches and schools and the home depot everyone wherever i go like they say like no i cannot park my commercial vehicle there so i there was like one a big parking lot but they already sold that last month to the data center now so it was on the 234 next to the east coast trailers so there

[01:20:37] should be a assigned parking for the commercial vehicles like they can park and there is there should be a lot they can charge us like two three hundred dollars per monthly so we are willing to pay like there are a lot of residents that they have their commercial vans and commercial trucks and the second issue is where the prince william is there is a flashing light on this if you go north where the read prospect drive is there is a flashing light i live there and like i have seen

[01:21:09] like 15 20 accidents there and last like one year and every time if i cross that somebody is just stopping there because they get confused with that yellow flashing light so they they should from the real prospect they should put the sign do not enter. Everyone can use that great bridge road for the community. They can go from the traffic light.

[01:21:38] I have seen a lot of people, they just stop their car on that flashing light. It's really confusing. And if somebody is coming from behind, they just stop on a yellow light and then there will be an accident or something. We can care about that something.

[01:21:54] All right, if you could just state the magisterial district where you live, we'd appreciate that, for the record. Okay. Yeah, which magisterial? Woodbridge? Yeah, Woodbridge, just across the street. That's Occoquan. All right, thank you, though. No, it's Woodbridge, 2-2-1-9-2.

[01:22:12] We're good. We're good. Thank you so very much. Thank you. All right, next speaker, please. I'm also going to need Elmo, please. Hopefully you can hear me, because I don't want to get too close to the mic.

[01:22:42] Don't worry. I'm not going to lose my voice forever. It's going to come back. I promise you. My name is Elena Schlossberg, and I live in the Gainesville District. And I am here to first, please, obviously the noise ordinance is not enough, because there are people who are still suffering under what was passed under Supervisor Bodie, and it's time to give it more oomph, and I think we all recognize that.

[01:23:09] So I'm in full support of a new noise ordinance, and I'm really here to speak about the small area plan, which is, let's just be clear what a small area plan is. It is actually an opportunity to study. You are not doing anything more than looking at an opportunity for how we could truly bring something unique to Prince William County.

[01:23:32] Supervisor LaCroix was in your district helping give the three R's, and your constituents were very concerned about the salinity. The best thing that this board can do is control growth. And that's why we don't want to see these CPAs moving forward Cat Harp and Valley.

[01:23:48] I mean, there's like, I think, 10 of them out there right now. And I'm going to read this from the directive itself. The small area plan should ultimately provide an implementable framework that advances preservation and economic opportunity, ensuring that future development does not simply occur around the areas, historic and rural assets, but instead builds upon those assets in a thoughtful, coordinated, economically and environmentally protective manner that preserves the rural character, protects, preserves a watershed, safeguards natural resources, and ensures the success of heritage tourism.

[01:24:21] What I find awesome about this small area plan, it's just everything everybody wants. It's a rural economy. It's historic tourism. It's watershed preservation. It's dealing with what we, I don't know. Did you all read? We're winning again.

[01:24:38] Prince William County's winning. We're now number three in highest loss of tree canopy. And that's only until 2017. They haven't done this study from 2017 until 2026. I don't know if you also read the PFAS. Out of control. Do you know what you can do to help the Occoquan Reservoir manage the PFAS?

[01:24:58] Is you can protect the quality of the water right now. So I want to point out there was a new website, which I actually thought was terrific. Because it has everything on there that we had hopefully wanted to present in the small area plan. So, okay, so let me start with tree and foliage.

[01:25:15] Existing tree canopy will be maintained for long-term health. Who doesn't want that? Raise your hands. Everybody needs tree canopy. Lighting rules, also very good. Light pollution is a problem. Farm and forest designations frozen, also terrific. Limits on paving and rooftops.

[01:25:32] If anybody knows anything about protecting the reservoir, Supervisor Bodhi, I know you understand impervious surfaces. That's what this is about. Approved businesses only. Well, of course, because that's smart land use, new regulations. This is all about protecting and having an opportunity for real historic tourism.

[01:25:52] And I'm excited about it and I hope you vote for it. Thank you, next speaker. Thank you very much. My name is Jamshit James Rahimi. We need you to adjust the mic to raise it.

[01:26:09] Okay, thank you, Donna. Test, test. Much better. My name is Jamshid James Rahimi. I'm the owner of King Halal Market in the city of Dumfries. And I'm here today looking at the time.

[01:26:25] So basically like the King Halal Market is a very small store, a very community-based store in the city of Dumfries. And we are known for our fresh bread that we have a bakery in the back. And so a lot of people like in the city of Dumfries, especially the immigrant community.

[01:26:41] That's like, you know, the evening place that they come to pick up bread. Recently, I received a letter from the Prince William County about the tax, all my equipments. And it was going back a few years, which like I was very confused.

[01:26:56] And the lady that she dropped, I asked her that, you know, like I have never seen something this before. And most of when we started King Halal Market, the reason we started was a bunch of the, I used to work for the Air Force as a linguist. And most of the guys that were translators back in Afghanistan, they wind up in Woodbridge, Virginia.

[01:27:17] And so they were looking for a job. And we come up to just have a business that they run and they be part of it. And so a lot of people donate a lot of things. So basically, like, nothing is new in my store. And the lady that she dropped the paper said, well, you have to come up with some sort of receipt, which I have no idea where I'm going to get those receipts because we picked it up from stores that they were closing.

[01:27:41] They had free items. And so I have become clueless about this. And already, like with the economy and everything, every day I'm cutting hours on my employee because we cannot even make ends meet. And King Alon Market, if you guys stop by, it's more than a store.

[01:27:58] It's a very community-based place that, you know, like people that they have questions about things and they come in and shop and they just hang out and talk about their life, about their struggles, even in a point where recently there was some changes in the benefit of SNAP and stuff.

[01:28:14] We were willing to just let people, until they find jobs, to come and at least pick up some immediate groceries that they need and just pay it whenever they get a job. So we are like, you know, King Alon Market, we're doing everything to be a part of the community. And I'm looking at all those numbers and how I do things.

[01:28:32] Basically, like, you know, it's a failure for the business. but it's not just failure for me because you know i will move on to something else but it's a place that if you guys come one day and just talk with the community members come there it's a place that they come and they get a feeling of home and they're

feeling like you know they come and pick up whatever they need without worrying that you know i'm short five cents and they're not going to give me what i need so please you know if you i'll take a look at this uh new uh tangible tax whatever you call it sorry for my i cannot pronounce that but it has been like you know like keep me up all night how I'm going to come up with all these reports that to make sure

[01:29:08] because I have no receipt because most of the things I picked it up from Facebook from different places and how I'm going to go back two years three years to find what I got from who I got it thank you very much thank you very much sir and again I'll help a member of my team come out all right next speaker oh sir this is this fell out of your pocket you might want to keep that if it's the receipt. Sorry. Quick question. Where's Mr. Gordy? I know you probably said something. He is

[01:29:44] out for military service today. Got it. Bless his heart. I guess it's good afternoon. Donna Gallant, Brentsville District. I was here last meeting to share my thoughts on the Sham Noise Ordinance the industry used Supervisor Bodie and Angry to push through. I also heard the presentation on the calls, which in my opinion may count the calls, but in all honesty, people are tired of calling in. So people are just dealing with the nightmare of the noise. Since the last meeting, I've called the police as well as emailed many of you. Supervisor Vega, thank you very much for

[01:30:20] responding. And I'll go on record for Supervisor Gordy's office for responding to my construction violations of the Mango property starting construction as early as 5.30, 6 o'clock in the morning. So they're violating the noise ordinance or our noise ordinance and no one's doing anything about it. Since many of you sitting on the dais have continually said yes to data centers, many of you don't have them in your district. Supervisor Bailey, you have zero,

[01:30:54] but you vote yes all the time. Supervisor Bodie, you have none, but most of the time you vote yes. Supervisor Angry, we know you're the yes man. You always vote yes. Supervisor Vega, yes and no.

[01:31:10] Supervisor LaCroix, yes and no. At the end of the day, those sitting there that have not felt the pain, the suffering, that those of us that have to live with your yes votes, I've invited all of you to my house to listen to it, to see what we feel from the noise from the data center that, by the way, is 2,500 feet from my house. 2,500 feet. The noise ordinance does not address the issue that's currently in place today. I spent two years, weekly meetings, volunteering

[01:31:47] my time as a member of the DCOAG, talking to sound experts, talking to industry scientific data and evaluating it. Do I think the scientific data is backed? Absolutely. And do I think that it can be prosecuted in a court of law? Absolutely. Because it's backed by facts. Facts that can be prosecuted in a court of law. The ordinance today has no backing other than from the industry.

[01:32:19] Do I like the new adjusted levels? No. Do I think they're low enough? No. I tried to get them lower. But the experts that were hired said these are what is defensible in a court of law.

[01:32:35] I know later tonight you'll be talking about the noise ordinance. It is time to put a real noise ordinance in place that will hold this destructive industry accountable for the impact to the quality of life of every resident being impacted.

[01:32:50] And by the way, when Alina Splashberg was speaking, we have Micron. What's that doing to the Occoquan? And you keep destroying it. Next speaker, please. Good afternoon, members of the board.

[01:33:09] I'm sorry, Madam Chair, members of the board. Catherine Kulik, Vice Chair, HRA Roundtable of Northern Virginia, Gainesville District. This is a pretty big day because you will receive one of the most important informational briefings that affect residential quality of life in Prince William County that you've ever received.

[01:33:30] You will hear from two of the preeminent acoustical noise control engineers this nation has to inform it. And I really look forward to the questions you will pose, the information you will glean, and the decisions you'll be able to make now that you will have that information.

[01:33:49] And I feel confident that you will make a very good decision once you have that. It's what is the basis for all good decisions. So I really look forward to it, and I hope you do too. Their work is the product of years, literally years.

[01:34:04] That's why I don't need a single note here, because I lived it with all of the folks on the Data Center Ordinance Advisory Group. And those are people that, in one case, actually gave their life, I'm speaking of Dr. John Liver, in service towards his last few years. And they brought their experiences.

[01:34:23] And in the case of the Great Oak community, and hopefully Supervisor Vega will hear me when I say thank you very much for caring so much about your community. that you really pushed for this informational briefing to occur today for you all to make a good decision.

[01:34:38] But these years that the Great Oak community spent collecting data, and you'll hear more about it in more comment, I hope, they did that collaboratively and genuinely to work with the county staff to bring the best data, to make the best decisions, and to help the consultants bring to you the best recommendations.

[01:35:00] What you will hear today is a result of much of that work in addition to the work that these consultants have done with their storied reputations today. This ordinance was designed for Prince William County. It's the product of exhaustive testing, ambient condition testing across the county to learn how industrial noise, 24 continuous low-frequency tonal noise, affects reasonable living conditions in this county and human health.

[01:35:31] This is a very serious subject. They also took great pains to make sure that businesses of other types that don't emit this kind of noise would be unaffected. And I ask you to make sure that you ask these questions and that you are satisfied with the information so that you can make the best decision and implement the best policy for the residents of this wonderful county.

[01:35:57] And I know you care about that. So thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity to help implement a good ordinance in this county. All right. Thank you so very much. We no longer have anyone for in person.

[01:36:13] So I'm going to turn it over to Supervisor Angry, who is going to go to our remote public comment time. Thank you, Madam Chair. Chris, are we ready? Good afternoon. Go ahead, Kevin.

[01:36:33] Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you very much for hearing commentary from citizens. I'm Kevin Coyle. I'm in the Gainesville District. I'm a former member of the Data Center Ordnance Advisory Group, and I'm here basically to support a strong noise ordinance, particularly one that addresses octave band regulation, which you'll hear about in the briefing later today.

[01:37:02] Over the past year, a number of new reports have come out that talk about how data center noise in particular differs from ambient urban noise, traffic noise, and even other industrial noise.

[01:37:21] And so I wanted to point that out and to say that predominant difference has to do with the low frequency noise that data centers emit. It travels farther. It goes through walls and windows. It causes sleep deprivation and health issues. You've heard a lot about that. And most communities fail to really address this issue.

[01:37:42] And it's not one that Prince William County can afford to address. Prince William County has a situation developing, which is that over the last five years, about 40 data centers have been approved in the bristow and uh and gainesville area that are near residential areas there are about 20 000 residents who are within easy earshot of these data centers particularly this low frequency noise there are also seven schools that are very near the data centers um basically

[01:38:17] these 20 000 people are in a slowly developing blast zone when it comes to uh you know facing data center noise. So I urge you to look at and at the right time adopt an ordinance that has particularly octave band regulation. And I will say that I think that this is a time when the county should be thinking about, do you pay now or do you pay later? And the paying now part is to really work with the industry and come up with strong regulation, not anything that kicks the

[01:38:56] can down the road. I feel if there's failure to do that and the citizens are affected by all of this, it's going to create a bad situation for the county in the long run. I've been looking at various class action litigation about data centers across the country. I found six different lawsuits that have been filed with the class action thing, and five of them involve noise ordinances so i urge you to take positive steps and a strong new noise ordinance thank you very

[01:39:35] much thank you sir next speaker our next speaker is steven ward go ahead steven i'm unmuted there chris yes you are we can hello my name is steve ward resident of the gainesville drastic but a constituent who no longer believes he's represented by his district supervisor in fact i sit here today as one of hundreds of property owners who have been effectively denied representation unfortunately i can't be there in person today after spending eight hours at the last meeting in opposition to stewart's uh small area plan only to watch him defer the vote after consulting in back office whispers and from text messages from the dais i simply could get not another day off

[01:40:15] of work but here we are again a proposal that's repeatedly failed to secure this board support is back now at risk of advancing through a procedural workaround rather than earning the support could not previously command. At my last appearance, I expressed disappointment that Supervisor Stewart had failed in his responsibility to represent all of his constituents. Today, my disappointment has become outrage and disgust. For 12 months, I have tried to engage this board. 12 times, I've attempted to get the attention of Chairwoman Jefferson and Supervisor Gordy without even the courtesy of a response. Dozens of times, I've sought constructive dialogue with Supervisor Stewart, and time after

[01:40:52] time, those efforts have been ignored. Meanwhile, county records tell a very different story about access. According to FOIA records, a working group of 11 special interest group advocates, one of whom lives in Georgia, all of whom constantly stand before you, had at least 12 documented sessions with Supervisor Stewart or his office between April and September, and at least one with the chair. One is even widely rumored to be working from his office, and it does not surprise me that she stands in such satisfaction for the wording in this small area plan. These records raise serious concerns. They show a

citizen's group involvement in drafting this proposed directive, requests to remove documents of authorship before circulation,

[01:41:31] and private correspondence in which affected landowners' concerns were dismissed as not credible. Even the county's own planning leadership has raised concern that this directive predetermined boundaries was too prescriptive and went far beyond the scope of a conventional SAP. So let me ask you this. Why are we here again on this subject, and how is this representative government? We, the property owners, are the people who actually own the land. We are the people whose property rights, investments, and futures are directly affected. We're the people with land to offer to the county's benefit. Yet we cannot get a meeting to express our views on what should be done with that land, while a select group of activists appears to have enjoyed privileged access and back alley influence over this process. This is not

[01:42:10] meaningful public engagement. It's a troubling appearance of government being shaped behind closed doors. It's Kabuki theater masquerading as representative democracy. I ask that the board oppose item 12d force a vote on it and restore a transparent genuinely inclusive process and as a concerned citizen landowner i will close with this i feel not only misrepresented but misaligned through this political process and i hear hereby humbly yet publicly asked this board to initiate an independent investigation into the conduct of supervisor stewart and those involved in his working group including whether any actions constitute violations of public trust ethics rules, or applicable law, and whether evidence warrants referral to appropriate authorities

[01:42:49] for criminal investigation. Thank you, sir. Next speaker, please. Our next speaker is Jessica Grove. Go ahead, Jessica. Good afternoon, Madam Chair and County Supervisors.

[01:43:09] My name is Jessica Grove, and I do live in the Gainesville District. I really feel like that's a tough act to follow. What I think is interesting is that the Gainesville District actually has spent a significant amount of time not being represented. All through the digital gateway and prior to that, which was the 2040 comprehensive plan, we did not have any representation. Like literally no representation.

[01:43:46] I don't remember seeing Mr. Ward there talking about what was going to happen to long-range land use during that meeting. And what I also think is interesting with all the FOIA information that someone has gathered is that that is all public information. That is fine. What is not fine is that all of these assemblages have come together under NDAs. Mr. Croy, you are a real estate agent.

[01:44:13] When was the last time you sold a house under NDA? Doesn't that seem a little weird? These assemblages are popping up. They are predatory. They are preying on the people who are financially disadvantaged. They are preying on the senior citizens who cannot move anywhere. They are preying on the idea that people are going to sell out their neighbors. We have families that are being torn apart because they are being offered millions of dollars for their land. And the people

[01:44:51] who are going to be left behind are us. We're going to have to pay for the infrastructure. We're going to have to pay with our well and septic systems and impervious surfaces. Every single tree that you cut down is contributing to salinity and poor water quality for the Occoquan Reservoir.

[01:45:15] Our area in the Gainesville District is your clean water. We are giving the Occoquan clean water. And if you pave over this area, you will end up with more salinity and more impervious surfaces that create more toxic water.

[01:45:35] If you want to talk about PFAS, paving over this area is going to drastically reduce your water quality. I'm asking you to support the small area plan because it is, Vint Hill has a small area plan, Brentsville has a small area plan.

[01:45:52] We are asking that you look at the area and show how great Gainesville can be. This doesn't change anything for anybody. It doesn't take anybody's rights away. It looks at the area holistically and says, what can we make great out of this area?

[01:46:10] So that residents who want to stay here. Our next speaker is Bill Wright. Go ahead. Go ahead, Bill. My name is Bill Wright and I live in Savannah, Georgia. I'm a former member of the county's data center ordinance advisory group.

[01:46:29] I'm gratified that the board has decided to take the opportunity it was denied a year ago to review, unaltered, the work it requested from the informed citizens and acoustic experts to address the county's escalating noise problem. The noise ordinance update under agenda item 11C rolls back the clock to the August 25, 2025 draft ordinance.

[01:46:50] The county charter data center ordinance advisory group expected this board to review and consider for the protection of county residents. There has been ample documentary evidence and media coverage of the impure motives and machinations that kept that from happening. You will have a chance today to negate that duplicity and restore faith with your constituents.

[01:47:09] On March 18, 2025, county-contracted acoustic expert David Nelson provided this board with a half-hour presentation explaining what was necessary to prevent excessive data center noise. He explained that low-frequency noise that exceeds just one of nine octave bands could make life miserable for area residents, even if more commonly measured decibel limits were met.

[01:47:34] The DCOAG's subsequent recommendation, which incorporated a combination of octave band and decibel limits recommended by Mr. Nelson, was touted as a model for other local ordinances. Just yesterday, the county executive provided the supervisors with the DCOAG's original draft of the proposed noise ordinance update.

[01:47:55] It paves the way for this document to be properly considered at a public hearing. Adopting the original ordinance intact will ensure not only that Prince William County residents will be protected from facilities already operating, but that future facilities will be designed and built to a higher standard and better compatibility with their host communities.

[01:48:17] Prince William County residents will be watching today's discussion with cautious optimists. Will this be the moment when government finally decides to resist developer influence and meet its civic responsibilities? Thank you. Thank you, Sarah.

[01:48:32] Our next speaker is Sarah Ramey. Go ahead, Sarah. Good afternoon. My name is Sarah Ramey. I am a landowner in the Gainesville District. I've come here in opposition of the proposed Directive 12-D, the Gainesville Direct Heritage, Tourism, and Recreation Small Area Plan.

[01:48:53] My family has owned and farmed land on Pageland Lane since the 1940s. We've been pushed around by huge power lines, gas lines, Disney, and the National Park Service. We are now being bullied by special interest groups who are trying to impose restrictions on our land use, although they've never offered to purchase our land or pay our real estate taxes.

[01:49:19] This land is no longer rural. One trip down Pageland Lane at 5 o'clock in the evening will tell you that this area is not rural. There are data centers being built at the corner of Pageland Lane and Lee Highway. There is a constant hum from Route 66 and from airplanes flying out of Dulles.

[01:49:40] This plan may not be a direct seizure of our property, but it is close. It will place sweeping and dramatic restrictions on future land use instead of allowing the property's use to be evaluated individually by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on a case-by-case basis.

[01:50:00] I ask that you vote no on item 12D. Thank you. Thank you, ma'am. We have no more speakers. Thank you. All right. Thanks, Chris. Madam Chair, back to you. All right. Thank you so very much to everyone who has signed up to speak either in person or online before the board.

[01:50:20] We are going to go into agenda item number eight, and that is the public hearings. Before I open this up, I also want to note 8D, it's going to be for proffers dated November 5th. Does anyone on the board have anything that they wanted to pull from public hearings?

[01:50:38] If not, I will go ahead and open them. Madam Chair. Supervisor Vega. For items 8E and 8F, the same notice of the proffer date needs to be changed to September 24th. There was the correct date was advertised to the public.

[01:50:55] I just want to make sure that it all coincides with the paperwork. I appreciate that. So for agenda item, again, 8D, again, the proffer stated November 5th. For agenda items 8E and 8F, it's, I'm sorry, if we can have decorum in the board rooms and the board chambers.

[01:51:12] Proffers dated September 24th. All right. Since there is no one, I'm sorry. No, I'm not saying no one for that. Since there is no one who has any objections, I am going to go ahead and open the public hearings for items 8A through 8F.

[01:51:34] I have one person who has signed up to speak in person, Charles Reed Jr., if you can go to the back of the microphone, the back of the room to that microphone. Again, please start by stating your name. the magisterial district in which you reside.

[01:51:51] There is a timer. You will have three minutes. Okay, great. Excuse me. So, Charles Reed, Jr., I am a resident of the Independent Hill Village, so I'm aligned to the Coles Magisterial District, and I have a question around item 8E.

[01:52:09] I'm curious to know what the rezoning, where everything is supposed to shift to within the community. So, if you don't mind, if you could just let me know where things are going to move, I think what's on the docket is like the clubhouse, I think other amenities within the community. So I'm curious to know where the original location was and where the new location will be. I will call someone up after we close the public hearings to address that. Thank you. Okay, perfect. Thank you. And then I'm just curious to know a little bit more about 8F and what that actually entails. That's all I have. All right. Thank you so very much.

[01:52:46] And do we have anyone who is remote? Chris, we got any remote? Yes, we do. We have one person who's logging in right now. Okay. When they're ready, just go ahead.

[01:53:04] Yes, sir.

[01:53:33] Chris, can we get an update? He's speaking to the people to identify or confirm his identity, and they will be moving him directly in once that is completed. Okay. All right. Our speaker is Kevin Parker.

[01:53:58] All right. Go ahead, Kevin. Hi, I wanted to talk about the Potomac Lofts project in general. I think it's a good idea to...

[01:54:15] All right, hold on. Okay, okay, testing, one, two, three.

[01:54:37] Yeah, Kevin, we can hear you. Can you hear us? Okay, I wanted to talk about the Potomac Lofts project. Overall, I think that it is a good idea to have this residential area in this place.

[01:54:55] It supports the 3Rs program, and I did have one concern about it, and that is that when the houses that are facing Potomac Mills Drive are right up facing a very fast uh wide road and there's also a slip lane off of opitz to keep so to keep people moving fast um i know that here uh near where i am there have been there has been a

[01:55:33] death at a slip lane at uh minneville and dale boulevard and i feel like if this is uh going to be here, then this road needs to be slowed down. And if it is a place where we're going to have people biking and walking, it's very difficult because this is coming right off of, this is where people come in from 95. I also want to encourage any help for bicycling, any sort of

[01:56:06] amenities in this project. I think it would really help this project to have those and to help those people live in this area. Thank you. All right. Thank you, sir. We have no more speakers. Thank you.

[01:56:22] All right. Thanks, Chris. All right. Thank you so very much. I am going to close the public hearings now for agenda items 8A through 8F. And again, three of them have proper modifications with different dates um i saw that the gentleman who had questions the applicant went outside to speak with him in the atrium um so i'm going to go ahead does anyone well i'll go ahead and call for a motion so moved second it's been properly moved and seconded any discussion i see supervisor bode and bailey thank you madam chair um i i see on the agenda that it's the micah and maggie show

[01:56:59] so really appreciate all the work that you two have done and all the work staff has done and the applicants for the various proposals. I will obviously focus my comments on 8D, which is the Potomac Lofts redevelopment project. Potomac Mills has long been envisioned as a new urban core for the county to bring housing to an area already rich in amenities and medical resources. It was reimagined in the small area plan to be one of the very first major redevelopment areas, and this projects is the first step of that. It's the exciting first step as well. I've heard from folks who have talked about parking, talked about amenities, what have you. Really appreciate the

[01:57:38] work that the staff has done, that the applicant has done to make this a sort of person-centric area in what has largely traditionally been a car-centric area. You know, we got bike racks added to this. We've had pedestrian connectivity added to this. We've been able to push some things around to make sure that as people live and thrive in this community, they will be a little bit farther back from some of the large traffic that has been talked about. But we also didn't want to do the kind of setbacks we've seen in the past either, because we know that when we do too many setbacks, we do things too far apart, we lose that connectivity. We lose that walkability. We

[01:58:15] lose that connectiveness that starts to build these urban areas that they're supposed to be. Also appreciate something we were able to do, which is a little bit unusual. I appreciate the applicant working with us on this, which is why the proffers got amended, is the affordability. Having any amount of for sale product available at 60% AMI is something to celebrate, and I will be encouraging more of this in future

projects. We often talk about affordability and aim for units geared towards folks making 120% AMI. We may be missing what that really looks like.

[01:58:47] At 120% AMI for a single person in this area, that's almost $140,000 a year. By comparison, 60 percent AMI represents someone making just $69,000 a year. When you start talking about that, that's a newly licensed electrician. Doctors, firefighters, nurses, a lot of folks that we talk about, we actually talk about workforce housing, can begin to afford at those levels.

[01:59:11] When you start talking about having a family where the workers may very well work at Potomac Mills, the shopping center itself, or the nearby hospital with Sentara, that starts to be attainable to those folks right across the street from where they live. So while both the higher end of the AMIs are needed and the lower ends are needed, a lot of the higher end AMIs are usually sort of met by market forces, and it's more efficient to build homes for all life stages.

[01:59:37] So as we continue to talk about this, I also, again, just really want to appreciate the responsiveness of the applicant for moving through this process, and, of course, staff. I hope and I believe this will be the first of many redevelopment projects in Potomac Mills, and I'm glad to have it here.

[01:59:53] Thank you so much, Madam Chair. Thank you so very much. Supervisor Bailey. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just want to make mention of Item 8C. This is an older project that has been in the Potomac District for quite some time. Conversations have been held previously in the early 2023, I think, in terms of how we move forward with this project.

[02:00:19] And so I just wanted to make mention, as we are talking about density in our communities and what is placed where and how it's placed there, I want to identify and thank the applicant for having much consideration for the dwelling units at 13.18 as opposed to anything higher.

[02:00:39] The range is from 6 to 16, and I just want to thank them for having that consideration in the tight space that Potomac sometimes has. But the density range was achieved in a very good way, I would say, in respect of the community.

[02:00:56] So I just wanted to make mention of that. And, of course, I will be supporting. Thank you so very much. Supervisor Angry. Thank you, Madam Chair. Just want to congratulate Common Recovery. Mr. Chuck, I appreciate all the work we did to get this done.

[02:01:11] I know it's been a long time coming. So I really look forward to you continuing what you're doing for our citizens in the county in recovery. And so just congratulations. I want to take the moment to congratulate you. Thank you so very much.

[02:01:31] All right, let's go ahead and take our votes. Vote unanimous. Thank you so very much. We're now going to move on to agenda item number nine, and that is County Executive Time.

[02:01:49] Mr. Shorter. All right. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, members of the board. Good afternoon. During your last meeting, there were no directives issued. There was one directive closed since your last meeting, which was the directive for staff to bring back options for a county ordinance related to project labor agreements.

[02:02:11] That response was sent to the board last week. We also sent an update to the board regarding a listing of tax sales, as the board directed in 2024, to provide a list of all properties scheduled for tax sale on

an ongoing basis. Since your last meeting, I sent the board a few notices, including one sharing that the Fairfax Water will be testing the Occoquan Dam siren tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[02:02:39] That testing should only last about five minutes and no action is needed from residents or business owners in the area. I also sent the board a memo outlining the proposed strategic supplier diversity program, which was developed in response to the findings and recommendations of the county's 2025 disparity study.

[02:02:57] As outlined in the memo, staff recommends moving forward with the ordinance process, beginning with a request for board authorization to advertise a public hearing early next year. I also sent the board the FY 2027 First Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report in accordance with your principles of sound financial management, an update on the county's efforts to address the board's initiation of changes to the zoning ordinance and DCSM related to the thoroughfare area.

[02:03:31] And a message was also sent about current vacancies on the architectural review board. I wanted to give, just acknowledge, and I also sent this to the board, our FFM team, particularly Matt V., who worked very closely with the clerk of the court and the circuit court to finish before schedule the jury assembly space in the courthouse.

[02:04:04] They worked really hard over the last several months and have completed that phase, if you will, of the work on the juror assembly space. So big, big thank you to FFM, to Development Services. I believe DOIT was also involved. And, of course, all of our judicial partners were involved in that work.

[02:04:22] I also sent an email to the board and just want to acknowledge that we have now received official notification that all three major credit rating agencies have reaffirmed the county's triple AAA status.

[02:04:38] And so big, big thank you to the finance team, our economic development team, and just all those involved, including each of you, and making sure that as a county we are following our own policies related to fiscal sustainability. Um, and finally, uh, madam chair, I sent this note out to the board, uh, but, um, wanted to also just acknowledge, uh, after 33 years of service, Katab Shamut, uh, will be retiring from Prince William County.

[02:05:12] Don't know if he's here, uh, today, but just wanted to just acknowledge his service to the County. Uh, he is retiring as director of public works. You'll hear from him later on this afternoon in presentation. but 33 years is significant and wanted to make sure that we acknowledge the work that he has done.

[02:05:31] And with that, Madam Chair, that is all for me. Thank you so very much. And we can give him his flowers when he is in the board chambers. I'm going to move now to agenda item number 10, county attorney.

[02:05:46] Madam County Attorney, the floor is yours. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the board. This afternoon in closed session, we will have consultation and discussion with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to the acquisitions of real property for a public purpose. With the accompanying legal advice from legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to probable litigation and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding land acquisition of property interest for right of way for property located at 981 Annapolis Way in Woodridge, Virginia, the Woodbridge Magisterial District owned by Ashna LLC for the improvements

[02:06:23] to the North Woodbridge Mobility Improvement Project where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position, negotiating strategy, or litigating posture of the public body. We will have consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to the discussions or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property for public transportation purposes, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture, bargaining position, or negotiating strategy of the public body.

[02:06:50] And we will have a personnel discussion relating to the appointment of the deputy county executive for mobility, economic growth, and resiliency. These items are appropriate for closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711A1378 of the Virginia Code.

[02:07:06] So authorized, Madam Chair. Second. All right, so I'm probably moving to second it. Any discussion? All right, let's go ahead and take our votes. Vote unanimous.

[02:07:24] All right, before we move to agency time, I have a couple of my colleagues up Coya's statements. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, before the board discusses and considers item 11A regarding the principles of sound financial management, I need to declare a personal interest in this matter.

[02:07:40] My wife is a school's employee. As a school's employee, my wife and I are members of a group which is affected by this matter. I will be participating in this matter because I am able to do so fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, before the board discusses and considers item 11A regarding the principles of sound financial management, I need to declare a personal interest in this matter.

[02:08:03] My wife is a school's employee. As a school's employee, my wife and I are members of a group which is affected by this matter. I will be participating in this matter because I'm able to do so fairly, objectively, in the public interest. Thank you, Madam Chair. All right, Mr. Shorter. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

[02:08:19] So with item 11A, this is consistent with the presentation that was provided to the Finance and Budget Committee in September. There's no presentation associated with this item today, but we are asking for the Board's consideration for amendments to the principles of sound financial management.

[02:08:38] And, of course, the team is here and available for any questions that you all might have. All right, does anyone have any questions, comments, looking around? All right, would anyone like to bring this forward?

[02:08:55] So moved. Second. Properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? Supervisor Vega. Oh, I'm sorry. Supervisor Bodie. Oh, thank you, Madam Chair.

[02:09:10] So just very quickly wanted to just, as was said before, we received a briefing on this back in finance and budget a couple months ago. Just really wanted to thank staff, including Ms. Weldon, for the work they've done on this, as said by the county exec earlier. This board continues to make moves to make our county more resilient financially in light of shocks and other things.

[02:09:32] We continue to revise the debt and other financing capabilities of this county and really continue to be good stewards through the work of improving these principles of sound financial

management. So I will be supporting it, but I did want to give this opportunity to give kudos to Ms. Walden and all staff that continues to help us be better stewards and shepherds for this county.

[02:09:54] Thank you, Madam Chair. Supervisor Bailey. Thank you, Madam Chair. Ditto, Supervisor Bodie. Consistency and being able to read the financial climate in that consistency is very important. And Ms. Weldon and her team, all the time you do that to make sure that we're protecting the citizens' finances as well as the work that we do here.

[02:10:15] And so just want to say thank you for that. Even in a time when our county is transforming and growing, you keep your pedal on the metal or metal on the pedal, however you want to say it, to make sure that we are utilizing the citizens' funds appropriately and legally.

[02:10:34] And so we do appreciate you. Is there anyone else? If not, let's go ahead and take our votes. Vote unanimous.

[02:10:54] Thank you very much. All right. Thank you, Madam Chair. For item 11B, so I'm going to invite the planning office team to come up. This item is a reinitiation of CPA related to the county's historic sites, registered historic sites.

[02:11:14] And I will turn it over to Eric.

[02:11:31] Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Board of Supervisor members.

[02:11:46] I'm Eric Griffiths with the planning office, bringing you CPA 2023-005. This is a re-initiation of Blackburn's Ford CRHS. This is a request to modify, essentially, the boundaries of what was initiated previously to include Orchard Bridge Park.

[02:12:12] Orchard Bridge Park is located on the east side of Route 28. What was previously initiated is on the west side of Route 28. and as a brief history to this area, this was all associated with the Battle of Blackburn's Ford, which was prior to the first Battle of Manassas in 1861.

[02:12:36] Blackburn's Ford essentially is where the 28 alignment is right now. Today, this was an area that, and along with another Ford, Mitchell's Ford, that were essentially Union forces were on the north side of Bull Run.

[02:12:56] Confederates were on the south side. Union forces wanted to probe across Bull Run. They did so at Blackburn's Ford and were repulsed. So it was a small engagement, but significant in establishing the events that happened in the future during the Battle of First Bull Run.

[02:13:16] About 10 years ago, Mitchell Ford was established as a CRHS because of entrenchments that were known to be there. But the Historical Commission had decided that really this whole area is a historic area because of its associated with the Battle of Blackburns-Ford.

[02:13:34] so they had requested that this whole area be uh uh created as this uh county registered historic site which is what what you initiated um in 2023 and uh staff uh supports this uh reinitiation to include orchard bridge park um as i mentioned um back in 2023 uh the area that was established as the boundaries for the crhs and was considered because of three main criteria one

[02:14:14] most of the area was located within what was established as the national register of historic places eligibility site for the battlefield and the other criteria was locations of earthworks we knew about mitchell's ford but what came to light was there was also some earthworks on private property that

extended all the way to the west which is why you can see a little bit of the area to the west outside of the National Register corridor that does have some earthworks on it and and this is the area that retains integrity historic integrity hasn't been developed

[02:14:51] much of Yorkshire which is the area that is located has been developed so you know as with any uh cpa once it was initiated we did further studies and and what we found um was that you know during the course of the events that occurred uh there was some move there was some activity associated with uh areas that east of the route 28 corridor where orchard bridge park is located

[02:15:23] today and so uh the historical commission asked us to basically include that within the uh proposed crhs site um so we we basically i looked at the criteria again using the same criteria as we did before and found that you know this this area was also in the national register uh boundaries It was a location where we know that there was significant Confederate movements that were associated with the battle, and it's also an area that retains integrity.

[02:15:59] But we also wanted to consult with two county agencies that we knew had interest. One, obviously, Parks and Recreation, they managed the site. We consulted with them early in the year to see if they would have any concerns of including this area.

[02:16:17] in this in the um crhs area and while there is no this is a newer park it doesn't have a master plan as of yet um you know and it does have some active recreation in terms of i think there's one cricket field most of the site is still sort of a passive recreation area uh their desire is would be to you know basically preserve most of it but maybe develop a trail system and that's consistent with what we would want to do for historic interpretation as well so there's a lot of

[02:16:54] consistency there so they didn't object to what we were trying to do the other agency that we consulted was transportation obviously route 28 corridor is a major transportation initiative uh expansion of that corridor so and as you can see here we specifically uh are outside of the right away for that corridor when we talk with them they they acknowledge that they at least where the the uh 28 crossing of bull run is they had so they believe they had sufficient um right

[02:17:31] away for that area for their plans but they may require additional easements on adjacent properties Should that need to occur, this certainly would not interfere with their plans to obtain those easements. So they didn't necessarily object with what we were doing as well. Again, just for reference here, the troop movement, this is an interpretive map. You can kind of see there were significant troop movement through what is Orchard Bridge Park today. Most of this area is within the

[02:18:08] floodplain, I should point that out. And also, as far as the commercial corridor, that B-1 corridor, again, most of the CRHS isn't in that area because that's been heavily developed. That does not retain historic integrity. And essentially, you know, what we would termed of land use, we would probably, you know, what would happen if this would be eventually approved is most of that revert to CRHS matching what's there currently for Mitchell Ford. Orchard Bridge Park is currently

[02:18:43] parks and open space. So staff recommends the board reinitiate to include Orchard Bridge Park for the following reasons. One is this was requested by the historical commission. The expanded areas are historically associated with the battle of Blackburn's Ford. It meets objectives of the comprehensive plan uh pertaining to the preservation interpretation of cultural resources also is consistent with action strategy to gold for uh parks and open space and the

[02:19:22] expansion is also helps areas to address the uh yorkshire activity center policies that address preserving identifying and preserving cultural resources and and one thing that should also more note is that this area was also will be part of the yorkshire small area plan so moving forward with the small area plan this certainly this will be you know action strategies and and will for the preservation of cultural resources specifically this site will be addressed in that uh small area plan as well so uh you know moving forward also you know we're gonna certainly in the in the ensuing

[02:20:02] months, you know, re-engage some of the agencies that I mentioned, property owners, and certainly have community meetings. So with that, I'll turn it over to you for any questions. Thank you so much. All right. Supervisor Bailey. Thank you, Madam Chair.

[02:20:19] Thank you for your presentation. It was excellent. I just, I have two questions, and you may have answered them already, but not just for clarity's sake for the community. Will changing the land use designation from parks to open space to CRHS create any regulatory hurdles or restrictions as we go forward for planned park improvements?

[02:20:43] No. Certainly, it wouldn't really inhibit the park from planning any improvements to what they want to do, whether that be even active or passive recreation purposes, whether it be creating ball fields.

[02:21:05] There's one area, there's a cricket field in one area. And that's what I was, yeah. Okay, so that's the area. We're aware that this wouldn't inhibit any plans for the cricket field. Okay, but it shouldn't interrupt at all.

[02:21:20] It shouldn't interrupt that. Okay, okay. And then my other question is, what's the ongoing outreach plan to ensure private property owners understand what the county registered historic site designation means to their property rights and potential future development well you know certainly when we address we we have reached out to property owners already as part of our study uh we have haven't engaged with all the property owners uh some of them didn't get back to us because i don't think they're active land owners

[02:21:53] in that area but those who have um when we have consulted with them we've we've you know been up front and told them that you know this this does not inhibit your you and any of your use of the land changing this land use to a county registered historic site does not take away any property rights that you have to develop that property under the current zoning uh code so we we are going to continue to to consult with property owners in the in in the ensuing months probably into the new year um we want to have a several community engagement events at least two um

[02:22:32] there's a an hoa quails hollow hoa there we've also reached out to them they don't have any objections to what we were doing and we might we will probably have a community engagement with that community as well as just to go over exactly how this impacts them as landowners and community members. Yeah, thank you for that. And I also thank you for incorporating the focus on Mr.

[02:22:59] Patton's piece in terms of traditional historical burial grounds. That's always important. And I know that's something that you always keep a part of decisions like this. So thank you. All right, Supervisor Buddy, did you have anything? Just one thing. Thank you, Mr. Griffiths, for the work and for the presentation.

[02:23:19] You've already addressed one of my questions. It's not going to in any way inhibit or alter our attempts, Surabas of Vegas spearheading it on improving Route 28. It sounds like that's the case. Two, this

gets very wonky, but I would imagine the answer is no for this. But obviously the Parks Department has goals for park acreage throughout the county.

[02:23:39] Changing this in the long-range land use from Parks and Open Space to CRHS does not take away its designation as part of that parks goal does it david mcgett again now from the planning office uh thank you for your question supervisor bode no it does not that's a separate tally it does not um from the comprehensive plan that we keep a separate tally of parks land appreciate it and that's the reason why i ask that question because the county over the last couple years has been criticized for having large swaths of land uh painted green as it were as parks and

[02:24:17] open space as if we're somehow trying to cheat and add all that to the parks count when that's not the case. And you just clarified and confirmed that. So thank you, Ms. Mergett again. You're good. All right. Thank you so very much. Supervisor Vega. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you to the team for briefing my office and keeping me up to date with all of the community engagement. As you know, that's extremely important to me.

[02:24:40] So without further ado, Madam Chair, I'd like to move item 11B forward for approval. Second. I'll give it to, I guess, Bailey. All right. We have a motion on the floor. Is there any further discussion or comments. All right, let's go ahead and take our votes.

[02:24:58] Vote unanimous. All right, thank you so very much. Mr. Shorter. All right, thank you, Madam Chair. So with item 11C, this is the final presentation as part of the agency presentation time.

[02:25:17] This is a follow-up from the discussion we had at your last board meeting, and this afternoon we're going to have a presentation from Katab and our two consultants at your request, Nelson And acoustics and noise consultancy will be, well, is here virtually to answer your questions.

[02:25:38] This will serve as an update, and obviously we will be happy to answer questions after the presentation. With that, I will turn it over to Katab. Microphone.

[02:25:57] It was too loud. Ten more. Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, we are here, as Chris mentioned, we are here as a follow-up to our October 20th presentation.

[02:26:13] where the board directed us to bring back the ordinance as prepared by the consultants for discussion as well as invite the consultants with which we did and we have two of our consultants with us online virtually both Eric Zwirling and David Nelson both of them are with us tonight and they will be part of the presentation as I move forward. Both are not working.

[02:27:01] Okay, thank you. Okay, the agenda. So I will start with some background on how we started this and how we developed the ordinance and where we got to up until October 20th. Second agenda item will be I will turn it over to the consultants to go over the details and the technicality of the ordinance. And at the end, we will be looking for the board to give us guidance as we move forward.

[02:27:36] So a background. In 2022, the board directed staff to address concerns regarding data centers and established also an advisory group to provide input and help the staff, as well as in the next item is the county consultant who we've actually retained a team of consultants from JMT, Nelson Acoustics, and NOISE Consultancy to assist in providing that ordinance to deal with steady tone.

[02:28:13] March 18, 2025, the team came back to the board and presented on updates to the ordinance at that time, and also discussed potential impact on public communities and public facilities, schools,

hospitals, and assisted living and the likes.

[02:28:32] And also continue to perform testing. We've tested over 50 rounds and observation and documented findings and lessons learned. And one of the lessons learned is really the best time to test would be, not that the inspector loved that, but early morning hours, 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, because all the ancillary noise is kind of down, and you'll hear other noises better at that time of the day.

[02:28:58] On June 10th, we continued to come back and provide to the board a presentation on the ordinance and the updates to where we were at that time. And the board directed staff to prepare and come back to the board October 2025 for discussion on the revised ordinance.

[02:29:17] And board members also in that meeting raised concern regarding potential impact from the noise ordinance on schools and hospitals and other public facilities. Within that period of time, of course, we've reached out to some of our stakeholders, and one of our major stakeholders is the Commonwealth Attorney.

[02:29:36] They are the legal presentation for the county in the event that there's a legal matter and there's a violation. And we also engage the business members of the community to discuss proposed ordinance and the potential impact from that ordinance. Preparation of draft ordinance, we continue coordination with our consultants regarding the octave band, which is the main part of the ordinance, sound measurement, and staff looked at and tweaked the ordinance as we moved forward with this to be ready for our board presentation as required and directed by the board.

[02:30:15] October 14, the board approved a resolution to advertise and advise proposed noise ordinance for public consideration to come back on October 28th. We continued discussion regarding appropriate sound measurement standards, including A weighting scale as well as C weighting scales.

[02:30:33] On October 28th, the board adopted that ordinance that was presented back on October 14th and to become effective May 1 of 2026. And with that, approved also positions, a couple of positions and equipments and vehicles for our staff members that are going to be responsible for enforcing and implementing the ordinance. And also directed staff to come back in six months to discuss their implementation and their findings over that period since the implementation of the ordinance on May 1.

[02:31:09] On October 20th, that's the last meeting, we came to the board, we presented our findings, and the board directed us to come back to the board with the ordinance as prepared by the consultant and also invite the consultant to come and speak and answer questions as we go through the technical part of that ordinance. So with that I'm going to turn it over to our technical experts both Eric and David on the line to help us go through the slides and ask questions and

[02:31:41] answer questions at the end as they arise. Thank you very much. Good afternoon everybody. Thanks katab the uh can i get the uh slides back on the screen somewhere i'm not able to see them there we go i got them all right thank you um the purpose of this slide is to just kind of indicate that there are a lot of ways can you present yourself please is this eric this is

[02:32:20] david i'm sorry okay sorry sorry if you can also speak up you're a little hard here yeah this is david nelson um i'm retired since july and i was the consultant who worked on the um on the recommended levels that are in the uh ordinance and uh wait before you continue i'm sorry you are a little hard to hear i don't know if we can adjust our equipment to accommodate all right

[02:32:52] speak now let me see let me see all right we're also adjusting a few things on our end to have

[02:33:19] the slides on the screen. I've turned up my input volume. Does that help? It's better. Okay. All right, sir, we're adjusting so that we have an illustration of the octave bands up, but you may continue. It's up. You may continue. Okay. Yeah, I don't see the illustration, but I've got a pretty good idea of what it says. One of the big issues with sound is that different frequencies affect, there it is, thank you, affect people in different ways. And because of that, there are different

[02:33:58] ways to measure it. And whereas in common parlance, you find people talking about dBs without being specific. In this case, it's important to be specific. So when you hear us talking about A-weighted sound levels, which are often denoted DBA, you can sort of imagine it as in the diagram here where the low end of the piano is obscured. What happens in that measurement is that the high frequencies which are focused mainly on speech frequencies, are accentuated and everything in the low frequency

[02:34:35] end is not accentuated. There are reasons for doing that. Obviously, if you're trying to measure a low frequency sound, that's not a good way to go. And the total energy after filtering is the A-weighted sound level. Similarly, the C-weighted sound level is more open. It includes more of the low frequencies. And so that's a better measurement of overall low frequency sound levels. However, to get better control over the situation, we break down the sound spectrum into individual

[02:35:13] octaves. And those are denoted by the frequencies that I've shown below the piano diagram there. And that's a way of getting a grip on individual frequency bands because, as I say, each one of them affects people's hearing differently because our hearing sensitivity is highly frequency dependent.

[02:35:38] The amount of sound energy that can get into a house or a residence is highly frequency dependent. So it helps to be able to slice it a little finer that way. So, and those are called octave band measurements, and those are the basis for what we're going to be discussing here.

[02:35:58] But we'll also mention A and C, weighted sound levels in passing, because they're good reference points. Next slide, Katab, unless there are any questions. We're going to hold all the questions to the end.

[02:36:15] I'm sorry? We will hold questions to the end. Oh, very good. Thank you. These are the octave band threshold limits that have been proposed. These are based on a collection or an amalgamation of various engineering standards, guidelines, other regulations going 70 years into the past in the noise control engineering profession.

[02:36:45] Also with reference to typical ambient sound levels that we saw in the county. Those are also taken account for here. And so you can see that there's a sound pressure level for each octave band for the daytime and the nighttime.

[02:37:05] And more higher sound levels are permissible at lower frequencies, basically because they're harder to hear. And five decibels more stringent at nighttime, just because more people are trying to sleep at night than are sleeping during the day.

[02:37:24] some people do sleep during the day, but also ambient sound levels being lower is also a factor. People's reactions to sound are often not just the absolute sound level, but in reference to the change from

previous sound levels. So it's very common for most regulations and guidelines like this to be more stringent at nighttime. Now, the control here is on the individual octave bands,

[02:37:55] And so it's possible that a facility can comply by just barely meeting any one or any number of these octave bands. And so there's no requirement that, well, there is a requirement that all of them be met simultaneously, that's for sure.

[02:38:21] But what happens when sound levels are below that is the A-weighted sound level that corresponds to these spectra, If they were all completely maxed out, so 65, 60, 55 during the day, for instance, they were maxed out.

[02:38:39] The A-weighted sound level would be 48 dBA, and the C-weighted sound level would be 65 dBC. And similarly, at nighttime, it would be 43 dBA and 60 dBC.

[02:38:55] Because it's unlikely that all of those bands will simultaneously be completely full, Usually, a facility would be designed to just graze the requirements at one or two bands, and it will overperform in the other bands.

[02:39:10] So the actual total levels may be lower. So, yeah, let's see the next slide. Katab? All right, yeah, this is a calculation.

[02:39:27] There were points in which some of the members of the advisory group were concerned that these levels were not low enough. And so we did some calculations to show what these sound levels would be indoors in a home and that they would be adequate, for instance, to facilitate sleep, which the recommendation for that is 30 DBA from the World Health Organization.

[02:39:59] So I feel like these levels are not excessively high. At one point, the words gift to industry were used, and I can assure you that the industry people do not see these as a gift. So what you're looking at is a table of the proposed nighttime limits.

[02:40:20] The row designated NR is for noise reduction. That's the level difference between outside and inside, a generic home. And then subtracting the two rows, we get the bottom row, which is the indoor sound level. And even though those numbers look very low, if the house is otherwise completely quiet, those can be audible.

[02:40:45] So these criteria do not create a state of inaudibility. They do not create a state of guaranteed zero complaints. but they are intended to dramatically improve the situation and be compatible with residential noise levels as defined in the standards I mentioned earlier.

[02:41:11] Next slide, Katab. Okay, this is a comparison of the proposed nighttime limits in the first row to three other criteria that are generally relevant.

[02:41:27] And as you can see, the proposed recommendation or proposed levels are slightly lower than others, but they're not completely out on their own and arbitrary or excessively low.

[02:41:48] Okay, how about the next slide, Katab? All right. Before we go to the next steps, though, I'd like to back up just a little bit and talk about the challenge that's before the county in that this is a really complex situation, partly because it's not always going to be the case that we can identify one isolated contributor.

[02:42:21] It won't always be the case. It may often be the case, and the intention is to be able to do that, but that takes some measurement skill, and the more complicated it gets, the more sources there are, the higher the background level relative to the source.

[02:42:37] It gets more complicated. So I'm encouraged that you all have Mr. Hunter on board to help you as an acoustical engineer to evaluate the impact of these proposed levels as an ordinance and to field any requests for modifications that may come in.

[02:43:00] I'd like to point out that I went to a bit of trouble to produce a basis and background document, which is a technical document that describes exactly where all this came from. And so that everyone understands why it's that way.

[02:43:20] And if there are any modifications to be made to this, I mean, the county, in its wisdom, may choose to loosen or tighten the restrictions, but I really feel like a document like that or an analysis of that general type should be included.

[02:43:37] I'd like to ask Eric to step in here. He didn't get a slide with his name on it, so to speak. But I'd like for Eric to talk about the challenges of how we go about identifying a source and to make sure that we are identifying the correct source.

[02:44:04] David, thank you very much for the synopsis of what has gone before, and let me just first check and make sure that I can adequately be heard. I'm speaking, hopefully, at a volume where – can people in the meeting be heard? Hear me?

[02:44:22] We can hear you. If you can speak up a little bit, that would be great. Excellent. Okay. I tried to adjust the settings on my computer, but it locked me out for whatever reason. In any case, Mr. Shammut, Madam Chair, County Supervisors, thank you for this opportunity to input into this process here.

[02:44:44] So one of the reasons, as David said, one of the reasons, one of the advantages of the measurement methodologies that we put forth here, the octave bands, is that it would allow us to isolate with greater precision the sound that's coming from the facilities as opposed to sound that's coming from the environment as a whole.

[02:45:05] The measurements that are taken with broadband, either on A scale or C scale, both of those are broadband measurements. And while they may have weighting that de-emphasizes or emphasizes parts of the spectrum, they nonetheless measure the spectrum in its entirety all at once.

[02:45:27] This octoband approach would allow us to more carefully analyze narrower slices of the spectrum, which would be more diagnostic in the situation that we are facing here. In addition, having the measurements having a fairly short period, but a repetitive measurement requirement, allows us then so that when there are fluctuations in the measured levels, that are caused by external sources, extraneous noises, as are called in the code,

[02:46:05] that it doesn't invalidate a measurement. If you have a car door slam or a plane go overhead, if you have excessively long measurements, that would invalidate the validity of a measurement being considered to be a steady tonal sound.

[02:46:21] However, if the measurements are of a shorter duration, then the likelihood of being able to capture a steady tonal sound without the external influence of one of those extraneous sound sources that are not on the subject property is dramatically lower.

[02:46:42] However, the need to have replicate samples does indicate then that it is necessarily not a one-off per se, but it is a repeated event that is coming from the source under investigation.

[02:46:57] The way that the code is written, the enforcement provisions, Mr. Nelson provided the measurement, the permissible sound level limits and put them together in the basis and background document.

[02:47:15] And as he stated, that will protect us from challenges that the levels will arrive at capriciously and arbitrarily, which is very important if you're going to have to defend a code. What I did was I put together the enforcement, the methodologies here.

[02:47:32] The way that the measurements will be taken are that a total sound level measurement will be taken at the regulatory compliance location. It's a total sound level measurement. The total sound measurement consists of the source plus whatever else Prince William County is throwing at that, is emitting at that particular time.

[02:47:54] exclusive extraneous sounds those extraneous sounds can be excluded either manually somebody can restart the sample or they can in post-processing they can take it out would be preferred to just have a clean sample that doesn't have an extraneous sound in it they would then take an ambient measurement which is uh excluding the um uh the source and that's being investigated but it would include all the other primary sources of ambient at that location it might be a highway it might

[02:48:26] also be some other equipment in the area etc and the the measurement location should be as much as is possible equidistant to those other sources of of ambient sound and then the ambient is subtracted from the total so let's just say just in this case for argument's sake that the the primary source of ambient is a is a major highway let's just i don't know the the numbers of the highways but let's just say it's i-80 for just as an example let's say that you're on a resident's

[02:49:00] property or taking measurements and it consists of uh the uh hvac plus i-80 at a distance of a thousand feet then you would go to another location that's a thousand feet from i-80 get a measurement of i-80 at a thousand feet you have a measurement of hvac plus i-80 to a thousand feet. You would subtract the I-80 out and then you would have just the HVAC alone. Now that's a simple example. It's potentially in some circumstances like we might encounter here in PwC simplistic because there are going to be a number of other sources potentially and that's

[02:49:34] where it becomes complicated. So there is the provisions here are protective. They are enforceable but this is a complex circumstance and each individual enforcement action is going to have to be looked at carefully from that point of view.

[02:49:55] And that's pretty much my presentation. I don't want to overburden people, but I want to give you an overview of what we are doing. All right, thank you very much. For this discussion, because I know it's a very weighty one, two things.

[02:50:14] We are going to suspend the rule so if people have multiple questions, I want them to all be able to be asked. We are going to separate questions from comments because we do need to give direction, But I want to make sure that all of our questions are addressed. So if you want to line up, do get in the queue for your questions.

[02:50:32] We will handle all questions first. And then comments. I see Supervisor Bodie. Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to thank everyone sort of very quickly for all their work on this. Of course, the team here in the county. I appreciate the meetings that we've had with staff since we had this last board discussion.

[02:50:52] I want to thank the two gentlemen online for all their work. So a couple of questions. And I'm actually going to go sort of in order of how it reads on the ordinance itself. Right now, the ordinance that we have has different levels of misdemeanors that are applied to violations of the noise ordinance.

[02:51:13] What's being suggested that we go back to is a class two misdemeanor. Questioning both staff here and the folks online, if there is a violation and it's a class two misdemeanor, who is the county going to go after with that violation madam chair members of the board wade hugh deputy county executive when we previously discussed this it would be whoever is in charge of that facility at that time so similar to we've had recently well probably in the last five years

[02:51:52] we had a grocery store that had some issues with banging of doors and so forth well when the police went out take the reading they go up the assistant manager is the person in charge at that time they're the ones that were cited okay so it'll be who's in charge of the facility at that time correct appreciate that and again just to be clarified is it staff recommendation that we go back to the class two misdemeanor as part of this work that wasn't our record the recommendation and the ordinance that you have currently in place is a class four for the first offense and then class three for subsequent um the board's ask was to come back and have a discussion of

[02:52:27] what the consultants and the dcoag had brought forward and that was keeping a class that was a class two and that's what was in our ordinance prior to the board making this most recent change appreciate that um i want to go back to something that that mr nelson talked about in terms of the the readings and how often to do it during a certain period uh in the current ordinance it's over five minutes and i know it was sort of talked about that it would be 30 second reading but over the course of time wanted mr nelson uh to sort of address that and if there are any concerns that

[02:53:01] if even if it's over a certain period of time 30 seconds isn't that long um so could you address uh how it's proposed here versus other localities you may have worked on and what's sort of the standard when you look at octave bands and how long those measurements take place uh yes um the the interesting thing about this is that we're we're well the ordinance is addressing steady sounds. The description is steady tonal sounds. And so the sound that's under investigation

[02:53:40] is consistently present. And 30 seconds is a good enough read on a continuous sound. One of the reasons for doing it so briefly is to give the person making the measurement the ability to shoot between events. Let's say an airplane flies over, a Harley goes by on the street, birds chirping, somebody's phone goes off. It's amazingly difficult to make measurements

[02:54:16] in an environment that's even moderately quiet. And the quieter you're trying to make a measurement, the harder it gets. So the rationale there is that a brief measurement will give us a good read on the steady sound source and allow us to shoot between interruptions.

[02:54:39] Eric may have more to add. Yes, thank you, David. And further, one of the things, the definition of steady tonal sound says that within any given measurement period, the sound level, in order to qualify as a steady tonal sound and for the limits that are in the steady tonal provision table too, for those to apply,

The sound levels within that measurement period may not fluctuate by more than plus or minus three decibels if it's a steady tone.

[02:55:09] If there's beating, if it's going wah, wah, wah, then it may not fluctuate by plus or minus five. And if you have a five-minute sample, the probability that it will not exceed those limits is extremely small, Especially if you're taking broadband measurements, the probability that a sound will not, some extraneous sound, will not force the min-max range outside of those parameters is extremely small.

[02:55:45] And therefore, the sound will then no longer be subject, will no longer be definable as a steady tonal sound, And then you will have to default back to table one, which is not, which is, we go back to where we were. This would allow us rather than, though the measurement sampling period is shorter, which is, as David said, will allow somebody to go in and take samples in between extraneous noises, or if there is an extraneous noise, to simply restart the meter, to pause the

[02:56:22] meter or restart the meter to collect a clean sample. But the fact that they're collecting replicate samples, three samples, shows that this is an ongoing, repetitive characteristic of the sound emission, that this is not just a random worn-off event. And this is something that in the codes that I've been writing across the United States, which are often just an Lmax, it's a single event but it's it's replicated three in any three samples of a duration of half a minute or longer uh within one hour period so this is this is standard practice full terms of our life

[02:56:59] i have more questions my time is up thank you all right we'll come back to you for round two a little later supervisor la croix wait i'm going to start with you so one of the things that we are hearing non-stop is that this is going to have un un unintentional consequences to our businesses tell me why that's not true we did extensive testing over 50 different locations we tested hospitals we tested schools businesses industrial areas to make sure to your point that

[02:57:38] we didn't have unintended consequences so when we were working with the scale that david had presented that's the scale that we tested against and we felt very confident that we would not now and why do i say that besides just the testing in almost all the cases steady tonal is very unique so a lot of the facilities that you go to show they're going to be noisy but they're going to be outside of steady tonal range so they wouldn't fall under this section of the ordinance but we felt confident that it would not impact those businesses okay and so like Jiffy Lou they don't have to worry if we

[02:58:12] lower it to the measurements that they want and the reason being is they're not steady tonal okay fall under the ordinance that's in place today that has been in place for 30 plus years in terms of the standards okay and the schools they would not again as far as the testing that we did now we tested probably four or five different schools a couple elementaries I think maybe one high school so can I say every school in the county but based on the testing that we did based on the type of noise we feel confident schools will be fine and the hospitals and we tested two hospitals we did UVA the Manassas location and UVA Gainesville

[02:58:51] and they both were fine how about centera we did not test that okay um grocery stores and or uh businesses that are more industrial we did restaurants we did some industrial the um i believe it's sam's junkyard on route 29 and so we tested right up against where uh virginia oaks is located um and again they they met the standards and how about building sites where we have new builds going in? We did test that because early on we talked about construction noise and there was some discussion we were going to put limits on construction noise. The recommendation back to

[02:59:27] the county executive from the team was we did not change that. So again, housing construction would not fall under steady tonal. That's going to fall under the regular ordinance and the construction hours. How about the VRE? We did not specifically test VRE, but in some of the testing we did at great oak even i know david um we recall one time being out there his ears could pick it up we couldn't but he could hear this lower frequency noise that was coming from the locomotive um so we ended up picking it up but it wasn't intentional so this steady tonal noise it has to be steady

[03:00:02] and it's not just about the complaints that come in that are noise ordinance like the music's too loud or something like this it has to be a continuous frequency going okay eric could i ask you a question on this same yes of course can you explain how your recommendation uh noise ordinance update will maintain a reasonable consistent and predictable regulatory environment for existing and future businesses that do not emit continuous 24 7 low frequency tonal noise

[03:00:40] Well, the code is essentially untouched except for the addition of the steady tonal provision measured within, which only applies in residential zoning districts. So if it's not a steady tonal sound, nothing has changed, as Mr. Hugh pointed out.

[03:01:03] So are you saying that if it's not by a school or it's not by a residence, but there's a tonal noise, it's okay, it's not a problem? Is that where you're at? No, I would say that if there is a school or if there is some other facility of that nature that has equipment that emits steady tonal sound, then that provision would apply.

[03:01:32] However, that being said, Mr. Hugh had stated that he has done testing at those facilities and he has, by and large, found that there are no violations at those locations. The other thing I will note is that, as with every other jurisdiction that I know of, and I assume that this is certainly going to be the case in Prince William County, is that investigations are only initiated when there's a complaint.

[03:02:00] And if those schools are not currently subject to complaints, then there's going to be no investigation. No, you know, the county has and their enforcement investigators have better things to do than to go on fishing expeditions around the county.

[03:02:17] I mean, there's any number of frank violations, but they are only found if somebody files a complaint and it's verified by proper measurement. OK, thank you. All right, and if you want to jump back in the queue, I just want to make sure everyone has a chance to ask, you know, first-round questions.

[03:02:37] Supervisor Vega. Thank you, Madam Chair. Wade, I have a quick question for you since you answered Supervisor Bode's question. How long has the county had a Class II misdemeanor option for enforcement on the books? It was in the prior ordinance before the board made this most recent change.

[03:02:55] But historically speaking, aside from this, have we ever had Class II option on the books? That was in the prior ordinance, and I'll say that ordinance has been in place 30-plus years. I'd have to look to the county attorney to see if there's been any change. I think it's 1989, if I'm not mistaken, 80s.

[03:03:13] Madam Chair, members of the board, we did amend it based upon the Virginia Supreme Court case that distinguished that a reasonable person standard was not constitutional, so there was changes to it. I don't know if the violation was changed, though. I don't think it was, and Madam County Attorney, you can correct me if I'm wrong, But the reason why I ask this question is how many people have gone to jail in the last 30-plus years since Class 2 misdemeanor has been an option?

[03:03:42] And I can only speak from the public works side because the police enforce the other side. From our side, none. Okay. That's where I was going with this. And I'm going to get to the enforceability concerns and components here. Just kind of stay with me.

[03:03:58] And so I love the questions that Supervisor LaCroix asked, because one of the main reasons why we decided to come back was because, Madam Chair, you stated that we have new members that were not here for that current DCOAG proposal, and it was important to be able to differentiate the noises that we're talking about, right?

[03:04:17] And so the issue that we have right now and the reason why we know that the current noise ordinance has failed and will continue to fail unless we take corrective action here today is because all of the reports, all of the complaints fall right below the levels, correct?

[03:04:37] And the noise that we're talking about is not your everyday noise, folks. We're not talking about residential noise. We're not even talking about construction noise. we're talking about that steady tone, that humming, okay, that is very clearly picked up by the ear, human ear. Now, I spoke to the chair, and the chair has allowed for me to play one of the recordings that we got from somebody that lives over a mile and a half from the Great Oak community, okay? And I want to play it for my colleagues here on the dais, for people here in chambers, and maybe you won't be able to hear it, but at least I want my colleagues to hear it

[03:05:17] Because it's a very distinct noise.

[03:05:29] It is. I'm sorry. There it goes. My volume was not fully on. Sorry. Here we go. You hear that?

[03:05:45] That's not a school. That's not the VRE. That's not your grocery store. We know what it is. And I made the comments that I made the last time that we had this topic up for debate, for discussion, because I do believe that there is a reasonable way for us to arrive to a practical solution this is the type of noise that is waking my constituents up in the middle of the night this is the type of noise that steady tonal noise that is waking babies up in the middle

[03:06:22] of the night this is not stuff that has been made up i know that we've taken staff has done a phenomenal job taking all of these complaints all of these concerns seriously so how do we as a governing body find a solution to a problem that perhaps was created before our time on the day is That is the challenge that we have here today.

[03:06:41] And so while we will not be taking a vote, we have to give county staff direction, right? For Nelson Acoustics, the representative, I played that because I want to make sure that I'm tracking and I want to ask a very specific question in regards to that specific noise.

[03:07:03] And some of the advice that you gave a few years back with the DCOAG group and some of the comments that you've made here today. And again, tell me if I'm not hearing you correctly, but what I'm hearing is that the octave bands could help isolate the noise source more effectively and possibly capture a perceived noise that can't be measured by the current DBC levels.

[03:07:27] Can you confirm that? Is that interpretation correct? Yes, generally it is correct because let's say I'm in an environment, a suburban environment somewhat near a busy roadway.

[03:07:45] And I make a DBC measurement. I'm going to pick up a lot of the low frequency noise off of the motors of the trucks and whatever. But if there, and I regret, I was not able to hear your recording. So it

might be my hearing or my speakers.

[03:08:02] But generally, if there, it's possible for a, remember that that's an aggregate total and that our ears respond less to low frequencies, and so there could be a lot of low frequency in a measurement, let's say, 60 dBc.

[03:08:19] But there can be a tone in there that's away from the traffic noise that's plainly audible, and by slicing it into octaves, we can isolate that separately. By contrast, you know, if you're making an A-weighted measurement, you could measure a bunch of insect noise, and that could overwhelm the measurement, and otherwise be unable to isolate a particular tone.

[03:08:46] So by slicing it into octave bands, we get better resolution. So I believe your perception on that is correct. Madam Chair, can I close up my point? I know that my time for this run has ran out. Thank you for that, for my colleagues, again, as we continue to have this conversation and hopefully narrow in what our guidance is going to be to county staff.

[03:09:07] The goal is always compliance. I'll give you a quick example. We have already current code violation measures that we use in place, say, for tall grass, for overgrown bamboo, right? The county doesn't come and lay the hammer down right away. We try to work with folks to get them to comply.

[03:09:24] That's what we're trying to do here so that we can alleviate, right, the burden, the frustration that has been caused by this issue to our residents, not just in my district, but countywide. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I hate to chat in, but I have a question.

[03:09:40] because our order on how we're doing is because so as i could talk for three minutes i thought the point is was to ask questions so we listen i know that this is a tough topic in an ideal world we'll get everyone's questions and then their comments i know that this is a charged discussion and especially for supervisor vega whose constituents have been coming to her a lot so we will continue let's continue with our questions we will take further i know because i don't want to have back and forth. I feel like this is a very important topic. Let's continue with questions.

[03:10:18] I have questions. Supervisor Angry. Thanks, Madam Chair. This is not a charge discussion. This is a simple discussion. So either JMT, Nelson Acoustics, or Noise Consultancy, or if anyone can answer this, has there ever been a study, just a direct study on a data center in a closed environment to literally try to find what is this range we're looking for of this decibel on this ordinance. So has anyone ever done just a study of a data center to capture what that range is that we're trying to get to here? A, to capture, is there a problem? And B, if there is, what is

[03:10:58] that range? Have we ever isolated just to simply study a data center to find that range or this low frequency continuous noise? Supervisor Angry, I'm not sure whether, well, whether you're referring to the range of frequencies or the range of levels the range of frequencies being high or low on the piano go ahead sir and really i mean i guess you guys are the experts so

[03:11:32] what i'm trying to find is really that question like we're here discussing data centers that have been in the nation for 20 30 years and just recently it's become a sound issue of frequency So I don't know what we're looking for here.

[03:11:49] So if you can, I think if we can explain what that is we're looking for, it will give us some guidance of what it is we're trying to determine in our ordinance. And I'll say this last thing. I have an issue

with electric cars. And if the world were electric and that little hum that comes off those cars, I hear that.

[03:12:09] And I have tonight, I served in the military. I got a ringing in my head 24-7. But that's a hum that I hear all the time. It literally sounds like what I just heard on your speaker, to tell you the truth. I'm simply just trying to get at what we're trying – what are we trying to get at here? And can someone do a study to understand that before we arbitrarily go after something?

[03:12:29] Because I will say this. If you drop it any lower, you can say that schools aren't a problem, but they could become a problem the lower we get or whichever range we're looking at here. Because someone has homes everywhere, I'm pretty sure of this. Well, let me try to answer your question, sir.

[03:12:46] The recommended levels are based on engineering standards for compatibility of land use. And this is related to noise in general, regardless of the source.

[03:13:02] It's not specific to data centers. Although when we start talking about steady tonal noise, we're talking about industrial sources almost exclusively. These methods of evaluation have been in place in various forms for 70 years.

[03:13:22] And so there's some background to it, quite a bit of background to it, to tell us what kinds of things are likely to be acceptable in a residential environment. And acceptable is always a statistical thing. You can have some people happy and some people not happy.

[03:13:40] And so a lot of that is addressed in the basis and background document. But so to try to answer your question, you know, the frequency range is pretty well established and acceptable levels that are appropriate for residential communities are also pretty well established.

[03:13:58] The octave band recommendations that I have given are part of ongoing research that's being done in the U.S. and in Europe and has been ongoing for 20 or 30 years, I would say. And it's still ongoing.

[03:14:15] There's a big need for that. And one of the things that you pointed out is that data centers have been here for 20 to 30 years, and that's obviously a true statement. But the scale of the data centers has become rapidly quite a bit greater.

[03:14:31] It's not that the rooftop equipment is any significantly different than it has been. It's just that there's now quite a bit more power concentrated in an extremely small area, which creates higher sound pressure levels nearby than we've ever seen from data centers before.

[03:14:50] And thank you, sir, because I only got 30 seconds on, so I hate to cut you off. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. And that power, that last thing you mentioned about power, one thing that wasn't discussed and I'm curious about is if you go down Paisley and you see those 100-foot power lines, they have a steady hum on them.

[03:15:05] Did we test that? Is that anything in what we're looking at here? Because that's continuous, and you can hear that. It's louder during rain, but you can definitely hear that hum. I'm not aware. We did not test any of that hum. No, sir.

[03:15:23] And if I may, Supervisor, I agree. So correct, David. We did not test as part of our work, but I know as part of, I think, the 19 complaints that we recently had, and I'd have to look to cool time, but I think one of them was related to power lines. So we did do some readings there, but we didn't do enough thorough testing.

[03:15:38] And the other thing I'd have to double check is I'm not sure on exemptions or certain things under the ordinance exempt. Not sure if utility lines are or not. All right, thank you. I'm going to jump in real quick. First of all, since you parked next to me in the back, I'm sorry for the sound my electric car makes.

[03:15:54] I love that little whirl. I love the little toy-like sound that they make. That was one of the things I liked most about it. So to follow up, one of the questions I talked about last time was about finding an offender and the whole impact of cumulative noise.

[03:16:14] So I don't know if we have anyone from Commonwealth Attorney's Office, but I just want to know if there's anything the law says about cumulative noise sources where there might be, where there may not be one offender. I don't know if anyone can answer that because that's the big thing.

[03:16:31] And I know it was already said that finding the source can be difficult, but what if we have two data centers that may be on their own, or any industrial, I shouldn't discriminate, any industrial building, We have two. Maybe on their own, they are not going over the limits, but together, how do we handle that situation?

[03:16:53] Madam Chair, members of the board, currently the Virginia law, if there's going to be a noise violation, it's a single source. It does not allow for the cumulative effect of multiple sources. It has to be individually above or below the level. I appreciate the clarification. Thank you so very much.

[03:17:10] My question for staff, are the resources appropriated in the FY27 budget still sufficient if we look at a more stringent Nori's ordinance? And should we be considering something else as we're going into the next budget cycle to make sure that you have what you need?

[03:17:28] Should we go in the direction of a more stringent ordinance? Based on the resources that we had asked for last fall, which would have married up with the ordinance that we brought forward, And part of the reason that we had our recommendation to give us a little more time in this, I know the board adopted the ordinance last October.

[03:17:48] It became effective in May. So at this point in time, we're a year in. We had challenges hiring staff. We're fortunate that we have Kooltai with us. But we went through several iterations to get an acoustics engineer. Kooltai joined us in July? August.

[03:18:04] So he's really just getting his feet wet in terms of getting out in the field, learning Prince William County, working with the ordinance. And so sitting here today, one, we haven't done any real work with this lower-level ordinance with Kultai to get his comfort level.

[03:18:21] So that's why we are wanting a little more time to let him get familiar with the county, let him test, maybe come up with some of his own recommendations on some tweaks. But I would say sitting here today to answer your specific question, today I would say we're fine on resources. We'll know more once we get some more experience as time goes on.

[03:18:37] All right, thank you so very much. I have a few more people. I just want to let everyone know. I'm going to call everyone who has first-round questions and then go back to people who have already asked their first round. So thank you for your patience. Supervisors Bodie and LaCroix. I'm going to go to Bailey and Stewart. Okay, so one of the questions that I had was what you just asked, Madam Chair.

[03:18:59] Thank you, Wade, for just letting us know that we have enough resources. We probably just need to dig a little bit deeper and going in the direction of finalization. So, Koltai, if you could, please, I have a question for you.

[03:19:17] First of all, we just want to thank you for saying yes to Prince William County for being our subject matter expert on board because when we first started this, we did not have, we had industry support, Eric, and we thank you so much for being with us tonight.

[03:19:36] We have Prince William County subject matter experts to pair and partner with Wade and the group. So just thank you for saying yes. That's what I mean in a long-winded way. But what's your assessment, overall assessment, in terms of the direction that we're going in to assure that we are protecting our citizens the best that we can?

[03:19:59] From what I've seen thus far, there are several measures in place to help us target the goal, target what we want to do and what we want to avoid. There are things in place, and that's a conversation I'm waiting out of going to continue to have, that will keep a lot of undesirable consequences from happening.

[03:20:23] And there is some room to go. There are a lot of questions that need to be addressed that aren't quite hit on the head. And I think just the cumulative approach of looking at all these different things, and including those things, will help us really hit a home run. But we're going in a good direction.

[03:20:40] And there is movement, and I think continual movement in the direction that we're going will be beneficial for everybody. So time frame, what does that look like in terms of going in the right direction?

[03:20:55] Can you give us some kind of clue in terms of the direction that we're going? Because we want to get it right for all citizens across the county. And the other question I had is how much testing have we done on the eastern corridor?

[03:21:11] That's important also as we're making this final decision because I'm very sensitive to what's going on on the western part of the county. And that's where a lot of the power lines are. That's where a lot of the data centers are. That's where a lot of industry, industrial, is.

[03:21:27] But what does that look like all-encompassing? Because we want to, for an old ordinance that has been there, old, vintage, archival, dust, the whole thing, and we're investing a lot of the citizens' money. where do we go in direction of this in terms of making sure that we're accurate, particularly with something, the example that Supervisor Vega just brought to us.

[03:21:53] That's important for us to know. So it does not become anything but a good community decision. That's important. Understood. Time-wise, I have been adopting the timeframes and the milestones that have been around me.

[03:22:11] And so this is a one-year anniversary. The May anniversary is one year of the actual application of the ordinance going into effect. I'm piggybacking on those. I would say that, so those are appropriate timelines. I would say that the work in between the timelines don't need to be all or nothing.

[03:22:32] So the quick answer is I think, you know, between now and May should be sufficient time to get information. And what do you mean all or nothing? Could you be more specific? I don't want to come back in May and have all the answers. I want to be interactive with the team and everybody who supports me up

from between me and yourself and yourselves between now and then on an ongoing basis to tweak things so that by the time we get to a time like May, we will have all these questions answered and these things can be incorporated.

[03:23:04] Because a lot of what I've been doing has been chasing reports and I haven't had the time to really lay out and execute a methodology to really be the basis of what everybody was interested in. To what Mr. Nelson and Mr. Zwerling have said, this stuff has been around for a while, and there is an idea on how to address it.

[03:23:28] There needs to be some time. The resources haven't been as limiting so far, but some time to actually execute the ideas. And without that, I can be a little scattered. I think my department, the Public Works Department, can be a little scattered. And so with a clear goal and a clear methodology, we can have all the questions answered by May.

[03:23:50] I just wouldn't wait until May 1st to present them all. Thank you. I'll come back with my second question. My time is up. All right. Thank you so much. We are going to go to Supervisor Stewart, then Bodie, and LaCroix.

[03:24:06] If anyone else wants to jump in, I see you, Bailey. Please jump in queue now. Thank you. To our sound engineer, sorry to have you keep coming back and forth. Just to ask a quick question, because you said that we need time to figure it out.

[03:24:23] The work that's done by Zwirling and Nelson, has that not already figured it out? I mean, don't we already have the findings of their report that could be implemented instead?

[03:24:43] Because what I'm looking at here, and I appreciate Supervisor Vega's plea earlier about, yes, the Coles District. There's also the Brentsville District. There's also the Gainesville District all being affected by this.

[03:25:01] I also have people coming to my office, and I have gone to their homes and heard data centers at night. And I've spoken independently to these two gentlemen before, and is there something that's missing?

[03:25:24] Because I don't see where there's anything that's missing in their report to immediately address this. My review of the – a couple things. I've been reviewing the reports and the ordinances, and I have my own suggestions for the ordinance vertigins.

[03:25:41] I've added definitions and kind of corrected some semantics and things of that nature. To Mr. Nelson's point, I haven't really come up with any final answers or final numbers as like, you know, this is a number that's going to solve all the problems.

[03:25:58] One, because that needs to be approached with delicacy. Also, because that's not the goal. So their work has been significant and is sufficient. Their work has not been totally comprehensive in how to address the entire ordinance and how it all applies within Prince William County.

[03:26:18] And so as, excuse me, am I mixed up between Mrs. Rowling and Mr. Nelson? They had a narrow focus, and that's the uptick, the super rapid uptick of data centers and facilities like that. And that's been the focus of that.

[03:26:34] And the research that they've done has been sound. Okay, now if we're changing a noise ordinance or we're adjusting a noise ordinance, how does everything else fit into it, and how does it fit

Prince William? And that can include some standard operating protocol for me, people like me, my staff, and my teammates, to really provide some expectability and consistency to the residents who have complaints about things.

[03:27:05] Got it, because what I know what they were tasked with was to come up with something specifically for Prince William County, something bespoke. And, you know, it seems like they've done exactly that. But now you're saying that that's not the case? There's some context that I have that they don't have. And I have spoken to them with that. So I'm not in, I don't think that I am in, I'm not, I am in line with what they've said. And I'm not changing what they said. Obviously, there's some details that can be

[03:27:44] addressed that aren't hasn't been a topic of all the conversation and those are the type of things that if we just like speak them out and talk them out and we could really get an understanding of where they go and how they go i could give an example if necessary yes please i don't want to offend anybody's time yes please um my supervisor uh frank cassidy and myself were sat with the dcoag this past friday and listened to some of the concerns that they had and we all understood they were valid some of the things a lot of things i've heard before and a lot of it was some new information. One thing that I mentioned, I made a point to mention it was that their

[03:28:20] concerns, there was one concern about existing facilities versus new facilities. And however the question was asked, I stated the difference between an ordinance and a planning document. A lot of what their concerns were had to do with general plans, planning, and how to vet things that are coming in that have yet to come in. And I told them that ordinance is one thing and a planning document is another thing. And so we have a strategic plan. And And I've looked into it a little bit, and there is room to incorporate noise into that, potentially.

[03:28:55] So that's an example of just ordinance is one thing, and that's what we've been talking about. Planning is something else. And so those are the things, that's an example of one thing that Mr. Zorling and Mr. Nelson have not looked at. Okay, got it.

[03:29:11] Because if one has an ordinance, wouldn't you plan to build your data center around that existing ordinance? My opinion is that a general plan will create an ordinance. Gotcha. I'll have to loop back around. My time is running out.

[03:29:27] All right. Supervisor Bode, let loose. Sure. Thank you, Madam Chair. So to go back to one of the slides you all had up, and it's also in the basis and background for the noise ordinance, you all cited Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Warrington, and one of the slides talks about those localities.

[03:29:47] It's my understanding, though, that those jurisdictions, although they have adopted octave bans in planning to the point, They don't currently use them as enforcement. They're on the books, but they don't enforce them that way. Can you all here, but also on the line, explain why they may no longer do so if that's the case?

[03:30:11] This is David Nelson. I'm aware that Oregon does not enforce at this moment according to those standards. But the impression I had is that from talking to the people who were involved in it is that there was a significant compliance.

[03:30:28] But most of the industrial sources had gotten so used to the levels over the years that compliance had become part of normal business practice. That's just an impression from one conversation.

[03:30:44] Other than that, I don't have more information for you. And according to my research, other localities, even the ones that have been close to us and other parts of the Commonwealth, had octave bands in their noise ordinances but repealed them and have gone to either A-weighting or C-weighting.

[03:31:01] Can you explain why they may have done that? I couldn't comment on their particular reasons for doing so. It's a simpler measurement to make. There's two numbers or one number to chase rather than six or seven.

[03:31:19] But there's a tradeoff for that that I don't know whether they considered the tradeoff and loss of control of the shape of the spectrum. Hey, Dave, let me, this is Eric Zwirling. Let me step in here for a second. First of all, let me just say that I know for a fact that New Jersey and New York City, for that matter, do enforce their octoband measurements. I trained in both jurisdictions, and I know that, and I've looked over, seen noise enforcement programs, excuse me, field exercise, field reports that have octobands in them.

[03:31:56] And let me explain to you why broadband measurements, Dave alluded to this, actually not alluded, he stated this. Let me explain why a broadband measurement in this circumstance may very well be problematic. When you take a broadband measurement, either A scale or C scale, it measures all the frequencies simultaneously at once. And there may be a vehicle that's passing, yes, traffic off in the distance, but also in the summer when there is a heat load on the building, as Dave mentioned. There are crickets, there are cicadas, there are spring peepers, and those are

[03:32:33] all heavily at 2,000, 4,000, 8,000 hertz, and they can overwhelm the low frequency sound that is coming from a data center. When you take a total measurement, that total measurement is going to consist of low frequency data center plus high frequency summer insect. Then when you take an ambient measurement it's going to still be full of low high frequency insects and when you subtract one from the other you will get nothing you will have an unenforceable circumstance whereas if you

[03:33:08] then if you take your sound level measurement uh in august when the heat load is highest on the building and and the equipment may be operating at its highest level i don't know i haven't done a study to determine whether the sound emissions from my facility are related also to heat load on the building but presumably it's so but i acknowledge that i don't know for certain that at that time when you're taking those measurements you could easily have a circumstance when measured with octobands you find the distinction a weighted or c weighted broadband measurements you don't you do find you don't find that distinction i have taken exactly that

[03:33:45] measurement in new jersey uh 20 years ago when there was a a refrigeration factory all all the crickets were up at two and four thousand hertz the factory was down at 125 hertz a weighted measurements did not find a measure an exceedance the low frequency was predominant you could feel the low frequency and i took the measurements on the octa bands and was able to show the distinction and was able to issue a notice of violation on that basis now the one of the reasons why some jurisdictions may not do it is yes it does take a little bit more effort but in the the course that

[03:34:22] that I've been teaching for 35 years at Rutgers University, I train octoband analysis. It is not that much more complicated. I've taken parking attendants in Hoboken and trained them how to do octoband analysis. You certainly have staff on, you're a cool type, could certainly, he does already, I'm sure. Octoband analysis is not that difficult to do. I have a couple more questions.

[03:34:48] My time is up. Thank you. Okay, go. All right. Thank you for that. So you actually just touched on something i was going to ask about um and this goes back to staff also probably when you all were doing your readings for last year um was the readings for year long or was it only in the fall or winter it was actually year-round we started doing some testing in the fall of 23 and then we continued through the winter months the summer months we actually found to the the comments that they've made about the insects that summer was challenging with crickets and locusts and so

[03:35:25] forth so it was year-round. So to that fact and what Mr. Zerling said during the summer months did you notice when you were isolating the sound coming from facilities that there were there was an escalation of noise because they may have been running longer or more intensely because of the heat? I'm sure that played some some factor in it because you know the equipment's running harder just to cool everything down as we were testing but the ancillary noises kind of back to with the summer months just we would even find some of the stormwater ponds around some of these commercial facilities with frogs even trying to get readings and that's where the expertise comes in because

[03:36:04] when i would i couldn't pick separate on the octaves but i was able to send the information to david and he could kind of tease out and say well this is the insect piece here's what we're actually looking at for the the commercial facility itself okay i appreciate that and then My other question goes towards the sort of what you were talking about, Mr. Zwirling, around the differences and the nuances of complexity or simplicity of measuring these things.

[03:36:35] You all, you've taught a course, you're teaching courses, and so I respect and I appreciate that. As you have trained folks and they've gone to the field to actually take measurements, And you said you were able to issue a violation using the octave bands as your basis. Have you ever come into situations where judges have resisted?

[03:36:55] Can you talk about that a little bit? Well, I mean, obviously, in any given situation, first of all, let me just explain that I am not, per se, an enforcement officer. That when I come in, I either train in my capacity as a director of the Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center, which is not the capacity I'm appearing here.

[03:37:15] I've trained every enforced officer in New Jersey and all across the United States, probably 10,000 people in the last 35 years. When I go out and take measurements, I'm taking it as a consultant, and I don't per se issue notices of violation. But in every court case I've ever been in, people are trying to break my measurements.

[03:37:36] That's the job of a defense attorney and possibly when they hire an expert witness on the other side. It is the job, though, of the person taking the measurements and the people who I train to make sure that those measurements are taken with complete technical authority, that they take it properly because they're going to be challenged every part of their measurement.

[03:38:00] The validity of it is going to be challenged. And in the case here in Virginia, unfortunately, it's criminal. And the evidentiary level is going to be even higher. So, you know, the measurements have to be taken with attention to detail.

[03:38:18] It's, you know, the meters have to be proper. The meter has to be laboratory certified annually. It has to be, the field calibration checks must be done. The weather conditions must be appropriate. I

mean, and that's, it doesn't matter whether he's measuring A scale or C scale or octave bands, whatever it is.

[03:38:38] measurements must be taken just like breathalyzer or radar. You're using technology to collect data that's going to be challenged in court relative to the pockets of the litigant that's on the other side. And these are some deep pocket litigants. Appreciate that. My last question, Madam Chair. Thank you for giving me a little bit of extra time. You all cited the World Health Organization as part of the basis for your research and some of the levels that you reached.

[03:39:08] and again understood, and I respect the fact that you'll get human health as the foundation of this. At the same time, the World Health Organization recommended nighttime level of 40 DBA, for example, and we're not there necessarily in some of these districts.

[03:39:26] How do you reconcile those guidelines with the real-world conditions of our communities, whereby it looks like for octave bands, you're using the levels, you know, using WHO as your basis and your foundation. But for other, like to Mr. Kool-Tai's point earlier, holistically looking at the ordinance, we're not using that as foundational throughout the entire ordinance necessarily.

[03:39:51] So could you speak to that a little bit? The WHO 30 DBA indoors at night was just a reference point that showed up in the basis and background document, just to calm concerns about whether the ordinance proposed levels were low enough to protect the ability to sleep.

[03:40:16] The rest of the octave band data is not based on WHO. It's based at least in part on engineering standards and some older guidelines that relate to human perception is where the shapes of those octave band curves come from.

[03:40:35] The WHO does say that 45 dBA outdoors at night for traffic noise is the acceptable limit. And beyond that limit, that there can be health effects. And I know from making measurements in Prince William County and in many, many other locations around the country that levels can be higher than that.

[03:41:00] And that's just a fact of life. And one thing that we haven't discussed yet is that Mr. Zwirling helped put into the ordnance some of the methods that he's developed for isolating sounds.

[03:41:16] And one of the things you have to do is to try to make a measurement with and without the sound source under investigation. And if the level doesn't change by more than three decibels, then you can't enforce on that basis because it's not considered a clean acoustical measurement.

[03:41:34] And what that means in practice is that in areas that are already, let's say, 50 DBA and whatever the octoband spectrum is that goes with that that's based on traffic noise or whatever else that's relevant at night, that's the de facto criteria.

[03:41:52] So we're not asking areas, parts of the community that are already, quote unquote, too loud to suddenly become silent or for someone to put a facility in there that is silent in an area that's already noisy and that that may that may address it somewhat to to your question thank you I'm going to go to supervisor LaCroix thank you I just want to take a minute to thank Wade for spending an inordinate amount of time on the phone educating me on the

[03:42:30] past the present and thank you for that Mr. Kultai I cannot wait to be working with you And gentlemen, thank you for coming tonight and trying to educate us. The reason that this ordinance is so important, it is to protect the health and welfare of our constituents.

[03:42:52] And I know the penalties are criminal. And I know that there's no medical doctors here tonight, or maybe there are. But what are some of the effects that exposure to this steady tonal noise have on the people? So if we don't do something about it, because they're coming out of the woodwork saying, this is really hard on me, it's hard on my family, there's kids that are suffering that have issues with noises, babies are waking up at night.

[03:43:25] So this is a big deal for us. We're hearing from both businesses and from these families. What is the health risk that we're trying to protect? are citizens from? David, could you answer that? Yeah, I'll take a stab at that. Thank you.

[03:43:46] It's difficult to do direct epidemiological studies because we're not comfortable putting people in boxes and then subjecting them to sounds and watching for significant health effects.

[03:44:02] Sure. So a lot of this is indirect. But just the way when I'm teaching about these issues, I emphasize a couple of things. I mean, the first issue is the ability to sleep, okay? If you can't sleep, you're going to have medical issues. And so, to the extent that the sound is capable of waking you up, that's a first-order problem. When you wake up, how soon you get back to sleep is not just related to the sound level, it's also related to this whole experience that people have,

[03:44:39] I was like, what was, how did this sound come about? How was it, how was it, how did it come about? Do I feel like I got a fair say in how it went about, right? And so there's all this experiential stuff.

[03:44:56] You know, do I, how do I feel about it? How's it, what is it, if it's effect on me, maybe my home properties value or something like that. So then people lay awake at night and ruminate on this. And the longer you ruminate, the more health issues you have.

[03:45:14] And then there are things online where you can go online and people will tell you, well, there's a silent killer in your house and the noise is going to have extremely serious problems. You're going to harden your arteries or something like that. And I feel like a lot of that is overblown.

[03:45:32] But if people believe that, then they have even more stress. So one of the biggest effects that I'm aware of is just stress. And there are a number of ways to induce stress on people. But the main issue, the main issue from my perspective is the ability to sleep.

[03:45:49] Okay. And I should say also, I'm not a medical person. And what you just heard is the 50 cent lecture that goes with a lot of years of hearing about this. Sure.

[03:46:05] Mr. Zorling, do you have a response? Well, yes. First, let me just say that David's points are all very, very well taken. the stress-related impacts are significant or they can be significant. There are biochemical, physiological, and psychological impacts of noise. Stress can elicit all sorts of biochemical responses, such as the release of cortisol. The release of cortisol in the human body can result in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, all sorts of impacts.

[03:46:43] You did also point out, though, that, you know, a lot of the tests are, we don't have epidemiologic data specifically at the levels that people are being, at least not that I know of, that are being exposed at the levels inside as a result of data centers at low levels.

[03:47:01] But the noise-induced stress, the deprivation of sleep, there's a whole cascade of negative effects resulting from a lack of sleep. People's inability to perform well at work the next day, their inattentiveness.

[03:47:18] I've seen relationships that are, when people are stressed, they unfortunately sometimes take it out on each other inside the house. I've seen very stressed relationships as a result of it. I've seen people move as a result of exposure to an unregulated noise source.

[03:47:35] There's a whole host of impacts. Thank you. All right. I'm sorry, go on. I might just add two things. well, one anyway. There's a known correlation between traffic noise and property values. There is a negative correlation. It's about the studies I've looked at, anywhere from one to one and a half percent property value with a DBA of increase in traffic noise, which means that some of the people who can afford to move do move. So they must object to that level. And what that means,

[03:48:14] I don't know. The other problem is with when the WHO says 30 dBA inside the house is what's appropriate for proper sleep. That's based on traffic noise, okay? So, they're assuming the whole spectrum of traffic noise, which does include a lot of low-frequency sound, but the A-weighted measurement tends to ignore that. And so, if we're dealing with a sound that's significantly different in its construction, if you will, from traffic noise,

[03:48:47] then it's possible that that 30 dBA really should be lower. And that's another reason for going to octave bands is to try to zero in on those contributions at low frequencies that wouldn't show up on the meter when maybe they should. Thank you. I apologize for interrupting. Thank you.

[03:49:07] All right. I know I want to be mindful of time. I know that Supervisor LaCroix does have another engagement. So I want to hear from you first if there's for comments, for discussion, if you have anything for discussion that you would like to say. You do not. Is there any additional questions?

[03:49:26] Not comments. I see everyone backed off. Any additional questions? I see no additional QUESTIONS. PLEASE STICK AROUND TO OUR EXPERTS IN CASE SOMETHING COMES UP. I AM NOW GOING TO OPEN THIS UP FOR DISCUSSION. SUPERVISOR BODY.

[03:49:46] THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. AGAIN, APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK THAT'S BEEN DONE BY EVERYONE HERE AND APPRECIATE THE GENTLEMEN ON THE LINE FOR HEARING OUR QUESTIONS. APPRECIATE COALTIE. AGAIN, AS BAILEY SAID, WELCOME A BOARD. YOU GOT DROPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN YOUR HANDS DIRTY WITH ALL OF THIS. LAST YEAR THE BOARD was asked to consider what would have been the most strict noise ordinance in at least the Commonwealth, if not several states, if not the nation. I wasn't alone in having real concerns about where that would take us and the enforceability unintended impacts on public facilities and businesses and propose an alternative. And the city of Chesapeake cited our noise ordinance that

[03:50:26] we adopted last year as the most stringent in the Commonwealth. I'm not saying that means mission accomplished, but it's still a mark by which we're taking into the process of this. I also completely respect the desire that exists for a stricter approach, and I'm willing to see where that takes us through many of the concerns and comments that folks have said, but some of my concerns remain the same.

[03:50:49] I think that, as was said before, one of the things that sort of gives me heartburn about this is the penalties. Now, agreed to the conversation that was had earlier by Suarez of Vega, it hasn't been used right to jail anyone but we're now going to be instituting if we go through with this a more stricter noise orange that will affect the entire county not just data centers it'll affect the entire county and i don't think that we should be in a place where even if it's not the intention that folks should face jail time or anything

like that especially knowing that as was said earlier you're going to be going after whoever is in charge of the facility at the time not the engineer that

[03:51:28] engineered the facility, not the folks that installed the AC systems, and certainly not Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, or Sam Altman, or anyone else. They'll go after the folks that have had probably no hand in the construction of the building or how it functions. That said, obviously there's still real concerns that are out there. My feeling on that is we definitely have a lot of room where we should not only be talking about the ordinance itself,

[03:51:57] But as it's implemented, right, there has to be a clear, as was said, path to compliance that's very well documented, applied fairly and evenly, no matter who the violator might be, whether they're a Fortune 500 company or a mom and pop shop. And we need to be very clear that the point of this ordinance, again, is to help protect folks from noise, no matter where it's coming from, not go after one industry just because it's the current one that's causing the outcry.

[03:52:25] And I don't think, again, I don't think our success here will be measured by how strict the orange is on paper, but by whether it delivers meaningful relief to the people who need it. Thank you, Madam Chair. All right, Supervisor Stewart. Thank you, Madam Chair. So I just have a list of things that I've been writing here.

[03:52:42] So we're not talking about putting anybody in stripes or making orange the new black. And how this works is because I've been working closely with the DCOAG, former DCOAG, about this. The way that this is written is to give entities, in this case data centers, time to come in line.

[03:53:06] And if they miss the deadline, like let's say it's a year, but they have shown that they have made progress and that they are making continued progress, okay, we'll move the goalposts again. The idea is to bring the sound to where it needs to be, not to have anybody go to jail.

[03:53:23] It's been 30 years still, and nobody's gone to jail. We don't have to worry about schools, supermarkets, restaurants, and anything like that because they are not making 24-hour continual noise. To give an example of that, and I'm going to circle back to that because the sound is in the room right now.

[03:53:38] All right. So, yeah, and so that speaks also to, you know, as Supervisor LaCroix brought up, this thing about unintended consequences. This is surgical. There are no unintended consequences because it goes after facilities that only make a constant 24-hour day, 24-hour day, seven-day-a-week, 365, 366 on leap year sound, okay?

[03:54:04] Studies. There are ongoing studies. There are dozens of studies that are going on globally. Data centers today are not the data centers of yesterday when we were all getting AOL CDs in the mail, right? My key fob is a data center. My tablet is a data center.

[03:54:20] my thumb drive is a data center. Those are different than something that is now like a data center campus where we have thousands of servers with these little fans going 24 hours a day that are constantly emitting a sound. Those fans shut off. That's it. Data center broken.

[03:54:37] All right. So there's that other piece. All right. Looking at the clock. All right. Here we go. There's a book, Architectural Acoustics Illustrated, by Michael Ehrman, to talk about, to just address the health effects.

[03:54:57] So I want everybody to take a moment and just listen. There's noise in here. Imagine that you have to listen to that at 2 o'clock in the morning when you're trying to sleep.

[03:55:13] This is why we have residents in Prince William County that now live in their basements, all right, in three separate districts. We know in this book the scholastic outcomes for students.

[03:55:32] Now, I don't know if this particular sound is coming from, I want to make sure I get this right, where the remote, so remote fan and compressor, they're not in the room. That's the quietest one. Fan in the room, not as quiet, but it's getting louder.

[03:55:51] Fan and compressor in the room, you have schools where fans and compressors are in the room. Studies have shown lower scholastic performance by students that go to schools with the fan and the compressor in the room. Now, this noise here, I don't know if the fan and the compressor are in the room, but we have sound here.

[03:56:10] Schools where those, however, are not in the room have much higher scholastic outcomes. So we know, and that's just an example taken from this book when it comes to like architectural studies. And these students are not subjected to this noise 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Monday to Friday, 930 to 4, when they're trying to learn.

[03:56:32] And they have worse academic outcomes, right? The school that you, the building you step into for academic achievement, depending on how that building is designed, is going to have a very high determinant outcome on basically how life goes because of your education.

[03:56:57] So, you know, just to recap, we're not trying to send anybody to jail. We're trying to bring an industry, and yeah, it is a specific industry. 30 years ago, data centers didn't exist in this current form, but they're here now, and they make the noise that they make, and we need to do something about it because our residents, our kids, everybody, our pets, everybody is at risk for this.

[03:57:18] And I, for one, would love to see something be done about this and a real proactive approach that is enforceable. Thank you. All right, Supervisor Vega. Thank you, Madam Chair. I first off want to start off by thanking everybody.

[03:57:35] The team here that works for the county, the experts that partook in this process with the DCO AGM group. Welcome, Mr. Kultai. I appreciate your time. You reached out to our office and we had a good conversation in regards to your job and how you want to move forward in regards to attacking this challenging issue that we have.

[03:57:57] While it is an issue, I believe that there's opportunity for us to correct that issue. Whenever there's a problem, that just means that there's opportunity for us to find a solution and fix it. I want to be very clear, Madam Chair, we're being asked here today that county staff is seeking guidance from the board.

[03:58:15] The main focus of my ask and my guidance, and I want to be very clear about this, is to address the steady tonal noises that people in this county have been experiencing. You know, I met with folks in the industry, surprisingly on election day during my lunch break, and we had a really good conversation about the noise ordinance.

[03:58:39] And I think that it's important to share this with the public, because oftentimes you only get the one side right. You read in the paper, everybody's so angry, folks in the industry are just evil and mean-

spirited people. But I truly want to share with you all that that couldn't be further from the truth.

[03:58:56] Supervisor Bodie's concerns about, well, who's going to go to jail? It's not going to be, right, the person at the top that's going to be negatively impacted. It's going to be a regular employee showing up to work one day and something is not working properly. I say all of that because that context matters in regards to this conversation.

[03:59:12] It's important. What I took away from that meeting that I had with this particular member of industry is that did not deny the fact that we have a problem. Did not deny the fact that we can work together to make it right, right, to still be able to function and do business in the county while adhering to the concerns that have been raised by our constituents.

[03:59:34] That is the epitome of the definition of coexisting, right? How do we figure it out and how do we get it right? So, Madam Chair, I have three recommendations that I want to make. I don't know how you want to handle this. Whether, you know, we debate the three and say I want this or that, I'll leave that up to you.

[03:59:52] But the first is I want for the county, for staff, you know, to establish enforceable octave band threshold informed by the actual sound levels documented during constituent noise complaints with limits designed to address the industrial noise disturbances residents are experiencing.

[04:00:14] That's my first ask. My second ask is that we establish a clear compliance process that provides notice and a reasonable opportunity for corrective action before penalties are imposed while preserving appropriate enforcement authority.

[04:00:32] That key matters, Supervisor Bodhi, because I know that you were really focused on the we don't want to put people in jail but we also want to make sure that whatever amendment we bring to this ordinance actually has teeth to it right and so we're willing to work with folks give them the opportunity to comply but at the same time we reserve that right right to enforce non-compliance and three i've kind of already went into this is include meaningful enforcement provisions for first and subsequent subsequent offenses what with consequences for continued or repeated

[04:01:04] not compliance. I am confident that we are going to get folks who are going to work with us to make sure that they're in compliance. Folks in the business community don't want to cause additional hardships to folks in this county. They want to get it right. And again, the history and the context matters. The door was opened. I don't think that the county was prepared for the rush that we've experienced but that's not here nor there we're here now and it's our responsibility to fix it

[04:01:38] and correct mistakes of the past and i am happy madam chair to um either further dive into the three um suggestions that i'm making for county staff and hear what the rest of the board has to say so i wish i would have put you in the end because i know i already had people on cue but i'm just going to jump in for a second because i know staff has been working on an updated ordinance and part of the issue that we have here is we as a board have not really been able to gather to dive into this more meaningfully i want to take your considerations what you're saying into consideration

[04:02:12] i also want to see what staff um we just received a staff draft it was not included in the agenda packet because the board needs to review it first we need to have time to review and it would have been you know Mr. Shorter said it would have been unfair to us to make it public no so let me I want to be so

just to be transparent the the ordinance that I sent out yesterday is not new and it's not one that is a working document that staff is currently working on it was the prior the prior

[04:02:46] iteration and so I think what we heard tonight from Coltai is what additional time and it seems like it may sort of line up, Supervisor Vega, depending on what time frame you are thinking about, may line up with your recommendations, that what additional, an additional six months, what may would offer us is an ability for Coltai to do more testing with the team.

[04:03:15] It would also give him and us an ability to review the current ordinance and come back to the board with an actual recommendation based on, you know, sort of his ability to actually go through it with this team. And it would also give us an ability to actually work through some compliance or processing related to compliance and enforcement.

[04:03:38] I don't know if, again, that is your timeline, but if it is, it certainly lines up with what I heard from the team this afternoon in terms of their desire. All right, I'm going to let Supervisor Vega go, then I will. That was the only piece that I left out of my comments.

[04:03:55] I want to be reasonable, and I want to really adhere to what staff is telling. But at the same time, I need for everyone to help each other. It's been a long time coming. To ask that this board allocate another six months to this issue when it's been lingering since 2023, in my opinion, is unconscionable.

[04:04:20] And I don't support that. We have the data. we have the reports we have two meetings in january january 20th i don't understand why why why delay it further and and i'm happy sorry mr shorter i'm happy you know to even talk about the possibility of you know if if we're seeing issues if it's not working that we come back and we figure it out but to just keep saying you know we need more time and more time and more time what happens

[04:04:54] after the six months, are we then going to hear that we need more time? At some point, we have to take action. We know that the current one is not working. It's clear that it's not. So how do we make it right for the residents of this county? Well, I'll say I don't want to speak for...

[04:05:12] I know that people are really frustrated, but I'm going to ask for decorum. Mr. Shorter. Sure. I do not want to speak for staff in terms of the time that would be needed to actually go back and make staff recommendations on changes to the ordinance. Now, what I will say is that from a compliance and enforcement perspective, the procedural sort of or administrative and operational processes that we would need to go through in terms of how we go out and test if there is a complaint, I do think we could probably come back sooner than later with those kinds of procedural matters.

[04:05:51] The idea of actually going back through the ordinance and doing it in enough time to meet our dispatch requirements, we're talking 30 days.

[04:06:10] We are dispatching the January board meeting agenda by late December, early January. So it does not give us a lot of time. I don't, again, want to speak for staff. I don't know, Wade, if you want to talk a bit more about what we would need to do.

[04:06:29] Thank you, Mr. Shorter. So maybe what I would recommend would be now that once the board's had their conversation, if we land on the three points that Supervisor Vega made, we could very quickly, within a week or so, kind of come up with a game plan and a timeline because as we look at each of those pieces to say here's how long it'll take Because I think to Mr. Shorter's point, to come to the board

January 20th, we're probably actually finalizing reports and so forth by end of December before the holidays, which really means we've got three weeks to kind of pull everything together.

[04:07:01] So we can quickly get a timeline, share the timeline with the board, and see if that's acceptable. essentially what that means is taking the three recommendations, Supervisor Vega, that you've laid out, absent what feedback we might be getting back from the rest of your seatmates, and come back to the board with a recommendation on an actual timeline based on these three recommendations, not providing that timeline this evening.

[04:07:31] Madam Chair, if I may, could we tentatively commit to that through the January 20th? Madam Chair. Hold on. We have a lot. I'm sorry. We have a lot of people who want to jump in, and I'm going to get to everyone in queue.

[04:07:51] I want to show you, Supervisor Bailey, Angry, Stewart, that we're going to get to everyone. She did lay something out. Supervisor Vega laid something out. I wasn't expecting that, and I also cut through my comments. I want to finalize this discussion, then I'll jump in and give everyone else their chance.

[04:08:08] All right. Supervisor Vega. Sorry, Madam Chair. I just want to be clear. I thought that that's what we were supposed to do today during this phase. okay all right but i don't have i don't have i don't have any any more i i hear um i hear you mr shorter i hear you wade i certainly want to hear what the rest of the team has to say in regards to this or if they want to add madam chair so yes i'm going to go back to my time because again i know that there's a lot of frustration from the community and there is concern from the business community about what impact it's going to have with them i think it's great to set up a timeline i think this needs further discussion and i think the board i want

[04:08:47] the board to respond to this. We have a work session coming up in December, and it's already going to be a full work session. But perhaps we need to put this in the work session so that we can finalize things and hammer things out as a full board. So I would also like for people to react to that. It will be a long meeting. But I feel like that has been a whole missing step in this process. Because we are limited, I can only speak to one other person at a time. I think the The full board needs to look at the draft of the noise ordinance, have discussion, make tweaks, see how we incorporate Supervisor Vega's comments.

[04:09:26] I know that that will put a lot of work on our plate, but that's why we're here is to do the work. I think that's what needs to happen. That's my five cents, two cents, whatever. Maybe not everyone agrees with me. But I feel like that's always been a missing step in these discussions, is that there should be a work session.

[04:09:43] I would love to hear people respond to that. Mr. Shorter, I know we've discussed it. it would make for a long meeting. But I feel like that is necessary to continue this discussion and to truly move it forward. All right, I'm going to move this down.

[04:10:02] Supervisor Vega cannot get in the queue. I'll come back to you after I get everyone else. Supervisor Bailey. Thank you, Madam Chair. Let me just say to Supervisor Vega, thank you for your three recommendations. I didn't expect them either, but they make total sense to me.

[04:10:22] I think it is an opportunity for us as a board to discuss because they do make sense. And that was my reasoning in asking, Coltai, about the timeline. What did that look like? Because everybody's frustrated. But I think we are in a very good place because I really believe that the board has digested a lot of this.

[04:10:42] That's why it is frustrating. But because we have subject matter experts now that we didn't have 30 years ago, that's what makes it even more richer in us making a decision about it. And so I would like the opportunity to have a dialogue with my colleague, Supervisor Vega, about your recommendations.

[04:11:03] I would like an opportunity, Mr. Coltai, for you to come to my office and speak with me in reference to your recommendations. I don't think that's going to take a long time because I think the board has really digested the old stuff in comparison with the new stuff. We just need to make a decision about the way ahead.

[04:11:22] I believe in my own estimation that we're in a good place, but we have to give our staff an opportunity to make recommendations back to us. And that's what I'd like to see, Wade, from you, the recommendation with all the work that you've put in with staff, with our subject matter experts.

[04:11:43] Mr. Coltai, I'd like to see your recommendation back to us. But I think we're at a place where we can make a strong recommendation, because I don't want to go into, I'm going to be quite candid with you, a re-election season and not have served the public.

[04:11:59] That's kind of where I am with this. But I do respect and would like to hear more about the three points that Supervisor Baker has made. Thank you, Madam Chair. Supervisor Ingrid. Thanks, Madam Chair.

[04:12:16] I'm going to steal a phrase from Chief Newsham, the bad actors. This whole conversation we've been talking about, all of this, and noise, clearly tied around data centers. The clip you just played of this hum, which, you know, to the people clearly is a data center.

[04:12:35] To me, why haven't we just addressed that issue? Like, let's go do it. Like, I don't believe this is every data center. We are now encroaching upon an entire noise ordinance into everything that goes on in this county. When the simple issue is if there's buildings out there that are making this noise, Why haven't we knocked on the door or called them up or get with the leadership and fix it?

[04:12:57] Similar to what you did on the other data center issue you had. We're down this road of a whole chapter of noise, but the issues are around, I don't know, one, two. I don't know how many of these buildings we claim are doing this. But to me, that was the simple solution instead of being here discussing this.

[04:13:17] So I got nothing to add to that. Just we'll see where we go from here. All right. Just a reminder, we have three people off the dais and more to maintain a quorum. No one else can leave until Supervisor Bailey gets back. I'm going to go to Bodie, Stuart, Vega. Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair.

[04:13:32] One, just to go sort of in order. So I appreciate and actually support your three criteria. I do think that while I still have some concerns about the octave bans and how a lot of folks still aren't using them nationwide, a lot was done to at least try to make them more accessible to Prince William County.

[04:13:59] And so I can't agree fully to adopting one that has octabents that we see where they actually land in terms of the levels, but I do appreciate that because it does get at what I wanted to get at with installing sea-weighted is the tonal noise. Your second criteria around having that clear criteria for compliance, we already talked about that from the day, so obviously I support that.

[04:14:24] And then three, of course, enforceable levels where people are held accountable. So I appreciate all those things. What I would say is I would add two things to that that aren't actually

embedded in the ordinance itself, but go alongside of how this looks from a public-facing perspective. You know, it was shared with us back the last time we had a meeting about this that people started to use the 311 system, and they felt like things were being closed without their knowledge, things were being consolidated.

[04:14:51] There's a lot of sort of public confusion and concern around how these complaints were being actually processed by the county. This isn't necessarily guidance, but it's something to ask you guys and challenge you guys to do is really look at how these things are being processed and how communication is given to constituents when they're going through the 311 system or even not.

[04:15:11] Because in some cases, it sounds to me like someone may have made a complaint, someone else in the same neighborhood made a complaint that was consolidated. The first person maybe wasn't told on that was being done. And so 19 could be more complaints. But we don't know that and the public doesn't know that.

[04:15:27] So that's part of it, too. but also talk about the speed and the response time. Because if folks feel like it should be 48 hours, but it's almost sometimes five or eight days, folks not only then feel like necessarily like there might be a different sound ecosystem that occurred when they first made the complaint, they also just don't trust the process at that point because it's taken so long to get to it.

[04:15:50] Now we get it, everybody's busy, to the point early on resources, this is a new thing and what have you, but folks need to know that when they're making complaints through the 311 system that if this expectation will be taken care of and monitored and measured within 48 hours, that should be what's done. And if it isn't, there needs to be a clear communication with the resident that that's not happening. So again, agreed with supervisor Vega, but there's also those other belt and suspender things about how the public interacts with the system. If they make complaints that we have to get right to, otherwise either won't address the issue that someone made a complaint about because it'll be a far different noise ecosystem, or they

[04:16:27] just won't trust the process because it's taken so long for the county to respond to it thank you madam chair supervisor stewart thank you madam chair i have a question for you um what you were saying earlier uh you said that to look at a draft um a draft uh the current draft that we have and add uh supervisor vega's suggestions like to do that now so i just actually sent off an email to mr shorter because i just i don't feel that i'm 100 clear because yesterday at 8 59 a.m we

[04:17:03] received about a working draft so i just want to make sure that i'm clear on that mr shorter is that something the staff has been working on is that the previous version please help me understand it is the previous version and not a document the staff is currently working on okay okay so i think we should go back and look at what mr shorter sent around that was the dcoag version or was that yes so i think we need to go back and have a conversation about that i think it should be a

[04:17:37] part of a work session i see some people nodding no that they disagree well okay but all right so as as as far as the experts are concerned so do we invite them back for the work session we have to go back and i'm going to have to have further discussions and maybe that is a possibility um because we we have them here now we can land this plane right now and add uh supervisor because i i'm seeing where like this is at least where we can establish a baseline and improve it as we go so i'm actually going to get into a little bit and i'm going to have mr shorter or um mrs roble

[04:18:15] weigh in because it's about also about procedure because in order for us to have a public hearing we have to have an established draft it has to be ready to go before we do a public hearing we do not have if we go through with what the dcoag i don't know if supervisor bigo wants to make any changes or add-on if people want to change the type of mr meter it is so that no one goes to jail that has to be done we have to have the final draft that final draft cannot be amended or changed before we advertise it for a public hearing so mr shorter if you want to weigh

[04:18:50] Madam Chair, you're exactly right, and I want, if I can, to just make sure that I, so to summarize some of what I'm hearing, so establishing new recommendations based on localized testing is what I'm hearing from Supervisor Vega.

[04:19:09] I'm also hearing compliance process, compliance and enforcement process from Supervisor Vega, and what happens if there is repeated noncompliance. I'm also hearing from Supervisor Bodie that we need clarity on how 311 is the intake process associated with 311, which we absolutely can provide, and any service level agreements that we have made in terms of how quickly we will get out.

[04:19:37] And I think that is a capacity issue, but I will certainly check with the team. It seems, Madam Chair, based on what you are requesting, that if we come back in December, possibly on December 15th, during agency time, to have a discussion with the board about the current ordinance that we bring to that discussion, information about intake, that we bring to that discussion any information we have related to results of testing that has already occurred.

[04:20:14] to get back to supervisor vega's point that we could then we could at least hear from the board where you all are on the current ordinance that way we can go back do some work on the ordinance and then come back with with a finalized ordinance that we can actually advertise once we get some level of collective support from the board that we are in a place where we have a fight we have final language i'm comfortable doing that during agency time but i'm going to let supervisor Stewart go? Because the real question is also, and I get people want something right now today,

[04:20:50] it has to be final. And that is a process. So, Mr. Stewart, I'll let you continue. So, the suggested ordinance that we were presented with addresses all of that. And yeah, we do have to go through procedure, but we have to move forward on something. Okay, not tonight, but I'd like to come out of this discussion moving forward to next steps.

[04:21:19] That is the next step. But it sounds like what you're talking about is doing something different other than what the experts are recommending. So before I say anything else, I also have other people in queue. And I see you, Bodie. I see you, Bailey. I see you, Vega. Although you have to tell me because your screen is still not working.

[04:21:37] We are talking about what the next steps could be. Because not everyone agrees on the DCOAG version, because there are other things that people want to see or tweak, we need to have an actual discussion to get to something that we can advertise. Because to go ahead and advertise something that does not include the feedback that you've heard tonight, we would not be able to make any changes. In order for this to be successful and for us to move something forward that gives residents relief and that takes into account board concerns and concerns perhaps from our business community. We will be hearing from

[04:22:14] everybody, Lottie Dottie and everybody about this. So that is why December 15th, if under agency time we continue the conversation, we can hear from different stakeholders. That gives us enough time for us as a board to work together because that was a missing step. That was a missing step. We did not as a board, you were not here. This was before you were elected or before Supervisor la croix was elected and i also have to bring that we have two board members who are not present right now in this moment so i would like for us to continue this discussion i would like for us

[04:22:52] to continue this discussion so that we come to a product that is doable enforceable relieves the issues that we are hearing from the community addresses other concerns and that passes that's what this is that's what we're yes that's what we're laying out the next no no that's i'm not asking i'm saying that's what this is that's what we have before us um i'm going to continue on because i want to make sure i'm understanding but all right supervisor bailey i'm sorry i also had

[04:23:28] bailey and then i'm going to go to vega bodey oh i'm sorry no i'm sorry i'm right vega was next okay vega was next she's not in queue she keeps telling me all right she had to write my name down because my screen doesn't work okay okay friends we are going around in circles for no reason for no reason whatsoever okay the in preparation for today's meeting the very last slide says staff is seeking board guidance on next steps waiter katab whichever one of you wants to answer the question was your expectation that after this meeting you would have guidance

[04:24:07] to then go do your work and come back to us let me let me jump in and then wade you could feel free to as well. We are not working from an ordinance today. We brought a presentation today to remind the board what we discussed previously. Because we are not redlining an ordinance today, we cannot leave this meeting with a document that we can advertise.

[04:24:39] Understood. But you still need that guidance for the document to be put together to properly advertise correct okay and so this meeting was scheduled because we wanted to take the time to read the dcoag version the current one the working doc the the current uh one the the working for november 14th document that you sent to us yes this is what this meeting is for to say that we need a work session for this we don't need a work session we're going around in circles again

[04:25:12] to clarify. My biggest ask is that we modify. That's all I'm seeking. The modification that I'm seeking is to address the steady tonal tone. We have everything else. We need clarity on how are we going to enforce this. We need clarity. What was the second piece of that? Enforceability and accountability. We're not asking the team to go back to the drawing board and start from scratch. We have everything that we need. We just need to make a decision. That's why I came prepared to make my recommendations so that we can debate them if we needed to and if not staff has the

[04:25:52] guidance that they need so that they can get to work i will remind all of us that we're about to enter budget season two donna i love you i i get i i know it's frustrating i'm going to ask for decorum because i've never cleared board chambers and we're not going to do it today work with me all right go on and so i don't think we need another work session i don't think we need to bog down the december agenda that we have coming up we do not have an evening session on this

[04:26:31] agenda which affords us the opportunity and the time that we need to figure it out and to give exactly what staff had asked of us staff is seeking board guidance on next steps it's clear i don't want to speak for anyone but it's clear that there's some type of consensus that the current ordinance is not

working okay what do we do to it to give it meaningful teeth to address that steady conal noise that is coming from industrialization supervisor bailey then boating

[04:27:04] um i just got three things one i agree with you supervisor vega and why we're here tonight i i agree with that totally i and i want to clarify something with the dcl dcoeg we've gotten additional information from them according to mr coltide did i misunderstand you did you is that yes no or yes and that's the richness of to help us make a decision uh that's our stakeholders so

[04:27:37] i i'm really glad that we got that information i'm glad that for the information way that you've provided uh with staff because that enables us to make a decision for the ordinance my concern again on top of the three points that maybe supervisor vegan saying i just need to understand for next steps, what's the timeline to close that? Because I think that's where we are to close it. I don't think we need to go back and reread anything because you've been giving us the documents to

[04:28:13] read. So I just need to be clear in the ask tonight. Those are next steps to me, to me, collaborating and understanding what Supervisor Vega is saying, which makes sense to me, which is in the report. The timeline, we've gotten input from everybody. So what does that look like for us to move on and create an ordinance? And what you said, Mr. Koltai, the planning piece is key because we didn't have that before 30 years ago, but we got a new entity now. So those things are

[04:28:52] very important in helping us to make this decision. So that's all I got to say. Thank you, Madam Chair. Supervisor Bodie? I guess my only permutation there is it would be nice to have a draft before January on what we'll be voting on to that point.

[04:29:15] So I don't disagree with anything that was said, but to Madam Chair's point, what I don't want is for us to give guidance, not see anything for two months. And authorize a public hearing sometime in either late December or early January with not knowing what we're going to be authorizing.

[04:29:33] between now and then because because what was said before right on Supervisor Stewart I hear you completely a lot was done to that but the draft that was sent to us yesterday has the class two misdemeanor instead of the escalating penalties the Supervisor Vega talked about for example so we need to see that before we go forward with with a public hearing so I just say that to say that I'm agreeing with most everyone but I just wanted to say that we should have some touch point between now and when we authorize to see what we're even authorizing for a public hearing i apologize because i'm having a sidebar conversation um because i want to make

[04:30:11] sure that i'm understanding what my colleague supervisor vega saying because from my point of view you know and i appreciate the three things that you mentioned as well as supervisor bode's other concerns but we have to know which document we are looking at are we looking at the current noise ordinance are we looking at the dcoag are we looking at the previous staff versions that is why i made the recommendation i did that we go with the dcoag version we look on december 15th on how to incorporate what your comments are so i just want to make sure that i'm fully understanding

[04:30:47] what you know what it is that you recommend the three recommendations that you have and including supervisor Bodie's, which draft, which version does it go into, or is it just for staff to look at and come back to us? Madam Chair, my guidance and recommendations here tonight are based off of where we sort of left off at our last meeting last month. Staff didn't really give us much, respectfully, okay, didn't give us much, and asked for additional time, six months, right? And so

[04:31:27] then we all together decided that we wanted to review these other versions and that we needed more time to properly educate ourselves for those that have not been here okay and that at this meeting we were going to make the recommendations or or or guidance whatever that staff needs to complete right the final amend amended version which is what's currently on on the table right now, right? And so my point has been that the current noise ordinance has found zero violations

[04:32:04] because the very tone or sound that is missing from those measurements would be produced by octave band measures. Am I making sense? And that that's what I'm seeking to be incorporated so that we can provide people relief. That's why being able to distinguish what sounds we're talking about here is important dba dbc's dbz's like it it's important and i thought that that's what we were going to be able to to achieve here today i sort of kind of feel like we're overthinking it um you know and and and we're going around in circles i don't know how else to make it more

[04:32:44] clear um but i'm happy to take tag you're it madam county attorney madam chair members of the board if I may to tag on to what Mr. Shorter was saying currently you have a noise ordinance on the books the working draft staff was directed to take the previous version that the board did not go down the road and come back and unfortunately this document that was passed out is not in any shape to be able to be advertised unfortunately it was done in track changes it needs to be done and strike through and underline, just like with the General Assembly bills.

[04:33:23] You know, it has the park authority in the document, and we don't have a park authority and haven't had one for years. I think what the board is saying, and if there is consensus among the board to give clear direction to staff, is to take the current noise ordinance, incorporate, if there's consensus of the majority of the board, to incorporate the three provisions that Supervisor Vega was mentioning and then the two that Mr. Bode was mentioning.

[04:33:50] Staff can take the current ordinance, make edits with the strikethrough and underline, not track changes, to incorporate those provisions. We will then provide legal assistance for the board. However, since the couple of the points were on the enforcement, and because currently the Virginia Code says for the industrial, it has to be criminal enforcement, I would recommend allowing staff time to also talk with the Commonwealth's attorney on this because she's going to be the one enforcing the criminal provisions on it.

[04:34:26] So is it the board's direction to staff to take the Curtin Chapter 14 ordinance, make some staff-recommended edits to it based upon the three points that Supervisor Vega said and the two that Mr. Bode said, come back to you after talking with the Commonwealth's attorney, give you that draft. You then make whatever tweaks you want to it, and we will have a final document that will then be advertised twice, not more than 28 days, nor less than seven, and then have the

[04:35:02] public hearing then because we cannot change it once you get to the public hearing because is that what I'm hearing from the board? I'm going to let people go around because, I'm sorry, I'll let you go first, Vega. Yes, that's it. We need to address the tonal noise. That's what it is. That's all it is we're not again reinventing the wheel i do want to say everything you said miss roble is right i would like you know for staff to have the opportunity to make their rounds to our offices so that when we are ready on the dais we rock and roll right all questions have been addressed

[04:35:37] everybody's on the same page and so i also want to say on the record that in my conversations with staff there already have been you know um conversations with the ca's office what i what I don't want

is to further delay this because this might be an issue that we know we know right what could potentially be an issue and when I say that we don't need to reinvent the wheel we've already done it we've already checked that box we've done that and so I think that they already have an idea that this is coming because staff has already engaged the the CA's office based on

[04:36:13] the conversations and meetings that I had as of recent this Monday and so I just want to make sure that we can get this done we can get it done right and and and in a timely manner and madam chair members of the board i think staff is clearing hearing loud and clear that six months is too long but i think december is too short to allow staff to be able to make the edits recommended changes talk with the commonwealth attorney give a good draft to you that has to be dispatched in time for it to go out so just to clarify as well i actually need the final documents two weeks before the board meeting because when that advertisement

[04:36:51] appears in the newspaper I have to make it available so it's not just that it's finalized when I dispatch or when we have the board meeting it is actually two weeks out from the meeting and that means it has to back up even further so I just want to be realistic in that the workload. Yes, my recommendation was for a work session and a markup. It does not sound like that it's the direction people want to go in. I think that I want to be on record I want to be on record saying that I think that that's what's been missing from this process and that that is needed. I want to go on the record with the reason why I mentioned using a

[04:37:28] previous version is because it had the consultant recommended levels. And I'm concerned that if we look at what we currently have, are we going to be inserting? Are we changing the levels or are we doing other things to it? So that's where my confusion comes in. It's really making sure that We get those levels.

[04:37:49] I see you, Stuart. I have Bailey, and then you. Supervisor Bailey? I said, I have Bailey, then Stuart. Yes, Michelle. That's what we're saying.

[04:38:04] And giving Andrea enough time to publicize it. Yes, Michelle, that's what we're saying. That's why I keep bringing up the timeline, because it's critical. And we want to make sure that we're all on one accord when we read the documents that have been redlined and concise and put together with all of the pertinent expert information that we have along with the DCAOAG, that's there already.

[04:38:37] It's there already. So, yes, Michelle, that's exactly what I'm saying, and I hope my colleagues will say yes. Supervisor Stewart. Just so I get to do this, because I'm going to go by the number, paint by numbers here. Because I just asked CXO Shorter about this.

[04:38:56] So when we say current version, what do we say? So I sent out two emails yesterday. One email was a link to the current ordinance. So that is what you all have approved collectively as a board.

[04:39:12] I also sent out a working draft. That draft included comments from our consultants and the DCOAG. And clearly, based on what our county attorney just said, there is some work, significant work, that needs to be done to make sure that that document is ready for us to advertise for public hearing.

[04:39:36] Got it. Okay. Because, right, I just want to make sure we're all on the same website. Madam Chair, members of the board, I think it would be easier for county staff to take the current adopted ordinance, it's on the books right now, and then make amendments to that. Now, It can be the

incorporations of what staff is recommending, et cetera, doing the enforceable octave band, you know, the steady tonal noise.

[04:40:03] But taking the working draft version that went out, it will take longer to clean that up than to take what is currently on the books and amend. Okay, because that's the draft that I want to go with because it includes the octave bands.

[04:40:19] But what I think what you're saying is take the octave bands and put them in the current one that's on the books right now. Amend the one on the books right now with those octave bands. No. I'm saying just take it as with the class two, all of that.

[04:40:39] And that's what I'm saying. Yeah. Take what's currently adopted on the books right now, Chapter 14. Amend whatever misdemeanor you want to make it to and amend your octave bands, et cetera. I think it would be quicker and cleaner and easier than trying to clean up this working draft that went out.

[04:41:08] Okay. It's not changing your end result. It's taking what you want, but putting it in a form that is easier to be able to get to the clerk, and it will come back to the board in a form with the edits, and then you tell staff, is this the final version that you want, and then it will be advertised.

[04:41:31] Got it. Thank you. Thanks. All right, Supervisor Vega. Can we go back to the timing piece? so if this if january you say december is not well i suggested uh january 20th that's our first it's the 19th the 19th january 19th is the first meeting in january it's not the 20th the internet says the 13th and the 20th anyways that's obviously that's besides the point those are wednesdays so for this year they were the 13th and we're good 20th oh we don't have next year's up yet my fault then i thought that was 20 27 meeting schedule okay fair so then it would

[04:42:10] be January 19th. Yes. Is that good with staff to come back to us January 19th? Mr. Shorter. I think it's important to talk about this because there's so many discussions happening now. Let's be comprehensive in this. So if we're going to talk about the timeline, let's be clear about what the board is asking us to do in December, when we will have a final document that we can advertise and then what we will need to do in terms of the advertising time so what the amount

[04:42:48] of time that the clerk's office will need to actually advertise and for us to come back with a public hearing everybody's sake if we had a public hearing on the 19th those advertisements would need to appear in the newspaper on the 12th and the 5th of january which means we need to have everything finalized the week before which is december 28th sorry go ahead michelle i understand your timeline what I'm saying is I don't think that it will be possible for staff to do that I was thinking that January 20th is when staff comes back with a final draft to the board for

[04:43:28] you to review and then if you give the heads the high sign to staff then you authorize your public hearing and you authorize it and come back because you need a good markup document in front of you to be able to say to staff, this is what you want advertised.

[04:43:46] If we were doing the 19th as a public hearing, I'm sorry. I'm just saying it would need to be finalized, like, within, you know. With the dispatch and the timing requirements of the code, I don't think having a public hearing on January 19th. So, we are getting into process, and I know this is frustrating for a lot of people.

[04:44:04] I will go back to you, Supervisor Vega, but I have Bailey in the tier. Yeah, I just think, and what Michelle is saying, That will give us opportunity, if we have any last-minute questions or anything we want to talk to staff about, that gives us enough time to have it done and have a good document rather than going back and forth.

[04:44:25] Madam Chair, what I'm hearing, just to make sure that I'm clear, is that there is a desire to have us do a round with board members to make sure that we are briefing board members and hearing from board members individually. There is also a desire for us to go to the Commonwealth attorney to make sure that from an enforcement perspective, we are at least aware. And there is also a desire for us to incorporate, and I'm not clear on this yet, to either incorporate the changes that we want to

[04:45:05] see made from the previous working document into the current ordinance. And the staff will need time, obviously, to make those changes to the current ordinance. Is that the scope? Am I hearing that correctly? We have an objection. Supervisor Vega. Thank you, Madam Chair. Timing is critical, okay? We are not rewriting the ordinance. We have the meats and potatoes already. All I am asking with my suggestions and the two that Supervisor Bodie said was, first off, to figure out how to

[04:45:41] incorporate it to what already exists. Why do we need so much more time when the bulk of it is already done? That's the part that I'm having a hard time understanding. I suggested that staff make the rounds with everybody just to make sure that we cross our T's and dot our I's.

[04:46:01] But we're not starting from scratch. We've already had these conversations. We already have it working, and I say that loosely, but there's not much that we have to do. And so I push back on the timing, because again, we've been at this for long enough.

[04:46:22] To be prepared to come back on December 15th, we would need to be prepared to give on December 1 a clean ordinance. And I don't know, maybe the team could, especially if the expectation is that we will make it around to each board office and to the Commonwealth Attorney to make sure that we that we are presenting the board with a document that can actually be advertised as final.

[04:46:59] Madam Chair, Ms. Madden, when is our next, the first meeting in February? Do we know? I can give you our tentative date that we're going to propose, and it is the 2nd of February, February 2.

[04:47:15] Could we push for February 2? Madam Chair, members of the board, you still need to tell staff what it is that you're advertising for the public hearing. and if your public hearing is on february 2nd it has to be advertised twice not more than 28 nor less than seven and the clerk needs it a couple days before to then advertise it and so and it needs to be on the board's agenda for you to bless as the final version to then be advertised

[04:47:53] so if it comes back if a final version is before the board on the 19th you can authorize the public hearing is the 9th or the 16th of february and that would give you enough time to advertise um if it's on the 16th i can advertise on the 9th and the second yeah i'm so sorry give me the dates again if we have a hearing on february 2nd no it would the the final draft of the ordinance before

[04:48:28] the board on january 19th and then you would authorize the public hearing for february 16th I'm sorry for this side, but I hear the comments, but I was conferring quickly with my colleague. So please, so the 19th, January 19th, we would authorize a hearing.

[04:48:49] For what date? It would be February 16th for the public hearing. Supervisor Vega. Madam Chair, could we take a recess? Yes, that's what I was thinking. All right. We are going to take, we can come back sooner, but I'm going to say 30-minute recess.

[04:49:10] We are back, and I'm glad that I called for the time that I called.

[04:49:49] But anyways, so to be clear, to clarify, because there is a lot of confusion, what Supervisor Vega is asking for us to do is with the current ordinance, insert the octave bands, insert something that would deal with tonal noise.

[04:50:05] That is what she is asking of us. We are all clear. I'm going to turn it over to the county attorney to talk about, to clarify the process, because I know we've also gotten hung up over the process. Monmouth County Attorney. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the board. And I understand the consternation there is regarding the process.

[04:50:25] But unfortunately, when the General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia with the Freedom of Information Act, we have to have the information dispatched prior to the board meeting. And then when the board amended your rules of procedure to have the dispatch to be a week in advance, a week and a day in advance, that means that staff has to work on this and get a good, clean version with what they've heard the board say, have that ready to be given to the clerk to then be dispatched and be before the board.

[04:50:56] Then the board will give staff, they may make tweaks right then and there, but whatever the consensus of the board is on the final version, then the clerk will advertise it, according to the Code of Virginia, not more than 28 days and then less than seven, will advertise it twice.

[04:51:15] And then at the public hearing, if the board wants to make changes to it, we have to have another public hearing. So while this will be an extra month, I think that in the end result, it will make it go smoother and quicker because staff will have clear guidance from the board as to what you want.

[04:51:33] You will have an opportunity with a document in front of you with the strikethrough and underline to say, no, we want this here and that there. then staff will leave with a good clean version that the clerk can advertise and you can have a public hearing that goes smoothly. All right. Thank you. Everyone's been trying to play the noise. I was hoping that I can, this is what we're trying to fix. It's hard to hear in board chambers and it's probably hard for people to hear, but that is what we're trying to fix. So I

[04:52:11] think that we're all clear. Mr. Shorter, I believe you have the guidance. You and staff have the guidance, correct, that you need. I'm looking, I see some shaking of heads so that we have the guidance that we need supervisor bailey thank you very much i'm glad you mentioned it madam chair i just wanted to make sure with what uh madam county attorney just explained mr shorter you are you comfortable with that in terms of the discussion because it is your staff and you gotta direct them to do it so i just wanted to make sure that we went overshadowing no your process i'm perfectly fine i've had an opportunity to talk to the team i think they are comfortable with the timeline we

[04:52:50] are expecting that we will have individual conversations with board members during this time. We will have an opportunity to talk to the Commonwealth Attorney during this time, and we will make the adjustments to the current ordinance during this time. We've also talked to the clerk and have a good clear sense of when we would be dispatching for the January 19th board meeting. All right. Thank you so very

much. And I did also have a conversation with Mr. Shorter and some others during our recess so with that i you know staff has indicated that they have the

[04:53:29] direction that they need to move forward i hope this can clears up any confusion and thank you so very much everyone so very much um so yes we will now move on to agenda item number 12 and that is supervisor's time i'm going to break this up because we do have directives um i would like first we're going to move for 12 a and 12 b can i get a motion on those items so second i'm moved and properly seconded any discussion all right seeing none can we take a vote on those

[04:54:06] unanimous supervisor lacroix absent from vote all right thank you very much i'm going to go to supervisor bode for 12c yeah thank you madam chair um just very quickly um when we uh were together a few months ago at nbta at monica backman was here um we talked through a lot of

[04:54:44] initiatives that they have going through the process including the brt action plan that they adopted last year um it was indicated that while the county does have high capacity transit uh corridors already in the comprehensive plan there isn't really a prioritization of those corridors so this directive would simply direct staff to hey look at those high capacity transit corridors which would include brt come back with a a perspective prioritization so then we could then consider it adopt it potentially and then you know socialize that to folks like nbta so then as

[04:55:19] they are continuing to give us funding around different projects including a brt like we already have some already that they know the order wants to give those those funds so we can start getting brt rolled out in the county thank you madam chair all right are there any objections all right saying forward um saying there are none your direction moves directive moves forward supervisor stewart uh thank you madam chair uh regarding the um heritage tourism small area plan for uh for gainesville i just a quick uh statement i want to make so um you know the small area plan is a

[04:55:59] different type of plan for economic development in the county. So what it does is it protects the headwaters for the Occoquan, protects the environment, and protects the canopy while promoting a sense of place. What's actually unique and special about Gainesville and doing it in such a way that complies and aligns with our comp plan. So in February of this year, there were a group of residents that came to me with an idea for heritage tourism. And much like some other groups of residents like assemblages that have approached me with their ideas, they presented their vision.

[04:56:34] We met on several occasions, and we eventually decided that the best avenue to take would be to do a small area plan directive. So just so everybody's clear, the SAP, as we know here on the board, it tasks staff with literally studying the area for what is and is not feasible.

[04:56:55] Process includes holding town halls, charrettes, and other meetings with residents so that they can take actual feedback. This process is open and transparent, and is transparent. There are no NDAs, there's no signal chats, none of that. Once the process is complete, they present their findings to us here on the board, at which time we can garner more feedback from entities that want to support, or not, on either direction, or businesses that want to obtain property inside the small area

[04:57:29] plan and owners that wish to sell to a developer and bring an appropriate business in. So we talk about diversifying our income portfolio. This is a way to actually do that. That's not data centers. That's not high density housing. And, you know, just to kind of clear the record about something like I'm not, I'm not now, nor have I ever been trying to, to take away anybody's property rights.

[04:57:56] People purchase their homes with the, with the zoning that it was, and I'm committed to protecting that zoning and that vision, as well as the vision for the 2040 comp plan for the good of Prince William County. And, you know, I just like people to know that context is everything. So before people go hurling accusations, I want to let them know that they need to get their facts straight first, right? That's just an aside. And it's not the job of the local supervisor's office to help folks sell their properties at 10x value. That said, yes, we do have some CPAs that are currently

[04:58:31] active in the Gainesville District, and we can walk and chew gum at the same time. We can have those CPAs do what they do, have staff do their work around those CPAs, and at the same time, study a heritage-rich area to see what's possible for tourism in Prince William County.

[04:58:54] And so with that, I'd like to have my small area plan go forward without objection. Supervisor Bailey? Your mic.

[04:59:15] Thank you. One of the things that I've had conversations with, and I want to have more in-depth conversation with Supervisor Stewart in terms of this small area plan and going forward, for example, I agree with you, encompassing and including all of citizens in your district is real important.

[04:59:36] And so when I did my Fettler Park small area plan, the reason that I did that is because there was an introductory of a data center, as you know, in the area. Everybody knows that.

[04:59:52] But I wanted to make sure that that was not our focus. You know, that's the sport in our county data centers. That was not the focus, but the focus were the citizens and making sure that all citizens had input. And so I invoked the small area plan, the Feather Park small area plan.

[05:00:12] And so, and getting a study done, getting input from the citizens, has that been done with, and with the agencies as well, and having them give a scope? Is that what you, explain to me a little more. Right, so, you know, look, I've had talks with economic development.

[05:00:30] I've had some talks with staff, but it's not going to be at the level that it would be for the actual small area plan. And for what for what that entails, I have spoken to residents, residents that have come in. You know, there are these there are these and I have more residents coming in this week, some of whom who spoke in opposition to it tonight where I have told them, I was like, listen, you know, anybody can come in as an individual or as a group of residents and and come and talk to me.

[05:00:58] I'll, I'll always listen. Um, so you know, people can come in, you know, as the, uh, study moves onward, there would be town halls and charrettes where we're getting feedback. Now I've been getting feedback from people that I just run into in the community. I've get people feedback from people coming into the office or calling me, um, thumbs up and thumbs down about, um, doing a small area plan. I think the thumbs down is coming from people feeling like certain processes that are

[05:01:34] already in motion in the Gainesville district would somehow be under threat from just doing a study. And that's not how small area plans work. At the end of the day, it's up to anybody's personal decision. The free enterprise system, as far as I know, is still intact. And it's up to anybody as to whether or not they want to sell their property or not. That's always going to be their right bottom line and i believe in that i'm a capitalist and i would always defend that process so your your directive is specifically to investigate that's it okay could you be more

[05:02:09] detailed in terms of that's it right no yes yes yes to study the area find out what's possible there are a number of culturally sensitive um sites in the gainesville um uh area some that buttress up against the, uh, battlefield. Some don't, you know, like for instance, thoroughfare doesn't necessarily buttress up against the battlefield, but it's a very, uh, culturally significant area. And I want to have a, have staff take a look at that and, you know, see what we can

[05:02:43] do about attracting tourist dollars to that area. And this would not be what you have proposed before about the study that you've done or you've created. There was a study that you and I had a discussion about that you wanted the board to take a look at this is something that you want the county to take a look it's a small area plan so the county would would take a look at it so it's nothing that's pre-done already no no yeah because yeah there's there's talks about a map and this and that no there there there is no map but um i i want i want the the staff who i trust

[05:03:18] and you know they're professionals they they went to school for this stuff you know um and i i want you know to come back and tell us the what's up okay so nothing that has been created because i probably misunderstood you right the reason why i said i wanted to sit down and look at what you have already but there's nothing that you have already no okay okay supervisor angry um supervisor i'm just gonna get right to it you know i i don't support your smaller plan so i get

[05:03:53] i guess the word is object and so here's let me just get right to it what you have is a fundamental feud going on in Gainesville and you've got two sides ripping families apart and I really think and what I've heard and I'll say this directly from the other side of the the citizen base who feels they weren't heard from this is that you are having meetings with them which I think is good but I think those meetings should have been before we got here today with this because I do feel they have a voice in what this tomorrow airplane should look like and I just want to say

[05:04:28] on record because i had a call earlier today with miss rachel and miss jessica and i understand their concerns because they have families parents and brothers and sisters they all live over in that area and they grew up there and they've been there for the longest like i get and many people have i just and i and i understand what's happening because you know folks are approaching them with high price to buy their land and so everybody has a right to sell you say to yourself it's not our job to sell their house or get them the maximum dollar for the house but it's also not our job to try to look at that area because it looks like from perception maybe it's real that

[05:05:05] one group has dictated how this is going to look because honestly let's not kid ourselves we just came out of this digital gateway uh issue now let me for the record state this digital gateway did not fail because it was a bad project it failed because of a public hearing notice so let's just go on record and clear that up once that happened it appears that what we're trying to do is clean that up so nothing else can happen in that area that's what it appears but I think to clean that up is you representing Gainesville and and I'll go on record of also saying this board represents this entire county so we all play a role in everyone districts you'll never hear me again

[05:05:43] I've said it many times Neasville district is just as much your district as it is my district so when I come to this board I've done my due diligence of work and we vote on things and that's what you all charge me to do is that work because it's a big county bless you And that's what we charge each other to do, that.

[05:05:59] I was going to say before the end, but let me say, and we just came off of a huge high of VACO being the president for the last year. And I continue to talk about regionalism. Bless you again. Regionalism worked just as well on a local level as it does on a state level.

[05:06:14] And we have seven districts in one county. Inside of seven districts, we've got communities that fight for just their community. Somebody's going to lose because we have to look out for the grand picture of the county. and so i won't be long on that but for me i need for you to really work with your constituents on all sides of this whether or not at the end of what you tell them is uh your decision at least they can then say well we all have a voice in this and we sat down and we've discussed this with you it's yours at the end of making then it's ours at the end to vote on as a county but i just think there's more work that you need that you should be doing with the other side of

[05:06:53] those uh citizen base that you have in that corridor thanks did you want to respond absolutely yeah so uh two things that i want to kind of hit on you know um working backwards so as far as like um interacting with the constituents that's what the small area plan does we we have town halls we have meetings we and i've been having meetings about this with people on both sides and still have more meetings for that coming up this week right um and i've been talking about this mostly

[05:07:30] since i've been i've been in office um you know there there's there's a there's a consensus and i see it amongst in gainesville because it's a different type of area and people feel put upon we get data centers we have an area that's a certain way and then you know there are threats made like, well, look, it's either going to be data centers or it's going to be high-density housing, right? And people want to break off pieces of Gainesville in such a way that has a deleterious

[05:08:07] effect down the road to the environment. So for instance, we can't pave over Gainesville. We just can't. It's the headwaters for the Occoquan. This book says so. This book says that we can't, but then it also gets very granular as to why it is we can't. It doesn't just do it willy-nilly, arbitrarily. It gets into real science about what is appropriate for certain areas and what's not appropriate for others. We're already dealing with PFAS and salty water,

[05:08:44] right? We feel put upon by companies that come to neighbors, and this is why neighbors are going head-to-head. People that have lived together for 30, 40 years, raised families, godparents, It's, you know, now torn apart because somebody wants to sell their property on one lot for 10 times the amount where the person on the next lot is like, yeah, I'm not going anywhere.

[05:09:09] My home's not for sale like that at any price, right? And the people that want to sell, they're like, well, I can't sell unless you jump in. And we're getting letters. We're getting door knocks. We're getting solicitations. And people are being forced to sign NDAs, you know.

[05:09:25] But that's something else. That ain't this. that's not this at all. This is, hey, we, you know, as you know, a couple months ago, economic development did a tour throughout the county about heritage tourism. We want to, oh, agritourism. Okay. Yeah. We want to, we want to hitch as a district, our wagon to this and see what's possible for us inside of that, but also for heritage tourism. You know, Prince William County is unique that it has two national parks. We're bookended, you know, by two national parks.

[05:10:05] And people are driving through 66 with money in their pocket on their way to D.C. How do we get them to stop and give us some of that money as a county? That's my question. We talk about having a diversified portfolio. I worked as a trader since 1999, right? Yeah, you don't put all your eggs in one basket.

You got to diversify. But we're being hit with something very unique in gainesville when it comes to these assemblages where people are having their sense of greed and fear of missing out um be put upon and if you're not if you're not careful yeah it's going to pit

[05:10:43] pit neighbor against neighbor right but there are these companies they're coming in and they're in and out for the buck and they don't take prisoners right this is why they make people sign ndas this is why they have signal chats which is what you know and look i want to sit down and talk to everybody about this, right? And I have. I've talked to people on both sides of this SAP.

[05:11:06] But, you know, before today, I still have more conversations to come. But I also want to have more comprehensive conversations as the process of doing the small area plan plays itself out. All right. I know Supervisor Baylor, you're still in the queue because I want to jump in.

[05:11:26] All right. So you and I have had conversations about this. And I think that we align on a lot of things we do i am the one who put forth the agritourism directive it has taken a couple years for us to get here to have things to react to i have raised concerns about process i've said that a lot tonight i've raised concerns about process and i've had people reach out to me because they're worried about unfettered growth they're worried about these assemblages which i do feel are predatory i pulled my directive my directive would have been a backup

[05:12:04] plan, I truly think the best thing for us to do is to see a scenario-based market study that would incorporate agritourism, heritage tourism. But I also, I didn't have support from my directive because it specifically excluded data centers. It specifically excluded data centers. Data centers are something that we know the residents have been pursuing. We don't need to study data centers.

[05:12:32] I think it, and the board has spoken that that's not something we want to see. But there were some people who wanted that in the directive, and they said, we will not support it without data centers. For my one-eighth, although we're missing, you know, a couple folks, we're missing a fourth of the board, I truly think the best way forward is to just start with a scenario-based market study, and then from there, take the information, because we are operating in silos. You have a group of landowners who got together and said they want data centers. They're leaving their neighbors

[05:13:12] behind because their neighbors didn't sign up for that. That's not what they want. That is why I am very much about starting to have more conversations before we get the small area plan. Having them now, a small area plan is going to take a couple of years. I'm sorry, I got to look at my time. It's going to take a couple of years, you know, for us to actually get there. I feel like a better and cleaner process is to start with a scenario-based market study. You and I talked about. I wish, you know, I would have loved to have your support. Start from there. Let's ask

[05:13:49] questions. Let's see where it lands. If it's something that the board doesn't want to move forward with, fine. If it is something that people feel could be a good alternative, that's fine too.

[05:14:05] I feel strongly that the board is not doing our job if we're not asking questions. I have said that. I feel that the board is not doing our job if we are not asking questions. And if we are not having an open process. I spoke to Christina Wynn about this. And she did suggest the market study and charrettes. And I know charrettes are going to get messy. But the process needs to be messy. It needs to be transparent. People need to feel that there is credibility to it. Again,

[05:14:40] I agree. I think that is a special place. I think it's a very special place. And I want to get it right. I don't want to see data out there. I have other things I don't want to see out there. but i feel like we're coming to the end in mind without exploring every i want to chase down everything i want to chase down everything because we have landowners who i do feel will still push for data even though the board has said that's not something we a direction we want to move in

[05:15:13] we don't know what we don't know but if we don't ask questions if we don't chase down every option if this isn't a fully public and transparent process which i know will be part of the small area plan, my only hesitation is fully jumping on board and committing the resources to that.

[05:15:32] And I want to say to residents, because people, you know, are nervous and are fearful. I mean, you're seeing your community change before your eyes. But I just want people to know that this, unfortunately, even if we go with the small area plan, it will not stop development, unfortunately.

[05:15:47] It will not stop some of the bad applications that come forward. That is why I want to start with asking questions, seeing what our different options are. I pulled my directive because it didn't have the support. And I think that my directive would have gotten that first step of what you're trying to do. It would have, but it would have just been a slim down, start with the market study, see what that does, and then move into a small area plan. So we'd love to hear your response. So the small area plan, and I have spoken to Christina Wynn about this as well.

[05:16:26] it includes a market study that that that's where we start right it includes exactly what you were asking for so i mean that that that's where we get started it's a study it's a it's an actual true study there are some there are some things that we need to drill in on in and around that area to find out if this is going to be feasible or not but we've got to get the process going we've got to get the process in line. You're right. We don't know what we don't know. So let's go find

[05:17:05] out. And that's why if we just, I'm just going to say this and I'll go into the, you know, to everyone else, to Bailey, then Bodie. That's why I was saying, if we just do the market study, we can discuss that and point the way, because the way it's written now, yes, it will start with the market study, which I appreciate, but we're almost, you know, we're going to spend the money on a market study, but it's very prescriptive. The end is in mind. What if, and I'm going to give

[05:17:39] this an example, what if there was a university that was looking at land in that area? That could be something, I think that's something that we as a board may want to be open to. And the application could still come forward, but the small area plan, the way it's written, would exclude that from consideration. And so that's why. Actually, it wouldn't. How so? Well, if you look at Gettysburg, They have a university right there at Gettysburg, right, specifically because of Gettysburg location.

[05:18:11] We could have the same thing, right? I'm just asking for staff to study it. I mean, that's a perfect example. We have talked about that in roundtable discussions, that very idea of a similar type of university showing up right on the edge of the battlefield.

[05:18:28] Which I think would be great, but, again, it needs to be clearly written in. And I'm going to apologize. I know Bailey's been in queue, but Bodie hasn't spoken. Would you be okay if Supervisor Bodie jumps in? All right. Who was first? All right, Bodie.

[05:18:43] Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess I'll start with some foundational process questions. I think that, Madam Chair, you're on a good beat here.

[05:18:59] And I hate to put staff on the hook here for this, but in either case, if we were to do a market study or an initiation, it's my understanding that before we would do a market study, we We still have to come, like, a directive would be given, but then it would still have to come back for the board to actually vote on initiating the actual market study.

[05:19:17] Is that correct? Appreciate that. Same thing with a small area plan. If you were to issue your directive tonight and enough of the board agreed with it, planning staff would have to come back to us in some couple of months or something like that for initiation for a small area plan, right?

[05:19:35] So the reason why I ask those foundational questions is I feel like we are sort of talking past each other on step zero, essentially. Like, I understand, I appreciate and respect both your stances on this.

[05:19:52] I know we've talked about the small area plan upteenth. I agree that right now, and I think I've said it before, that right now we have a still active, still adopted digital gateway, not rezoning, but CPA, that still says that what the county envisions for that area, that Pageland corridor, is data centers and supporting businesses for data centers.

[05:20:17] And again, to the point, you yourself and several board members said that that's not what they want for that. So I still feel like there should be urgency in us moving forward with beginning to reimagine that through our legislative process. At the same time, I feel like, and I have not talked to staff about this directly because the position would put them in, but I feel like, as what Madam Chair said, if we're too prescriptive of the direction that we want that small area plan to take, it limits what staff can look at, even at the initiation phase.

[05:20:52] Because they have to do a lot of work to just to think about what they would like to initiate as part of that initiation. If we're trying to say that, hey, we only want you to look in this box before you get to initiation, there may be other things in their professional opinion that we're not even looking after.

[05:21:08] So my fundamental question there is, instead of having the very specific way in which you have structured your directive, can we take a step back and have a broader directive? I myself have gotten two small area plan directives through the process.

[05:21:26] And while I did speak to a couple things, I left abroad to give staff the opportunity to look at what they would even bring back for initiation before we even initiate it. So it would be able to, for them to guide the process as opposed to feeling like was said, it's too specific even before we initiate it.

[05:21:43] We're getting too specific at step zero. So again, fully support us, the principle of us doing a small area plan. I think we do need to re-revision that area. But I feel like, is there an opportunity for us to broaden out that initial directive so that that initiation can be staff coming to us with what they believe we should be initiating and not just a very narrow view?

[05:22:04] Got it. Okay, so. He's going to respond to that, but you are next for sure, 100%. No, no, because now I'm curious. No, no, no. I'll talk on time. All right. I am certain that while this calls for, you know, and yeah, I've heard this term about it being too prescriptive, right?

[05:22:35] I'd love to see staff come back with whatever they come back with. Yeah, I'd love it to start with that, but if they came back with something adjacent to heritage tourism, of course, I'd listen to that.

[05:23:03] I mean, we all would. I'm really curious to hear what. I'm going to turn to you, Bailey. You're on the hook. Sorry.

[05:23:22] I think we need to just step back for a minute, Supervisor Stewart, on this and take a vote on this one. Because we want to support you. We want to support you. But the OGs on the board is Supervisor Vegas. There's a process in how we do this.

[05:23:39] And no, I'm not asking you to partner with me. You call me an OG. It's a process of how we do this, and I don't want you to be put in a position, nor the board, where we predict, as we have in the past, was so vehemently presented tonight in the back by one of our lovely citizens, that data sins were prescribed to certain areas, and yes.

[05:24:06] I don't want us to be oblivious to that. I want us to be respectful of that, and I want us to envision something bigger and better in all of our areas than doing it individually because the vision is for the it's for prince william county it's not for respective districts exactly and so that's why we have a strategic plan and so with that the process lends to how we go about doing this and so i based on our

[05:24:43] conversations you and i've had several conversations and i've had conversations with some of your citizens. I'd like to step back for a moment, regroup and do it in a better way, engaging the public in its entirety more as we go forward with the process. So that's just my two cents.

[05:25:02] So just to address this, so Madam Chair, here's what I'm going to do, because like I said, I have some constituent meetings upcoming, including this week. And yes, I would like to also broaden the scope so what i'm going to do is i i'd like to defer to a date uncertain to um just to just to get this a little bit more solid and that that's what i'm going to do i um and so i and so

[05:25:40] that said i do appreciate everybody's feedback here um and i'm i'm looking forward to the ogs yes i supervisor 60s group um angry and then i have one other thing then we'll move on i'm sorry I just because of this, I just want to chime in, and you don't have to do this for me, but, you know, I think we got over 200 e-mails of folks that are saying they are excluded from this process.

[05:26:06] I simply just ask, make the effort, man. Like, at the end of the day, if you've made the effort and you still have your decision, at least they can't say you didn't meet with them. I mean, decisions are hard. There's only one you can make. And I said these positions are tough because I look for the middle of, you know, I got to make, I know I'm not going to, anyway, you know the deal.

[05:26:25] So I'm not, I'm, I just asked because I think that would be something and I don't know. Right. All right. You go about that. Just want to put that out there. Karen, if I may. Yes. Supervisor Bailey. And if you don't have anything on paper, write your, write the vision and make it plain on paper and bring it back to your colleagues so that we can understand what your desires are.

[05:26:47] That's important for your constituents and for the County. I'm just adding my two cents. So I want to say something real quick. I think that you and I are aligned on many things. That's why I gave you the feedback I did with starting with, you know, a directive just for the scenario based.

[05:27:10] And a lot of people were even, like I said, concerned about what I said. Some people want to see data. Some people, does it mean you want to develop Gainesville? No, it does not. It means that, again, I just want the space to ask the questions. We want to work with you on this, George. We want to work with you and we want to be a part of it.

[05:27:27] I know that you've been working hard, that you have a working group, and that you guys have put in a lot of time in this. I respect that. I understand that and I respect it. Include the rest of us. Include

the rest of us. Because we want good things for Gainesville, as with any other district.

[05:27:46] So that's my two cents. We are going to continue. That will be moved to a date. We'll work on whatever date you're ready to bring it back. We're going to go around the horn. Before we do, I wanted to request five minutes.

[05:28:01] you can call it gordy you can call it la croix you can call it la gordy because i'm going to do i'm going to do some notices of intent on their behalf then i have a thousand of my own but i'll go later all right so just yeah hit start la gordy no all right supervisor gordy gives notice of his intent to bring forth a resolution during supervisor's time on december 1st 1st 2026 it

[05:28:31] It would authorize a public hearing on December 15, 2026 to consider a First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreements and Innovation Gateway with Haley's, H-A-I-L-E-S, Castle, LLC.

[05:28:48] The second notice of intent is from Supervisor LaCroix. Supervisor Jeannie LaCroix gives notice of her intent to appoint Orlando Martinez to the Taxi Commission. That is it. Supervisor Vega, you ready?

[05:29:05] I'm always ready, Madam Chair. Yeah, we're supposed to laugh. Tough crowd. We're almost done. All right. It's been a busy month. I don't normally have a lot during Supervisor's time, but we've been off for quite some time, and I just want to congratulate the Washington Manassas Airport on their new traffic control tower.

[05:29:23] I know that several of my colleagues on the day has attended this event. It's very meaningful considering the proximity to Prince William County, to the boundaries of the Coles District, want to brag for a little bit, and to the boundaries of the Brentsville District. And so really exciting to see this project come to fruition and to include the partnership that we're going to have with the city of Manassas.

[05:29:43] I want to congratulate Brentsville High School on their amazing turf research center grand opening. For those of you that don't know, I would recommend that you go online and actually read what this program actually does. It is not the first in the Commonwealth. It's not the first in the region.

[05:29:59] It's the first in the entire world. And so the fact that one of our high schools here in Prince William County has such an amazing, amazing program just speaks to the dedication of Dr. Miller, who has spearheaded this. I want to give a special shout-out to school board member Erica Trudenik for her hard work and advocacy to include Dr. McDade.

[05:30:17] A really cool story was shared by Dr. Miller that when she was first hired, he pestered her with e-mails and phone calls, and she took a meeting with him, took him seriously, and supported him the entire way. So kudos to the Brentsville Tigers. Also wanted to thank Parks and Rec along with the Kaboom team and our partner Amazon for bringing the second Kaboom project to the Coles District.

[05:30:41] This park is located over at Helwig and it's an all-inclusive park. It's really cool. We're going to have the grand opening here soon and I'll be sharing more details about that. But if you have a child who has a disability or who is wheelchair bound, you can take your child to this playground.

[05:30:59] It's all-inclusive. They can play, obviously, without ever getting out of their wheelchair swings designed for that inclusivity purpose. And so just really proud of our partners and the Parks and Rec team for bringing this second park over to the district.

[05:31:16] Also want to thank our community partners for their generosity. We hosted our annual Kohl's District Coat Drive, and we were able to provide a warm coat for over 80 children in the Kohl's District. So I just want to say thank you also to our constituents who swung by the office to make donations.

[05:31:34] I had a great time at our annual VACO conference. Kudos to our outgoing president, our very own supervisor, Victor Angry. He's worked really hard, and he was acknowledged and recognized in several different ways at the closing ceremony.

[05:31:52] So thank you to the county executive and to the county attorney for also joining us. And this is why you don't name people by name, because you're going to forget somebody. But it wasn't just you two, other people, Nikki and everybody else part of the team. Thanks for taking care of us and for being great representatives of Prince William County.

[05:32:09] I just want to remind folks that on December 12th, we're going to have our annual Coast District Tree Lighting Ceremony. Victor, you joined me last time. Chair Jefferson, you've gone, but many of you haven't. And so I'm extending this invitation December 12th. I will be reminding you all.

[05:32:26] And so if you can make it, come on out. Elijah, I've seen you there before, too. So maybe you can join us again this year. And the last thing I want to say is I certainly, you know, understand the complexities and the sensitivity of the Mamta case. I think I'm Mamta?

[05:32:42] Mamta case. And just want to give special recognition, shout out, and thanks to the CA's office and to the sheriff's office. I've had members of the community reach out to me, asking me specifically for certain deputies' names who worked this trial.

[05:32:59] It's been a very emotional and trying, I would say, season for members of the community. I know that the incident took place in the city of Manassas Park, but a lot of her friends and loved ones live in the county, and it's just such a large community. And so to be front and center with camera crews inside of the courtroom, you know, and representing the county in the fashion, the professionalism, the empathy that was shown by the prosecutors trying the case and by our very own deputies in the courtroom speaks volumes to who we are as a county, but also the people that represent us on the front lines.

[05:33:35] And so I just want to say thank you to Christina Nguyen and Trevor. I'll give them a shout-out. The Make Your Mark event was a success once again. I feel like every year it keeps getting better and better. And so I'm certainly looking forward to next year's event.

[05:33:51] And just want to remind folks, Christina said it, but small businesses are the bedrock of our communities. And so if you can, support small businesses in every way, shape, or form that you can. I think that is everything that I have. Thank you, Madam Chair. - Supervisor Bailey.

[05:34:09] - Thank you, Madam Chair. Christina, you rock, wherever you are, you and your team, you rock. On the 22nd of October, I had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Harbor at Quantico Creek Ribbon Cutting, which is a new affordable housing community for older adults.

[05:34:28] Then on the 23rd, I was honored to be one of the guest speakers at the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance event. What you need to know about transportation, I want to thank Jason Stanford for the invitation concerning transportation priorities and infrastructure and investments that we're making.

[05:34:44] On the 24th, my team participating in the ACTS I Walk 2026 with the ACTS organization out of Dumfries and supporting food and security, housing, instability, domestic violence, and more. Stan Jones and his team does a great job with their vision in supporting the community.

[05:35:04] On the 25th, Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness. Ms. Mills, thank you for attending for the office. It was a great time in Dumfries. They do it every year in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. 28th, salute to the armed forces.

[05:35:20] We had a great time. And the wonderful speaker, Bonnie Carroll, founder and president of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. She lost her husband in the military, and she was military as well, and she did a great speech on what it means to be there and serve your country and then lose a loved one.

[05:35:37] On the 30th, ribbon-cutting for the Dumfries Walmart, finally finished that project, and people were so excited about the renovation, and there were awardees of 15 years or more. Congratulations to you for being there and supporting Walmart and our community.

[05:35:54] On the 4th, beyond the form, exploring agribusiness and agritourism. And, George, that's where we want to go. That's where we want to go. But that was a great time with Secretary of Agriculture Katie Frazier, who grew up on a farm, went to school in Virginia, and she loves agribusiness and agritourism.

[05:36:12] On the fourth also, Greater Prince William Veterans. I attended the Greater Prince William Veterans Treatment Docket graduation, and it's always a good time to see how our veterans matriculate through that program. On the 5th, Session 56 Graduation and Promotion.

[05:36:29] Thanks to my staff for attending the Session 56 Graduation and Promotion. Congratulations to all of the graduates in that program. And then from the 8th through the 10th, I was with my colleagues and our great President, Victor Angry, for the VACO program for that week.

[05:36:47] And we got an award for the Best Lawrence County Achievement Award from VACO. Thank you, President. for the crisis receiving center and i neglected to bring the award today but congratulations to everybody because it's not just my award it belongs to the dais so i i appreciate your support on the 12th make your mark christina you rock you and your team you just rock and then on the 13th ribbon cutting first anniversary for alpha medical and behavioral health congratulations to dr ruby Anuma, founder and CEO of the first anniversary of Alpha Medica and Behavior Health Services.

[05:37:27] And then later on, the ribbon-cutting for peace of mind and body. Congratulations to Aaliyah, the owner and founder, for 12 years of bringing wellness and mindfulness out of Montclair to our community. And then 2026 Tower of Dulles Awards Gala.

[05:37:45] I was honored to attend that as well. Then the 14th, Top Ladies of Distinctions. We were pleased to speak at the Top Ladies of Distinctions theme, Empowering Communities Through Awareness, Education, and Action. Congratulations to my pastor, Pastor Sandra K. James, for your first anniversary.

[05:38:03] To speak from the heart, I just love you, Pastor, and you are the first woman to be at First Mile Zion. We're proud of that. And later on that day, Pi Lambda Lambda had their 22nd Achievement Dinner. Thank you to all who participated and served for me on that night.

[05:38:22] And then my dear husband had his state convention for the NAACP gala, where we hosted the lieutenant governor and the secretary of health and human resources, Marvin Figueroa. So we had an exciting day. Happy birthday to Inez Thurston, 100th birthday in my district.

[05:38:42] Not in my district, in Kenny's district. Pardon me, Kenny. She's my friend. She's my little old friend. Ebenezer Baptist Church, and we attended there. And then on the 3rd of December, we're going to have a breakfast for maternal health with Delegate Franklin, our very own Delegate Franklin, former Supervisor Franklin.

[05:39:01] And that's all I have. Thank you very much. All right. Give me her information for the centurion, because we'll do a proclamation. All right. Supervisor Bodie. Thank you, Madam Chair. There we go. So I'll try to be quick here, but like people said, there's been a lot going on.

[05:39:22] So back on the 28th of October, Supervisor LaCroix and I were able to attend the NVTA State of the Region Transportation Networking event. Always great to go down and see or go up and see all the things that are happening with NVTA. And our own Monica Backman had a really, as she always does, a really great presentation on how they're currently and going to continue to keep the region moving and continue to support and partner with Prince William County.

[05:39:48] On the 31st, I got to attend the annual Occoquan Costume Parade and Contest. I brought Miles and Jemisin with me. I was Lando Colarusian from Star Wars. Star Wars, Madam Chair, not Star Trek. And Miles and Jemisin were Mario and Princess Peach, respectively.

[05:40:07] Had a really great time. Really appreciate Mayor Porta and his town for always putting that on. Great family, fun events. And I was able to get in and out of the hayride this time, so that's always a good time. Wanted to give kudos to county staff for the One Community Many Heroes commemoration.

[05:40:26] I know we celebrate this in one way or another every single year, but this time the staff put on extra effort. So I want to thank Nikki, supervisor, not supervisor, you don't need that job. County execs shorter and the team for really putting together a very solemn but very great way to uplift the veterans in our community.

[05:40:44] You know, I took, I did a Facebook video last week on Tuesday before Veterans Day, sort of walking around, showing the different familiar faces we have. But I, of course, stopped in front of the banner that is near and near to my heart, which is my wife, Liz Bode.

[05:41:01] She did two tours in Iraq. She was an Army Civil Affairs Sergeant. But there are so many great stories because we, again, I always say we were blessed to be sandwiched between not one but two military installations in Fort Belvoir and Quantico. And because of that and our unique proximity to the Pentagon, we have so many, we're blessed to have so many military families and veterans that not only come here on deployment, but then they put down roots, become such a great part of our community.

[05:41:25] So I wanted to say that. Folks have said that a couple times, I got in trouble with Christina because I wasn't able to make it, but the Make Your Mark Awards had really great Occoquan district businesses there. I know that everyone did a great job uplifting our small businesses.

[05:41:41] I won't go too much into that. Then on the 13th, Chair Jefferson and I were able to jet set between two different competing events with largely overlapping constituencies, I would say, between the U.S.-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce and the Woodbridge Islamic School fundraising gala.

[05:41:57] We went to those in the resorts, what I just said. But really appreciate the Woodbridge Islamic School requeathing upon us inclusive civic leadership awards for all the help that we provided to that school, getting up and running over the years.

[05:42:16] So that's in the past. In the forward, really looking forward to on the 21st, the fall shred event that's going to be right here at the stadium from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. So if you have stuff you need to shred, my family sure as heck does come over to the stadium complex here at McCourt.

[05:42:35] Then on 11-26, the Chin Park ASC Library will be closing. As was mentioned before, Chin Park Library is undergoing major renovations to create the county's first calibrate small business center. But that's taken a lot of time and effort to really re-renovate the library.

[05:42:54] So the library actually relocated down to the basement that a lot of people didn't really realize was there. But on November 30th, that will be closing. So starting later that beginning of next month, you can go to Potomac Library or Preferred Branch for your reserves.

[05:43:09] And then in mid-2027, the Chin Park Library will reopen. And then in spring of 2027, sorry, mid-January 2027, they'll reopen. And then in spring of 2027, there'll be a grand reopening celebration for the park. Last but not least, I would like to give my notice of intent for a directive I sent back to you all at the end of October for a nighttime economy study directive.

[05:43:32] Really appreciate the help of both the county exec and the county attorney for already reviewing that. And this serves, obviously, as my official notice that I hope it will be considered in the first meeting in December. Thank you so much. All right. Thank you very much. Supervisor Stewart. Thank you, Madam Chair.

[05:43:49] Happy belated Veterans Day to all of the veterans and family members of veterans that have served. Speaking to that, I want to point to a very special burial that took place at an Arlington National Cemetery.

[05:44:05] There were two soldiers from the Civil War from a regiment in New York that were found and buried at one of the resting places of the unknowns section in Arlington.

[05:44:25] And so let's keep in mind that, you know, even like several hundred years later or a hundred years later, you know, there are remains of soldiers that are still in very sacred places in and around our county. I want to congratulate, you know, once again, the graduates for the 911 call center and the people that got promoted.

[05:44:49] We had a graduation ceremony for them on November 5th. I want to also congratulate Post-President Victor Angry on his tenure as president at VACO, and congratulations on a job well done for shepherding that organization, which is very, very important over the last year and getting things done off of the legislative agenda.

[05:45:19] And, yeah, it was at the homestead at Hot Springs. And, yeah, there was a lot of interesting happenings at that hotel. Yeah, with, well, no, no.

[05:45:38] Like, you know, there was a, Victor and I came across a baby in the hallway. It was very interesting. Yes. And, yeah, I'll tell you about it later, Kenny. You know, just the babysitting, which was a little creepy because the homestead, very nice place, but has a lot of shining vibes.

[05:45:56] And with that, thank you, Madam Chair. Let's, yeah, let's keep it going. Supervisor Angry. Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to start with directives. So I'll be introducing two, I guess, at the next meetings.

[05:46:12] So, first right of refusal for publicly supported housing, and then parks and recreation, public broadband. Both I've ran through the county attorney and the CXO county executive, and so we'll work that next week.

[05:46:28] I saw Bob, Mr. Blakely, walk back in because I do just want to address what the gentleman said in the back about the 18-wheelers and us towing them. I know we started down that road on that. I feel like we need to kind of get back on that and try to figure something out because to everyone that has 18 rollers or large vehicles that can't be parked in communities, I understand your frustration, but you can't park there, you know, and I get that we're towing them and there's no solution.

[05:46:56] So I hate the fact that we are towing and we don't have a solution. So, we've got to find a solution for the county level so that we can actually, and the gentleman said he was willing to pay to park his vehicle somewhere, safe and secure, of course, safe and secure communities.

[05:47:12] But I feel like we need to get back on that and really work on that. So, Mr. Shorter, board, I know that was Supervisor Gordy, and I kind of hit that off, and then we kind of got sidetracked, I'll say. So, I'm not faulting anyone. I know we had a lot of stuff going on, but because he brought it back up, I feel like we really need to get back on that.

[05:47:30] And before I get into my comments, let me just congratulate Garfield football team for winning. That's right. Yeah, they won 17-14 against Woodbridge. First time they've made the state playoffs since 2007. Their next game is this Friday night in Stafford against Colonial Forge, which they're the number one seed.

[05:47:50] So if you can get out there to support them, let's get out there and support them. That's a Prince William County school. It just happens to be in Neopsco. And Garfield, I think it's a long time coming that this is good. So I'm going to try to make that just a support. The one time for them to find their groove. That's right.

[05:48:06] The one time. That's right. And now to a list of things. You know, first of all, a lot has happened. So National Fallen Fire Foundation, I want to thank the Chief for putting on a great golf tournament at Piedmont Golf Club there, a golf course there.

[05:48:22] Salute to the armed forces. Another great event. Again, happy Veterans Day to all the veterans. The Veterans Docket graduates, I think that was a rather large class, and so great job there with Judge Covington leading the charge on that.

[05:48:37] We also had our Big Kid regional Big Kid event, so congratulations to the winners there. Public Safety Graduation, we've got some new graduates that are working at 9-1-1 Call Center. Thank you guys for what you do. They are the first line of heroes to anything that goes on when it comes to an emergency.

[05:48:56] And then I will, well, let me get into what's coming up next real quick. We have our annual legislative breakfast that's going to be tomorrow morning. And then we have, and we probably should talk about this affordable Virginia housing legislative announcement and see who's going to go to that because I read your email and we should probably figure that out.

[05:49:18] So we'll figure that out. Also, ATCC Centennial Biomanufacturing Center ribbon cutting is in Manassas at 11 a.m. on Thursday 19 November and then the 21st this coming Saturday they'll see the volunteer fire departments having their annual installation of officers I'll be there to swear on the officers and so it's going to be a great night I want to end on my presidency of Virginia Association of Counties and and how important that was and tonight we talked a little bit about that and I just want to share with my board you know why regionalism is so important VACO represents all

[05:49:55] 95 counties because if a citizen doesn't like something that any county locality leadership does generally they try to get Richmond to write a bill for that but because this is a deal in rural state that one bill affects all 95 counties and 95 voices are louder than one so therefore the uniting of VACO is very important as we understand how the commonwealth is moving forward now I just bring that all the way back to Prince William County because I always say we have seven districts in this county but it's the Prince William County and so a lot of like even what we heard tonight many times it gets so siloed into a community or a district and i think we lose our

[05:50:31] way when we don't unite and represent what the county is because things aren't going to be the same everywhere we do know that the east end was developed first and it's got the max density where it is and we still got more density coming that folks aren't even happy about here but we know the west end was kind of slowly progressed through this thing called the rural crescent which wasn't lifetime thing it was a 20-year tool and that tool expired and since it's expired you've seen a lot of different developments happening but unfortunately that's where that green space is but I think for the board we have a conversation that we need to have even about the vision of the county if we're trying to protect ruralness we should all be discussing that that shouldn't be

[05:51:09] just left to one or two or three district supervisors oh my time is up but I'll simply say I think that's something that we need to do better with this board to regionalize and really focused as a board for Princeton County. Thank you, Madam Chair. All right, so I'm going to say my piece and then I'll let Michelle will weigh in about tomorrow morning.

[05:51:27] I have several notices of intent. First, I'd like to appoint Delton Nichols to the Sustainability Commission. I would like to give my notice of intent to appoint Janelle Cameron to the Washington Manassas Airport Commission. I have notices of intent to reappoint.

[05:51:43] I'd like to reappoint Mark Siegel as the non-lodging brewery slash distillery slash winery representative to the Tourism Industry Advisory Board, Navit Patel for lodging on the Tourism Industry Advisory Board, Claudia Fryer to entertainment, Jim Rafferty to restaurants, RJ Ziegler to sports tourism slash recreation, and Jacqueline R.C. Connor to attractions. Again, all Tourism Industry Advisory Board. I have two notices of intent to report to the Board

[05:52:15] of Zoning Appeals. I have Rex Luzander and Robert J. Perry Jr. So those are all my notices of intent to appoint or reappoint. Y'all got everything? Did you do Delton Nichols? I did Delton, yep. Yeah, that was a long list. So a couple of things I just want to briefly touch on.

[05:52:40] Mr. Shorter sent around, you know, I did a directive on project labor agreements. There some research, some study done. We are working on a directive to move forward the recommendation, so that will come back at a future meeting. I will probably say that again because I haven't had the directive yet, and I want to make sure I'm in full compliance with everything lately so that the lawyer, she's laughing because, yeah, no one wants to be called into the attorney's office. I sent around an email to everyone

about the park bond referendum. I want to restart conversations on that. Mr. Shorter is going to work on a timeline and some other things,

[05:53:20] and he's going to brief the board, I guess, individually, and we'll have further conversations on bringing that back for 2027. Housing. 2304. We've kind of, I know Kenny and I've talked about that one. That would be to give us more flexibility than the ordinance we already have in place. At the time we did that, we didn't have the underlying enabling legislation to move something, to craft something more personalized for the county i've spoken to a couple people again supervisor bode is one of them chris i'd like to talk to you about doing perhaps i'm kind of putting that on a spring

[05:53:57] you know um during a work session in spring because hopefully they'll give planning time to finish up other projects because lord knows that they have a lot on their plate tonight's meeting was fun okay guys we didn't have a seven o'clock but we're still here but you know it was we're not going to be here until hopefully 10 11 o'clock hopefully hopefully everyone's like yeah no we don't want to we don't want to joke around about that um the one thing i'm going to say is kind of to button up some of our discussions i appreciate what you say supervisor angry about

[05:54:32] we're one county you know and sometimes people get very focused on the needs of their district i also want to say that i don't think we necessarily not everyone understands the needs of other people's districts and that needs to be a bigger conversation you know this noise ordinance yes it was you know i think you know at first myself and maybe some others weren't exactly understanding what supervisor vega was trying to do but the whole noise ordinance that's an important discussion because we have some people who are literally can't sleep in their homes at night and so that's a very important discussion it may not impact everyone across the

[05:55:10] county equally, but it's a really important discussion to have. Just like in your district, with the parking issues, you have a very unique district in that Dale City is not an HOA. You are the HOA. You're the HOA president, treasurer, vice chair, whatever. You are the HOA, essentially, and that's why you do a lot of stuff with neighborhood services. I do think as a board, we should get to know some of the challenges that our colleagues are facing better so that we might understand where they're coming from and the requests that they are bringing forward i do also

[05:55:45] ask that people again try to work together and bring down silos i know you know for example small area plan george you and i are aligned on many things i really want to have a discussion and you know i'm hoping that you will be receptive to the feedback that i give you and the others on the board give you so with that let's go ahead we are going to go into closed session we have i believe three items let's see i've made bets about getting out of here at a certain time i

[05:56:12] don't think i'll make it but let's go ahead and try we are back from closed session can i get a motion to certify so moved properly moved and seconded let's take our votes unanimous supervisor

[05:56:51] la croix absent from vote all right thank you supervisor bode thank you madam chair um on behalf of my my neighbor over in the woodbridge district i move that we authorize a settlement of the acquisition of property located at 981 Annapolis Way, Woodbridge, owned by Anshah LLC in conjunction with the North Woodbridge Mobility Improvement Project. Second. All right, properly moved to second it. Discussion? All right, let's take our votes. Vote unanimous. Supervisor LaCroix absent

[05:57:31] for vote. Supervisor Vega. On behalf of Supervisor Tom Gordy in the Brentsville District, I move that we authorize a public hearing to consider approving the sale agreement with Virginia Railroad Railway Express for approximately 3.17749 acres of county-owned property located at 10699 Piper Lane in Bristow, Virginia, 20136 in the Brentsville Magisterial District.

[05:57:55] Second. I'll give it to Stewart. All right, any discussion? Let's take our votes. Vote unanimous.

[05:58:13] All right, thank you very much. Mr. Shorter. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, members of the board. Thank you first for your support As we introduce our next deputy county executive, Madam Chair, I just want to first say that I appreciate so much that we have a new leader coming into our county who has over 13 years of experience with Prince William County, having served in leadership roles in our Department of Information Technology and Development Services, and now as the Chief Transformation Officer for the county.

[05:58:51] Mandy, if you will come on up as we introduce you as the next Deputy County Executive for Mobility, Economic Growth, and Opportunity. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the board, County Executive Shorter, County Attorney Robel.

[05:59:09] Thank you for your trust and confidence in me. I am honored to serve as your next Deputy County Executive. You know, over almost 14 years ago, I started serving this county. And I could not have imagined all of the opportunities that were before me, the opportunities to learn and grow and collaborate and the people who have poured into me to make me the leader I am today.

[05:59:34] But this opportunity is especially meaningful for me as I look at my two daughters to be able for them to now say, I can do that. That is so huge for me. And they're young and I'm getting emotional, but that's huge for my family, too.

[05:59:50] So thank you. I love this county. I believe in our people, and I'm really excited for this next chapter, so thank you. Madam Chair. Supervisor Vega. Do we cry and say farewell to Wade now, or do we wait?

[06:00:05] We've got some more meetings with you, right? We wait. Okay, I will hold back my tears for you, Wade. He's not gone yet, Vega. You know, so thank you very much. All right, we have a couple of things. First, I do want to give my notice of intent to bring back a directive on December 1st for PLAs.

[06:00:26] I got the information. I sent it around to the board, so yay. Michelle Robel, county attorney. Yes? Sorry to interrupt the love fest, but you were going to make a point earlier because the governor is coming to the county tomorrow. Madam Chair, I communicated with the board, and if you have individual questions, I can talk to you individually about that.

[06:00:44] Thank you. If you want to make another motion, we can go into closed session. I can give you legal advice. So I will just say the governor is coming tomorrow. I plan to be there. We can discuss offline who else will be there and to take the county attorney's advice quite seriously. Is there anything else for the good of the party?

[06:01:01] Because if not, I want a motion to adjourn. So moved. Second. It's been properly moved and seconded. Any discussion? No. Okay, let's go ahead and take our vote.

[06:01:24] Unanimous. Supervisor Angry would like to stay longer. All right, Supervisor Angry can stay by himself. The rest of us are adjourned.



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