

BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

September 16, 2019

10:02 A.M.

Glen Allen, Virginia

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi (arrived 10:15 a.m.)
Mimi Elrod (arrived 11:38 a.m.)
Sean Farrell
Andrew Friedman
Richard Gregory (arrived 10:12 a.m.)
Helen Hardiman
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Brett Meringoff
Earl Reynolds
Jeff Sadler
Steve Semones
Patricia "Patty" Shields (arrived 10:40 a.m.)

Members Absent

Susan Dewey

Call to Order

Mr. Steve Semones, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:02 am.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Kyle Flanders of the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Policy Office. Mr. Flanders reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Rudy Landon, representing Loudoun County Sheriff's Office expressed concern for the lack of uniformity that would be caused by the implementation of school barricade devices.

Ms. Linda Hale, representing the Virginia Fire Prevention Association (VFPA), expressed concern that school barricade devices do not meet American's with Disabilities Act standards. She also expressed concern with the number of possible devices to be employed and that the appendix option is best because it allows for uniformity by jurisdiction.

Mr. Mike Armstrong, representing the VFPA expressed the need for fire extinguishers even in situations which fire sprinklers are available. He also expressed that school barricade devices would hinder first responders in emergency situations. He noted that

VFPA believes the appendix option provides the best solution for local choice.

Mr. Gerry Maiatico, representing the VFPA, noted that many studies done on school shootings, none have recommended barricade devices.

Mr. Bryan Holland, representing the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, expressed concern over deleting electrical rules from part of the code, noting that 50% of fires could be prevented by AFCI protection.

Mr. Andrew Clark, representing the Home Builders Association of Virginia, expressed opposition to Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) code change proposals, noting that there is no data showing these devices address a public concern. He also explained that sprinkler systems in townhomes are too cost prohibitive.

Dwayne Garriss, representing SCG, expressed support for introducing more fire extinguishers in areas where sprinklers are present, noting that 98% of users are successful in fighting fires.

Mr. Steven Sites, representing the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, expressed concern over school barricade devices, noting that there isn't an issue with current locking mechanisms, that there are ADA concerns, and that it hinders law enforcement. He expressed support for the appendix option to empower local governments.

Mr. Billy Hux, representing the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, expressed support for the appendix option so that local governments have more flexibility.

Ms. Laura Frye, representing the Door and Hardware Institute, expressed support for expanding fire extinguishers to areas covered by sprinkler systems, because sprinklers are underequipped to handle incendiary devices. She also noted that school barricade devices have the potential to be utilized by hostiles.

Mr. Jerry Heppes, representing Door Security and Safety Foundation, expressed concerns over past cases of school barricade devices being used to commit acts of violence in schools.

Mr. Robby Dawson, representing the National Fire Protection Association, expressed concerns over active shooters ability to use school barricade devices as a means to commit acts of violence.

Mr. Jimmy Moss, representing the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, expressed support for including barricade devices within the body of the code.

Mr. Kenney Payne, representing the American Institute of Architects, expressed support for barricade devices, noting that they are more successful than barricading with furniture, and that no one has been recorded as being hurt from use of the approved devices by a hostile person.

Mr. Jack Taylor, representing Nightlock Lockdown, displayed two approved devices and how they work and how they are removed by emergency responders. He noted these devices are safe from reach of perpetrators who break windows and reach in and unlock doors.

Mr. Shaun Pharr, representing the Apartment and Office Building Association, expressed concern over expanding fire extinguishers into areas that are already covered by sprinkler systems, noting that sprinkler systems are sufficient, and that extinguishers encourage citizens fighting fires, which is a safety issue.

Mr. Rick Witt, representing the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association, expressed support for codifying barricade devices, noting that legislation may ultimately require their inclusion, and that the appendix option will cause confusion and a lack of uniformity.

Ms. K.C. Bleile, representing Viridiant, expressed support for all energy efficient proposals.

Adjournment	A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting until the conclusion of the committees. The meeting was adjourned.
Reconvene	Mr. Steve Semones, Chairman of the Board of Housing and Community Development, reconvened the meeting of the Board at 2:20 p.m.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2019, meeting of the Board; the motion passed.
Report of the Codes and Standards Committee	<p>Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Chairman of the Codes and Standards Committee, summarized the recommendations of the Codes and Standards Committee for the Board.</p> <p>Mr. Abbasi noted that the Board must take action on the cooling regulations. The committee recommendation in the form of standing motion to the adopt the cooling regulations was seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.</p> <p>The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve code changes as recommended by the Committee for inclusion in the proposed regulations was seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.</p>
Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee	Ms. Hardiman noted that the Board must take action on changes to the Enterprise Zone program. The committee recommendation in the form of a standing motion to approve code changes as recommended by the Committee was seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.
Code Change Process Update	Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulation at DHCD, summarized the code process and future regulations that will be before the Board as a part of the final phase of the regulatory process.
Resolution	A motion was made and seconded to adopt a resolution commending former Board of Housing and Community Development member and Chairman, John Patrick Carr. The motion passed on a voice vote.

VFSB Report	Mr. Gregory noted that there was nothing to report from the Virginia Fire Services Board at this time.
Report of the Director	Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, noted to the Board that the Governor's budget was being developed and is expected to be released in the following months.
Unfinished Business	There was no unfinished business to be discussed.
New Business	There was no new business to be discussed.
Board Matters	Ms. Hardiman expressed interest in understanding the process of Board leadership development. Mr. Johnston noted that the process is informal and interest in serving in leadership should be discussed with the current Chair and Vice Chair. He noted that election of chair and vice chair is determined by the members of the Board.
Future Meetings	The next meeting of the Board will be December 16, 2019.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.