



**RICHMONDERS  
INVOLVED TO  
STRENGTHEN OUR  
COMMUNITIES**

June 20, 2020

## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **\$6 Million Proposal to Stem Evictions**

RICHMOND – Approximately two hundred members of [RISC \(Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities\)](#) are expected to virtually attend the City Council meeting this Monday, to announce an agreement reached with Mayor Stoney on Thursday to allocate \$6 million from the city’s recent CARES Act allocation to emergency rent assistance.

The city’s total allocation from the CARES Act is \$20.2 million. RISC members, upon learning of the allocation, conducted research into what other cities throughout the country – and specifically in Virginia – were doing with their money. In Alexandria, the group learned, the city was allocating 29% of their total allocation to an emergency rent assistance program.

On Thursday, 68 RISC members attended a Zoom meeting with Mayor Stoney, and pressed him to do as Alexandria was doing – and allocate 29% of Richmond’s allocation to the same type of relief.

The need is of crisis proportions - there were 1,934 evictions on the docket for June alone. While the moratorium put a temporary stop to these evictions, the group put forward the notion that all that really does is buy the city time to put into place a solution.

“Mr. Mayor, there’s going to be a tidal wave of evictions in Richmond city,” said RISC Pastor Ralph Hodge from Second Baptist. \$6 million from the CARES Act allocation, the group, argued, could help stem the tide of these evictions.

After some back and forth discussion, the Mayor ultimately agreed to find the money for emergency rent relief. “29%?” asks Pastor Hodge. “I’m going to find the 29%” said Mayor Stoney.

Besides its 200 members in attendance, RISC plans to have seven speakers present during the Citizen Comment period of Monday evening’s City Council meeting. Besides sharing around the agreement reached with Stoney, the group also plans to update Council on their Gun Violence Campaign, and a promising solution they believe will not only significantly reduce shootings and homicides, but will also help build trust between the community and the police.

The group’s members will gather on Zoom at 5:30 pm, prior to the meeting, and plan to show the livestream hearing via a Zoom “screen share.”

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