

Warnings were issued for P-card use

Emails notified ex-city spokesperson Burks multiple times that balances were overdue

SAMUEL B. PARKER
Richmond Times-Dispatch

City officials for months issued repeated warnings to former city spokesperson Petula Burks and executive assistant Raymond Dark Jr. about overdue balances on their

city-issued purchasing cards, internal emails obtained by the Richmond Times-Dispatch show.

The correspondence also shows officials weighed whether to suspend the cards and worried that the situation would hamper city

operations and create a “negative image of the p-card program.”

Burks’ purchasing card was suspended in July 2023 due to a backlog of unpaid charges and accidental personal use, The Times-Dispatch previously reported. On July 1 of this year, Burks resigned amid questions surrounding the use of her card to obtain nearly \$100,000 worth

of services from consulting and advertising firms operated by her former business partner.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request seeking internal emails related to Burks’ resignation, Megan Field, a city policy advisor, on July 10 provided several messages between city officials. On Monday night, Field contacted The Times-Dispatch

with three additional emails that had not been included among the

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SEE THE DOCUMENTS:
Aim your smartphone camera and tap the link to see the documents The Times-Dispatch obtained. **NEWSVU**

MOBILE NEWSROOM



MARGO WAGNER, TIMES-DISPATCH

Manager Rodney Saunders and Produce Lead Patricia Henshaw discuss Monday what they want to run in an ad for The Market at 25th in Richmond's East End.

GOP CONVENTION | DAY 2

Youngkin speaks to crucial SC delegates

Va. governor shows he is proud of record number of vetoes

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Gov. Glenn Youngkin got up early on the second day of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee to introduce himself to a delegation from a state that's one of the first in the primary election cycle.



ELECTION 2024

Speaking to the South Carolina delegation's breakfast, he discussed a Virginia he hadn't talked about during his prime-time address on Monday.

"In Virginia, and remember, founders of our nation were the founders of Virginia — they weren't in love with the executive branch. I get one term. That is it," he said.

"I have a clock behind my desk. It goes from four years to zero. I know how many days how many hours and how many seconds I have left to make the transformation happen that we all set our minds to," he said.

He mentioned the same clock at a session with the California delegation later Tuesday morning, adding: "I very much feel that public service is a calling, and my calling has been to serve. I hope I have a charge to serve again."

On Monday, during his televised address at the Fiserv Forum, Youngkin talked about his status as a political newcomer like Donald Trump. Youngkin worked as a private equity executive before running for office.

"In November 2021, Virginians elected a Republican outside businessman," he said about his himself. "I believe this year Virginia will elect another Republican outside businessman as president of the United States."

Please see **GOP**, Page A4



NOW ONLINE:
See photos of Gov. Glenn Youngkin at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee by pointing your cellphone camera at the QR code and clicking the link. **NEWSVU**

Embodiment Church Hill's spirit

The Market at 25th has opened doors to address food desert

If you go

What: Richmond Times-Dispatch Mobile Newsroom

When: Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: The Kitchens at Reynolds, 2500 Nine Mile Road, Richmond

training, there was an emphasis on family, she said, and how the store was going to embody the spirit of Church Hill.

The Market at 25th is a “community-driven” grocery store, located next to the Kitchen at Reynolds. It's also part of the Church Hill North Development plan, aimed to meet the needs of the community.

The Market at 25th “wanted to make this more like a family ... Well, for the employees to be more of a family than just everyday workers,” Sottile said. “To be more family-oriented and being able to find out what their needs are. That's what they wanted.”

Developing Church Hill North

Please see **THE MARKET**, Page A21

ON THE MOVE
The Times-Dispatch Mobile Newsroom



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Why Squirrels chose ballpark builders

City deferred to team for Diamond District stadium

ERIC KOLENICH
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Leaders from the Flying Squirrels, the city of Richmond and their developers flew to New York City last September to meet with Major League Baseball for

an urgent discussion. The goal: to figure out how to build the Diamond District ballpark.

When the meeting had ended, the parties agreed the Squirrels would choose the ballpark's builders, replacing the companies already selected. The Double-A baseball franchise hired a project manager, a designer and a general contractor.

Groundbreaking is expected within weeks.

But the arrangement has led to a question — why did a minor league baseball team get to choose the builders of a publicly funded ballpark, outside of an official procurement process designed to ensure affordability and fairness?



Goldman

Please see **BALLPARK**, Page A6



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Sen. Menendez guilty of taking bribes in cash and gold

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Hot, heavy thunderstorms
High 96
Low 75
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