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# CITY OF RICHMOND

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## Media Release

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## Agreement Reached

**Richmond, VA** – After months of intense and thoughtful discussions, the Mayor, Richmond City Council, and the Administration has reached a negotiated agreement regarding the collective bargaining ordinance.

The newly framed ordinance, which will be introduced today at the 3 PM City Council meeting, is co-patroned by Mayor Stoney and all Councilmembers.

Mayor Stoney, city council members, and the Administration acknowledge the hard work and collaboration it took to reach this point, and they look forward to hammering out the next steps to bring collective bargaining to full fruition.

## Collaboration Acknowledged

"I appreciate the collaboration between council and administration to reach an agreement on a responsive and responsible collective bargaining paper that will support both our workers and our citizens," Stoney said.

"All sides made compromises, but I believe we have achieved a meaningful and long-lasting outcome that will empower our city workers and ultimately, will yield better results and city services for our citizens," said Councilmember Stephanie Lynch. "I am proud of the partnership and collaboration fostered between the administration, city council, and union representatives during this process."

## Employees Heard

Understanding that employees are the city's frontlines, their unique perspective helped lead the charge toward collective bargaining in Richmond.

"I have championed for our employees for years. I am ecstatic to have my colleagues reach an agreement that benefits employees. This agreement moves the needle forward and ensures their voices will continue to be heard for years to come," said Councilmember Reva Trammell.

"This agreement marks a significant step forward for the City of Richmond and its employees. This compromise creates a solid foundation for city employees to advocate for competitive pay and benefits and continue their great service to our residents," said Councilmember Kristen Nye. "I appreciate Mayor Stoney, city leadership, and my fellow members of City Council for coming together to create a better future for Richmond's workforce."

"Passing collective bargaining rights is a historic moment for Richmond city employees and workers across Virginia. City employees have come together in our union, SEIU Virginia 512, to speak out for a real seat at the table to ensure great union jobs and great public services for all working families in the city," said David Broder, SEIU Virginia 512 President.

"We have a long-standing history in Richmond representing workers from all walks of life. We stand united with our city workers and the city, ready to collaborate and move this ordinance forward." - Teamsters Local 322.

"Our first responders and public safety officers have seen tremendous workforce challenges over the last two years. We are encouraged by this leap of faith that the city has taken to move collective bargaining forward in a fair and equitable way for all of our workers, especially our men and women in uniform." – ARCOP and IAFF Local 995

"Virginia AFL-CIO has been in the fight for worker's rights for over seven decades. We are proud to see a collective bargaining ordinance come out of our capital city. This will be a great step in improving the lives of city employees and the people they serve," said Doris Crouse-Mays, President, Virginia AFL-CIO.

### **Moving Forward**

The collective bargaining ordinance is one step on the ladder of establishing the City of Richmond as a workplace of choice. The desire is for the workforce to live, work, and play in Richmond.

"This ordinance signals to our City of Richmond employees that we hear them, said Lincoln Saunders, CAO." "As we strive to make the City a workplace of choice, we've proven today that we are all working together for the betterment of the city, our employees, and our residents."

"The proposed legislation reflects what happens when we all work together for the greater good. The Mayor, Richmond City Council, and the Administration determined that collective bargaining was something that our employees not only wanted but needed. Strengthening our employees strengthens our city. The past few months have been an opportunity to explore and become more informed on ways that will benefit our employees' work today and in the future," stated Council President Cynthia Newbille.