

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #19: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. HOUSING AWARD

Shernita Bethea, Housing and Human Services Manager for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission was recently awarded the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium' 2010 Across the Region Award. This award recognizes an organization or individual for distinguished service for the betterment of housing conditions on a regional level. Award recipients are housing advocates who protect and improve the region's quality of life through housing initiatives. Ms. Bethea was recognized for her outstanding work in providing support and outreach in housing services to all the jurisdictions in Hampton Roads area. While directly staffing the Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership project, Shernita provides information and outreach to housing and human services agencies throughout the Hampton Roads region. Her contributions to several local, regional, and state boards and committees were also recognized. Shernita has aggressively tackled the region's housing needs in a multi-faceted manner, strategically taking advantage of available resources while providing information and education to interested parties.

B. NEWPORT NEWS WATERWORKS AWARD

Three major facilities owned and operated by Newport News Waterworks have achieved the highest level in the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The facilities are: Lee Hall Water Treatment Plant, Lee Hall Maintenance and Operations Center, and the Harwood's Mill Water Treatment Plant.

VEEP was established to encourage superior environmental performance through the development and implementation of environmental management systems and pollution prevention efforts. The program encourages facilities within the Commonwealth that have strong environmental records to go above and beyond their legal requirements.

According to Sharon Baxter, Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Pollution Prevention, "The City of Newport News Waterworks' new E4 status is the result of much work and represents a significant commitment on the part of management and those employees who have worked to make it happen. Only about 5% of the facilities in the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program have reached the E4 level, and the three Waterworks facilities are the only ones of their type in the program."

In addition to its E4 status, the Waterworks team is working with a City-wide team of Newport News employees to enhance and improve the City's overall environmental policies.

C. REGIONAL RECYCLING RATE REPORT

Under contract with the Southeastern Public Service Authority of Virginia (SPSA), the HRPDC staff has completed the annual recycling rate report for recycling activities in the eight Southside Hampton Roads localities that are covered by SPSA. Commissioners are aware that the Virginia Code and the Virginia Regulations for Solid Waste Management Planning require each city, county, town or region to maintain a minimum 25% recycling rate and report activities within the area on an annual basis. Historically, SPSA has been responsible for reporting recycling activities for its service area. Reported activities include both public and private efforts.

On September 13, 2010, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality advised the HRPDC that the report had been reviewed and accepted. For Calendar Year 2009, the Southside Hampton Roads area achieved a recycling rate of 32.7%, which exceeds the state requirement. DEQ also advised that for the first time, all regions of the state were able to achieve at least the minimum.