

One person addressed the HRPDC on November 19, 2015:

Ellis James

Thank you, Kenny. I appreciate that. Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, my name is Ellis James. I reside in the city of Norfolk and have done so for 78 years. I'm happy to report this morning that democracy is alive and well. For those who might have missed it, a Mayor in the Commonwealth of Virginia declared unilaterally that there would be no one allowed in terms of the refugees from the Syrian situation into his city. The really nice part about the report was that six council members apparently responded immediately and told the Mayor, pleasantly, that he had no such authority and he did not speak for the community, which was the community where he took this action on his own. That's encouraging. There's a lot of fear mongering going on, the one thing that the terrorists all over the world wish to accomplish, and that includes here in Hampton Roads. I don't think I need to tick off the reasons that Hampton Roads is a potential target, but one of the things that is disturbing is the fear mongering, which is trying to get us to do the very thing that the terrorists and the new caliphate wish to accomplish. They want us to be in fear, they want us to cut back on all of the things that we hold dear in our democracy, and in others that we are alive with, and the way that they accomplish that is for us to do knee-jerk things like the thing that I have described to you this morning. Don't take my word for it. Check it out. I'm sure it will be somewhere on the air waves, but it is a very, very pleasant surprise in the midst of a lot of agony for a lot of people, especially our friends in France. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.