

NOTICE OF INTENT: PUBLIC COMMENT REQUEST

Purpose:

The purpose of this notice of intent is to solicit public comment from businesses, labor organizations, institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, other interested parties, and the general public at large, located within the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg and the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, and York on a resolution that has been approved by the governing bodies of the aforesaid jurisdictions in support of the re-designation of Local Workforce Development Areas #14 (The Greater Peninsula Workforce Board) and #16 (The Hampton Roads Workforce Council) into a new single local workforce development area.

This notice is being posted at the www.vcwpensinsula.com and the www.vcwhamptonroads.org websites. Public comment will be accepted beginning July 6, 2020 and will continue for 30 days, through the close of business on August 4, 2020. All comments must be in writing and may be directed to either Mr. William H. Mann, Jr, Executive Director, Greater Peninsula Workforce Board, 11820 Fountain Way, Suite 301, Newport News, VA 23606 (wmann@vcwpensinsula.com) or Mr. Shawn Avery, President/CEO, Hampton Roads Workforce Council, 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 1314, Norfolk, VA 23510 (savery@vcwhamptonroads.org).

Background Information:

In September 2018 the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board (GPWB) and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) executed a resolution establishing the Southeastern Virginia Regional Workforce Collaborative whose purpose was to address the needs of area employers through a collaborative, regional approach that focused upon business engagement strategies, continuous communication and outreach efforts, program development and support, provision of labor market intelligence, veteran transition support and services, and emerging workforce initiatives to keep pace with new technologies and career pathways. This new approach proved to be successful resulting in a \$4.30 return on investment for each \$1.00 spent, when considered with other workforce services provided by the region's two workforce boards.

On February 27, 2020 all of the local elected officials who served on the GPWB and the HRWC approved taking such steps as were necessary to move beyond voluntary collaboration to formally merging the two workforce boards into a new single regional organization as the next step to continuing to enhance the region's capacity to meet the needs of employers and job seekers. As prescribed under the provisions of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and Virginia Board of Workforce Development (VBWD), policy #200-07, this required approval of a Resolution of Re-designation by all the affected localities, followed by a 30-day public comment period. All public comments received must be submitted with the re-designation plan for review by the VBWD and subsequent approval by the Governor's Office.

A copy of the Resolution of Re-designation follows. Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to either Mr. Mann or Mr. Avery at the e-mail addresses noted above.

**A RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE REDESIGNATION OF
LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS 14 & 16
INTO A NEW SINGLE LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Public Law 113-128, local workforce development areas (LWDAs) within a planning region that want to re-designate into a single LWDA shall be given the opportunity to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Board of Workforce Development's Policy, Number 200-07, entitled, "Process for Requesting LWDA Re-designation: Re-designation Assistance," effective July 1, 2017, prescribes the process to be followed when a unit or a combination of units of political sub-divisions request re-designation of their LWDAs as provided under WIOA; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board (GPWB), tasked with overseeing the delivery of workforce services within LWDA 14 and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC), tasked with overseeing the delivery of workforce services within LWDA 16, are part of one regional economic ecosystem serving the fifteen political sub-divisions of Southeastern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in September 2018 the GPWB and HRWC executed a Resolution establishing the Southeastern Virginia Regional Workforce Collaborative whose purpose was to address the needs of area employers through a collaborative regional approach, focused upon business engagement strategies, communication efforts, program development, provision of labor market intelligence, veteran transition support and emerging workforce initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Collaborative has resulted in a significant number of successful undertakings to include the creation of a Joint Business Services Team that has assisted over 4,000 employers, the implementation of a fundraising initiative which raised over \$250,000 in new private resources, the award of a \$100,000 GO Virginia Grant to establish the Hampton Roads Coalition for Talent, and the publication of a regional economic impact report that concluded there was a \$4.30 return on investment for each \$1.00 spent by the region's two workforce boards; now, therefore it is

RESOLVED, that the request of the GPWB and HRWC to be re-designated into a new, single LWDA to oversee the delivery of workforce development services within the fifteen political subdivisions located within Southeastern Virginia, as prescribed under WIOA, be approved for

submission to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development and subsequent action by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Jurisdiction

Name and Title / Chief Local Elected Official