



NAACP

Henrico County Branch

Emergency Resolution of the NAACP Henrico Branch Expressing Concern Over the Water Crisis Impacting Eastern Henrico County and Calling for Immediate Action

WHEREAS, the Eastern End of Henrico County, a majority African-American community, has been significantly impacted by a prolonged water crisis due to both a power outage at the City of Richmond's water treatment facility and a subsequent water main break in Highland Springs, resulting in widespread loss of water service; and

WHEREAS, the lack of timely access to clean and safe drinking water has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities in Eastern Henrico, creating a public health emergency that requires an immediate and comprehensive response; and

WHEREAS, Henrico County has declared a local state of emergency and has taken initial steps to restore water access and distribute potable water to residents, but the current response has been insufficient to meet the scale of the crisis, with residents experiencing long delays, including over two-hour wait times on the designated hotline for water-related concerns; and

WHEREAS, the disruption has revealed systemic issues in the regional water infrastructure and communication failures between Henrico County and the City of Richmond, which resulted in delayed awareness of the power outage at the Richmond treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Henrico County have a right to access safe, clean, and reliable drinking water and deserve full transparency regarding the sources and management of their water supply;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP Henrico Branch calls for a thorough and independent investigation into the Richmond Water Treatment Plant's operational failure and the circumstances that led to Henrico County's reliance on Richmond's water supply rather than its own Henrico-operated treatment facilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Henrico County be urged to establish a coordinated, county-wide emergency response system capable of handling capacity surges, including hotline support, to prevent excessive delays for residents seeking assistance during public health emergencies; and



NAACP

Henrico County Branch

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Henrico Branch calls for the creation of a comprehensive, community-based post-action review to assess the water crisis response and ensure accountability. This review should actively involve The Henrico NAACP Branch, community activists, leaders, and residents to provide recommendations for improving future disaster response and ensuring equity in resource distribution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Henrico Branch demands a full accounting of the current water infrastructure policies and service agreements between Henrico County and the City of Richmond, with transparency and input from the affected communities to ensure equitable access to safe water going forward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Henrico Branch acknowledges and thanks members of the Board of Supervisors who have been community-focused throughout this crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP Henrico Branch expresses its deep concern for yet another example of the racial disparity gap in Henrico County that seems to be historically rooted in a disregard for equitable outcomes for the Black community and other vulnerable communities in the county.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Glenn Youngkin, the Henrico County Manager John Vithoukaskas, the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, the Virginia Department of Health, and other relevant officials and agencies to ensure immediate attention to this critical issue.

Signed

Monica Hutchinson (Jan 7, 2025 21:42 EST)

President Monica Hutchinson

Lissa Brown (Jan 7, 2025 21:53 EST)

Secretary L. Frances Brown