

County of Dinwiddie

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FOUNDED 1752

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

W. KEVIN MASSENGILL

February 12, 2024

Dear Friends and Citizens of Dinwiddie County:

When I was first elected to the Board 12 years ago I was new and nervous. Relationships are what got me to where I am today. I was blessed to be surrounded and supported by a great team of fellow Board members, three of whom were new like me. We worked together, learned together and grew together as a Board with the common goal of doing what was in the best interest of our constituents and the County.

Harrison Moody was a guiding force and wealth of knowledge. He recently retired from the Board after 37 years of service. That is unprecedented in Dinwiddie County and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from him for the past 12 years. I wish Harrison and his wife Debbie all the best as they move forward into the next phase of their lives.

I met Dan Lee when we were both first elected and over the years he has become one of my dearest friends. I know you have all been following Dan's journey over the past several months and shared in our joy when, after almost three months in the hospital, he underwent a successful heart and liver transplant. Dan has been released from the hospital and is recuperating at home. He has a long road ahead of him, but is doing very well and eager to get back to the work he loves – serving the citizens of Dinwiddie County. Please continue to keep Dan and his family in your prayers.

I have the utmost respect and appreciation for Dr. Mark Moore and Mrs. Brenda Ebron-Bonner, my colleagues on the Board representing districts 2 and 5. They both have hearts of service and are passionate about working to further the mission and vision of Dinwiddie County. I am also very excited to serve on the Board alongside Mr. Casey Dooley. Casey is well known and widely respected in the Dinwiddie community and will be an asset to the Board of Supervisors, his constituents in District 1 and the citizens of Dinwiddie County.

It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of District 3 on the Board of Supervisors for the past 12 years and I am excited to begin my 13th year on the Board in 2024. I have

enjoyed getting to know the good men and women in my district and across Dinwiddie County. In 2024, I will serve for the third time as Chairman of the Board. I appreciate the faith that my colleagues have placed in me and pray for God's guidance as I lead this incredible organization.

Great things are happening in Dinwiddie County! Our new Comprehensive Land Use Plan outlines a plan for growth and identifies the areas in which it will be most beneficial. In order to attract new businesses, as well as support and expand existing businesses, we must have critical infrastructure in place. We hear from constituents that there is a desire for more retail and restaurants in the County. These businesses will pass us by if we cannot offer an adequate supply of water. County staff are researching and investigating options and my hope is that we will identify viable solution.

We welcome commercial/retail growth in designated areas, such as the Sheetz that will soon be coming to the airport area. This will bring added convenience and additional options to our citizens and those traveling through Dinwiddie County. As a small business owner, I am incredibly proud of our small businesses and recognize that they are the backbone of our economy.

Broadband continues to be a top priority of the Board. County staff is working closely with the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative, and two private internet providers to expand broadband to unserved areas of the County. Dinwiddie County does not control the scope, budget, or timeline for this extremely complex project that combines, local, state, federal, and private funding. We have not, and will not expend public monies on this project until we are certain that it will work and is in the best interest of our citizens.

Transparency is critical to the County's continued success. The Dinwiddie Citizens Academy is a tremendous opportunity for citizens to learn more about the inner-workings of local government. To date, we have graduated two classes of individuals who now have a better understanding of the work that is done in Dinwiddie County government. These graduates have gone on to serve on a variety of committees and boards within the County and are able to be County ambassadors in their communities. We are proud of the Citizens Academy and look forward to its continued success. We are also proud of our citizens and the contributions that they are making in our community and beyond. As such, we are working to develop a citizen recognition program. This will be a year-round recognition program and we look forward to sharing the details as soon as they are available.

Above all else, we are committed to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens and have demonstrated this by making a significant investment in Fire & EMS. Dinwiddie Fire & EMS was founded on a volunteer system and we are thankful for their many years of dedicated service protecting lives and property in the County. Given rising call volumes, it has become necessary to supplement the volunteer system with paid Fire & EMS professionals, as such, the Board of Supervisors approved nine

additional Fire & EMS positions, four of which were already certified and able to get right to work. On January 12th we graduated the first class of career firefighter/medics from the Crater Regional Fire Academy. Of the 27 graduates, a total of five have joined Dinwiddie Fire & EMS as career staff.

Local government is only as good as its people, and in Dinwiddie, we are blessed with an incredible workforce. On January 29th, we recognized more than 100 employees for 5 - 40+ years of service during our Annual Workforce Briefing. The fact that people come to work here and choose to remain speaks highly of the work environment. We value our employees and strive to provide the support they need to grow and thrive here.

I am proud to represent the citizens of district 3 and to serve as Chairman of your Board of Supervisors. In the words of our County Administrator, "Public service is not something you 'have' to do, it is something you 'get' to do." I am thankful for the trust placed in me by my constituents and colleagues, and look forward to continuing to work to make Dinwiddie County "...an extraordinary place to spend a lifetime."

In His Service,

William "Bill" Chavis, Chairman
Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors