



E-Mail Newsletter

Staying in Touch with our Partners

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

Our Vision

Empower Hampton Roads will be a recognized, organized, interfaith force creating equity for all people in a just and united Hampton Roads region.

Our Mission

Empower Hampton Roads is an interfaith coalition that organizes and mobilizes citizens of our community to influence those who make and shape public policy to be responsible and accountable in creating justice for all people of Hampton Roads.

"Beach approves program to increase affordable housing" reads the headline on Wednesday, August 29, 2007's Virginian-Pilot

in an article that celebrates a successful campaign for workforce housing in Virginia Beach. The City Council voted 9-2 to "reward participating developers by allowing them to build as many as 30 percent more units on a property without having to buy more land. In exchange, they must designate at least 17 percent of the project as work-force housing. The lower-priced units, which must be 'indistinguishable' from a development's higher-priced homes, must also be sold below market price - up to 25 percent off."

"Tonight is about leaving a legacy," said Tim McCarthy, a member of Empower Hampton Roads, a faith-based advocacy group. "It's about recognizing the dignity of the workers in our city and the right for them to live and work in our city."

Read the entire article at [ARTICLE: Beach approves program to increase affordable housing \(The Virginian-Pilot - HamptonRoads.com/PilotOnline.com\)](http://ARTICLE: Beach approves program to increase affordable housing (The Virginian-Pilot - HamptonRoads.com/PilotOnline.com)) (article: Beach approves program to increase affordable housing by Susan E. White, the Virginian-Pilot, Wednesday, August 29, 2007).

Report of the public hearing in the City of Virginia Beach before City Council on August 21: "Thank you, Empower Hampton Roads, for being the conscience of this City."--Mayor Meyera Oberndorf

**FOURTH ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING on
Sunday, October 28 from 4:00-6:00 pm at
Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church,
6900 Newport Avenue, Norfolk.**

Housing Equity Campaign:

Housing task forces have been formed in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and on the Peninsula. We are all working to identify the critical housing issues in each city. Anyone can belong to a task force.

The taskforce recently created a Taskforce Coordinating Committee to assist and coordinate the efforts of jurisdictional teams from both the Peninsula and the Southside. We invite all who share in the vision and mandate of the Housing Equity Campaign to join us. Jurisdictional teams meet on a monthly basis and all teams meet as the Regional Equity Taskforce on a quarterly basis. For more information and regular meeting times please contact jurisdictional team chairpersons.

Norfolk – Mike Stark: mpstark@aol.com
Peninsula – Dan Ruggaber: alphadeltarug@verizon.net
Portsmouth- Gary Denette: <mailto:office@empowerhr.org>
Virginia Beach – Tim McCarthy: mccarthyt@aol.com
Coordinating Committee: jlkennedy@verizon.net

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SunTrust Bank offers MY CAUSE promotion

From August 6 through October 12, SunTrust Bank will donate \$100 to the charity of your choice if you open a business or personal checking account with them.*

*To be eligible, clients need to open a new checking account, accept a new SunTrust Visa Check Card, make any purchase using the new card, and complete and submit an online redemption form by November 15. The \$100 donation can be directed to IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organizations.

More information to be found at www.Suntrust.com/mycause. Click on charity search, enter "Empower Hampton Roads" and sign up for your donation to come to us!

Fund Development

Be an E.H.R sustainer! Your pledge is a simple and powerful action that will collectively make a huge impact on our ability to transform our region with a vision of community, hope and abundance for all people.

Choose an amount to invest on a one time basis or monthly in Empower Hampton Roads by electronic funds transfer, check or cash. One hundred sustainers investing \$20 monthly would result in \$24,000 annually enabling E.H.R to move more powerfully on our values and our vision in the public arena.

All investments are tax deductible. All investors are acknowledged in the annual Justice Banquet Ad-book.

It's quick and easy to pledge! Call 757-615-1006 Email office@empowerhr.org

Remember, Empower Hampton Roads will come to YOU for congregational conversations. Any one on the Board or in the office will be glad to speak to your church, small groups, core team--or whoever is willing to learn more about Empower Hampton Roads and what we are doing in your community.

Empower Hampton Roads is YOUR organization. For a visit or presentation, call (757) 615-1006 or email us at Office@Empowerhr.org.