



RESOLUTION CONCERNING TEMPORARY DETENTION ORDER (TDO) TRANSPORTATION

Whereas, safe, recovery-oriented transportation is a critical need for individuals involved in the civil commitment process, offering a less traumatizing experience and facilitating more positive outcomes for individuals and their families; and

Whereas, historically, within the civil commitment process, law enforcement has provided transportation to inpatient facilities, in addition to providing a constant presence throughout the crisis evaluation process; and

Whereas, the current system of law enforcement providing transportation for Emergency Custody Order's (ECO) and Temporary Detention Order's (TDO) is an unfunded mandate and results in undue financial and operational challenges to local municipalities and creates additional stress and trauma for the individual and the families of the person being transported by law enforcement; and

Whereas, the current system creates a risk to maintaining safe communities by reducing the number of hours in which officers are patrolling their communities due to the TDO/ECO transport duties, and creates an increased risk to those being transported because they are often alone in the back of a patrol car without proper monitoring of physiological and psychological symptoms while in transport, in some cases for up to six hours; and

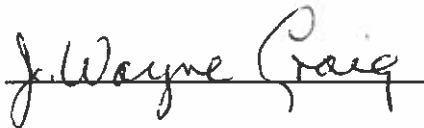
Whereas, In 2009, legislation was passed allowing magistrates to designate someone other than law enforcement to provide transportation under an ECO or a TDO if this could be

accomplished safely, and it's perceived that alternative transportation would have a substantial positive impact on individuals, families, and law enforcement, by allowing law enforcement to focus on their primary responsibilities, and by de-stigmatizing and promoting a more recovery-oriented civil commitment process;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 6th day of August, 2018, The Town of Abingdon, Virginia requests the Virginia Legislature continue to develop, and adequately fund, an alternative transportation system for individuals involved in the civil commitment process, recognizing the demographic and geographical challenges that rural areas in Virginia have concerning travel distances, the effect those challenges have on the emotional and financial impact of the families, and the financial distress incurred by all parties involved; and

Be it further resolved that the Virginia Legislature review and grant an exemption for the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute from the "place of last resort" requirement under current law; recognizing that it is centrally located, and imminently qualified, to serve as a front line regional detention center for the civil commitment process, and that increasing the capacity at Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute through increased state and local financial support would ultimately result in cost savings to the overall mental health arena.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

By: 
Mayor

The undersigned clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the "Town"), hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on August 6, 2018. I hereby further certify that such meeting was an organization/regular scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Mayor Wayne Craig	yes	aye
Cindy Patterson, Vice Mayor	yes	aye
Al Bradley, Councilperson	yes	aye
Donna Quetsch, Councilperson	yes	aye
Derek Webb, Councilperson	yes	aye

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Town of Abingdon as of August 6, 2018.

(SEAL)


Clerk, Town of Abingdon



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

DR. TODD E. PILLION
851 FRENCH MOORE JR. BLVD
SUITE 178
ABINGDON, VIRGINIA 24210

FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
TRANSPORTATION
APPROPRIATIONS
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

August 6, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Abingdon Town Council
Abingdon, VA

Dear Council Members:

It has come to my attention that Council will tonight consider a resolution regarding temporary detention orders (TDOs) as part of a desire to improve the civil commitment process in the Commonwealth. This has been an important issue for our legislative delegation. By way of this letter, I hope to inform you of the impact in Richmond and the progress we have made in the General Assembly over the past year.

In 2017, our legislative delegation hosted Speaker of the House of Delegates Kirk Cox in Abingdon to discuss the many complex issues related to TDOs and the civil commitment process as a whole. Representatives from several different law enforcement agencies in Southwest Virginia attended this meeting and shared their concerns and ideas. As you might expect, transportation was a key issue discussed, highlighting the stress that mental health transports can place on local law enforcement, especially in our region.

Fortunately, we were able to expand on this discussion and work with our colleagues during the General Assembly session this year. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I supported the inclusion of \$7 million in the state budget for the development of an alternative transportation system. Those funds are allocated to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) over the course of a two-year period to "provide alternative transportation for adults and children under a temporary detention order".

While this is a step in the right direction, it is by no means a fix-all solution. Mental health transports and the civil commitment process is a complex and sensitive issue that must be addressed with concern for all individuals involved. I look forward to working with my colleagues and our localities across Southwest Virginia to build upon this progress as we move forward.

I hope you find this information helpful and useful.

Sincerely,

Todd Pillion
Delegate, 4th District

Cc: Mr. Tony Sullivan, Interim Town Manager