

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Portsmouth, VA

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### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

PORTSMOUTH, VA –

#### Virginia Progressive Prosecutors for Justice (VPPFJ)

Virginia Progressive Prosecutors for Justice (VPPFJ) is a group of Commonwealth's Attorneys representing over 40% of Virginia's population who support and advocate for commonsense criminal justice reforms to make their communities safer and the commonwealth's justice system more fair and equitable. Today we issued the attached [letter](#) to leaders in the General Assembly regarding reforms we plan to advocate for in the coming legislative session.

#### Highlighted Proposals

- **Automatic and Free Expungement** of criminal records after individuals have maintained a clean record for an amount of time that corresponds to the severity of their offense.
- **End Mandatory Minimum** sentences and take a more individualized and holistic approach to sentencing.
- **End Cash Bail** and reject the current two-tiered justice system of bail (one for the rich and one for the poor).
- **Abolish the Death Penalty** as it is unjust, racially biased, and ineffective in deterring crime. It is past time for Virginia to end this antiquated practice.
- **End the "Three Strikes"** felony enhancement for petit larceny offenses. This senselessly punitive means of addressing a nonviolent property offense fuels mass incarceration and furthers recidivism.

We remain committed to the safe keeping of each and every one of the citizens of Portsmouth and together,  
we can move the Commonwealth forward in peace, safety, and justice.

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