

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 advocated for in [January](#) of this year and some that we continue to advocate for.

Successful Reforms

- **Abolition of the Death Penalty** as it is unjust, racially biased, and ineffective in deterring crime.
- **Expungement** of criminal records after individuals have maintained a clean record for an amount of time that corresponds to the severity of the offense.
- **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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