



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Attorney General

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

December 14, 2022

Chairman Ryant L. Washington
Commission to Investigate the Virginia Beach Mass Shooting
P. O. Box 1151
Richmond, VA 23218

CC: Patrick A. Duhaney
Virginia Beach City Manager
2401 Courthouse Dr
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Dear Chairman Washington and Members of the Virginia Beach Mass Shooting Commission,

On May 31, 2019, our Virginia Beach community suffered unimaginable tragedy. We are still healing from the wounds of that day, when we lost twelve of our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. While representing Virginia Beach in the General Assembly, I led the fight to create the Virginia Beach Mass Shooting Commission to help prevent future tragedies and help the families of the victims gain closure.

I have been incredibly disappointed in the way that the Commission has conducted their investigation and review thus far. Not even half of the membership attended the Commission's second meeting on August 4, 2021; only ten of the twenty-one members – less than a quorum – appeared to hear a briefing from the FBI and discuss the five reports related to the shooting.

When diligent members have sought access to pertinent and necessary information, they have hit resistance from the City of Virginia Beach, as well as fellow Commissioners. In recent months, the

general lack of cooperation from the City of Virginia Beach, and the overall dysfunction of the Commission, has led ten of its twenty-one members to resign. The failure of some Commissioners and the City of Virginia Beach to prioritize the work of the Commission has been justifiably upsetting to the families of the victims and the community as a whole.

The stated purpose of the Commission is to “conduct an independent, thorough, objective incident review of the May 31, 2019, tragedy and make recommendations regarding improvements that can be made in the Commonwealth's laws, policies, procedures, systems, and institutions, as well as those of other governmental agencies and private providers.”

We now have suffered yet again from tragic and senseless acts of violence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and at a Walmart in Chesapeake. I implore you, on behalf of the citizens of Virginia Beach and the Commonwealth of Virginia, to prioritize this Commission’s mission and treat your task with the seriousness and respect that it deserves. The families that have lost loved ones should expect nothing less.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason S. Miyares', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason S. Miyares

Attorney General of Virginia