



August 29, 2023

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Welcome

We appreciate you for joining us this evening. This neighborhood town hall is a new community meeting that we started earlier this year.

It IS:

- an information sharing meeting
- a Q&A on key topics
- a request for your engagement & involvement

Thank you for being part of the next year of progress for the Virginia-Highland neighborhood.

Our ask of you tonight

Listen, learn, choose 1 thing to get involved in, invite a friend or neighbor to join



Our 2022-23 VHCA Board



Leah Matthews
President &
Fundraising/Events
Chair



Johnson Bazzel
Transportation Chair



Alex Saucedo
Fundraising &
Summerfest Chair



Jim Long
Parks Chair



Melissa Clark
Education Chair



Jess Liddick
Treasurer &
Budget Chair



Karen-Jane Wright
Communications Chair



Mike Lewis
Vice President &
Events Chair



Kim Gnatt
Secretary &
Elections Chair



Amy Harward
Planning &
Transportation
Chair



Lisl Huber
Education Chair,
Grants Chair

This Evening's Agenda

- **VHCA Neighborhood Update** - Leah, Jess, KJ, Alex, Amy, Lisl, Jim, Jim
 - Year to date success
 - Summerfest 2024
 - FRIENDS OF VaHi
 - Fall Events & Volunteer Opportunities
 - Transportation News
 - Parks & John Howell Renovation
 - Ways to get involved
 - Q&A
- **People Experiencing Homelessness in Virginia-Highland**
 - Local Expert Panel
 - Q&A

This Evening's Agenda

- **VHCA Neighborhood Update (30 min)** - Leah, KJ, Alex, Amy, Lisl
 - YTD success, Membership recruitment (5 min)
 - Summerfest 2024 - Alex (5-7min)
 - Budget Report - Jess (5min)
 - FRIENDS OF VaHi (5min)
 - Fall Events & Volunteer Opportunities (TOH, Grants) - KJ, Lisl (7min)
 - Parks Update & John Howell Renovation - Jess, Jim, Lee, Jim (15min)
 - Transportation News - Amy (5min)
 - Upcoming Board Elections (2min)
 - Ways to get involved (2 min)
 - Q&A - Board Members (10 min)
- **People Experiencing Homelessness in Virginia-Highland** with Local Expert Panel
 - Panel (45min)
 - Q&A (15min)

Welcome to the neighborhood and thank you for hosting 

Virginia-Highland
- Elementary School -



Neighborhood Update

Founded in 1971 by Virginia-Highland Residents

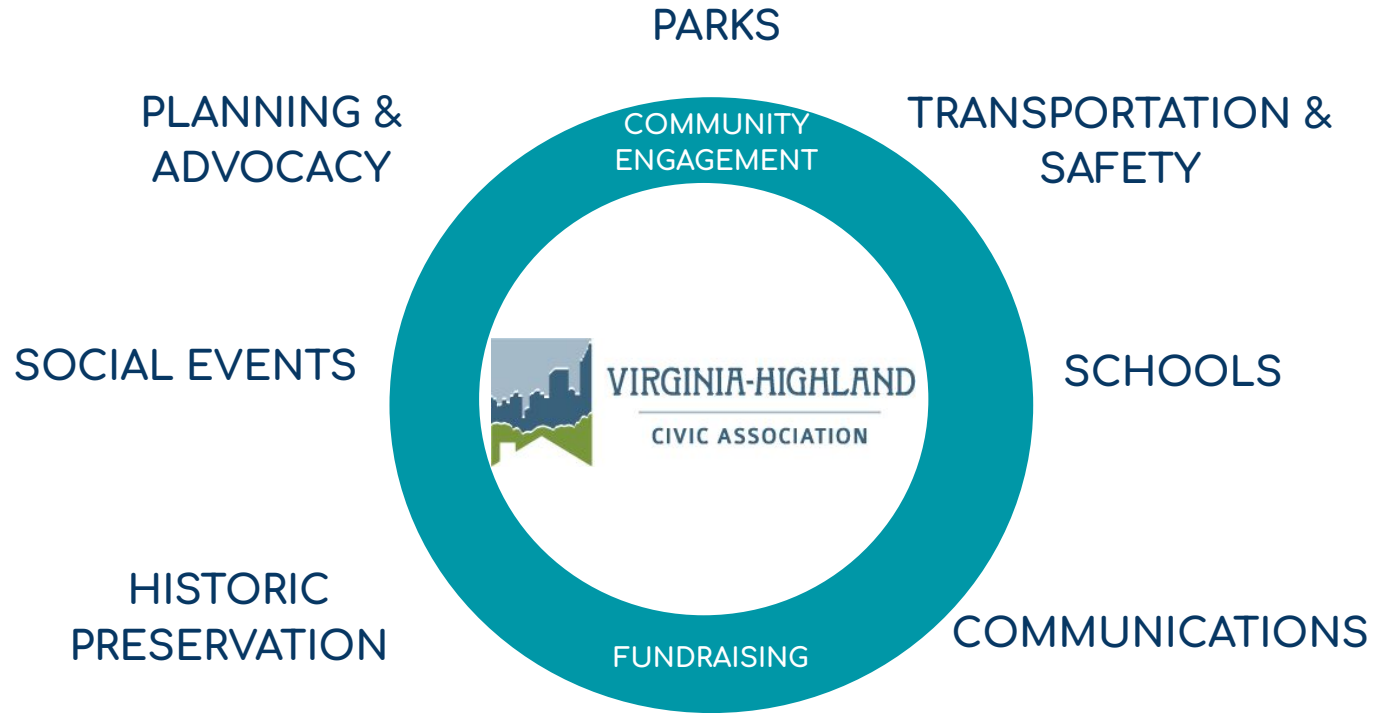
The **VHCA**'s purpose is the promotion and the furtherance of the common good, general welfare and interests of residents of The Virginia-Highland.



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND
CIVIC ASSOCIATION



VHCA Areas of Focus



A Year in Review - Top Ten - How did we do this year?

1. New board took office in October with 7 brand new board members - set clear priorities incl better communication, more community events, and strategically fundraising
2. Tour of Homes returned for 1st time since Pandemic, - new 1-day format, moved to Fall. raised \$47,541
3. First-ever VaHi-Illoven, free community event
4. First-ever VaHi Concert in the Park - sold out, John Howell Park neighbors came together and jammed out to Yacht Rock Revue
5. Partnered with VHD Winterfest, hosted a re-opening of our beloved Fire Station #19
6. Awarded grants of \$2,500 to each neighborhood school (SPARK, VHE, Howard and Midtown) and YWCA and Friends of the Ponce Library
7. Two Neighborhood Town Halls with strong community engagement (January & tonight)
8. First-ever egg hunt in North Highland Park, free community event, wonderful turnout
9. Our 50th VHCA Anniversary Gala at Murphy's
10. Improved Communication to our members via the VOICE and social media

Welcome to the neighborhood, Virginia-Highland Elementary!



Our Committees accomplished so much!

Planning

- Continued work with Portman on the “Ponce at Ponce” Project
- Working with Portman on the upcoming Amsterdam Walk project. More updates on this will be communicated in the coming months.
- Negotiated with Atlanta Botanical Gardens and City Officials to improve the outcome of the storage facility on Monroe

Safety and Transportation

- Worked closely with neighbors and Alex Wan to ensure legislation was passed for safer routes to school prior to the new Virginia-Highland Elementary opened earlier this month

Parks

- Working with Frawley & Associates on John Howell Park renovation plans (more details to come)
- Host a monthly cleanup series - John Howell and North Highland Parks. Support Friends of Orme Park
- Engage with Park Pride and City of Parks and Rec Department to coordinate improvements and repairs
- Ensure recurring park maintenance paid and managed
- Coordinate volunteers for doggie bags

SUMMERFEST 2023 was a success!



THANK YOU TO OUR
2023 MEDIA PARTNERS!



RENEWAL
by ANDERSEN
FULL SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

MARGARTAVILLE
VACATION CLUB
BY WYNDHAM



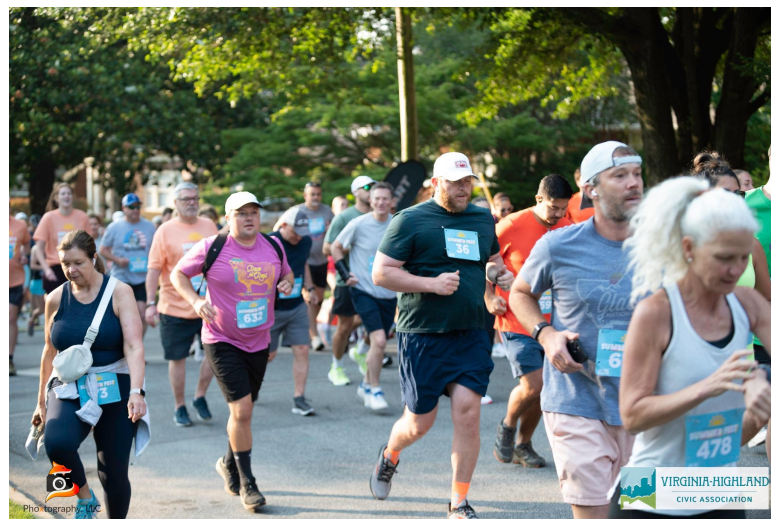
Puttshack



T Mobile



Window & Door of Georgia



SUMMERFEST raised \$44K this year

- Total net income \$44,000, increase of \$24k over 2022
- 800 5k runners this year (400 more than year prior)
- 5k revenue doubled to \$33K+
- 185 artists in our artist market
- 4 great bands
- Big decline in income from Friday night kick-off
- Biggest costs were music
- Kidsfest successfully executed - great neighborhood feedback



2024: How can we make it even better?



NEW for 2024:

- Return to 2 days - Friday evening through Sunday afternoon
- Expansion of Kidsfest
- Date change - will most likely occur towards the end of summer in September
 - Better weather, more people in town, less competition with other festivals, more and better artists and bands, more sponsorships, more time to prepare and advertise

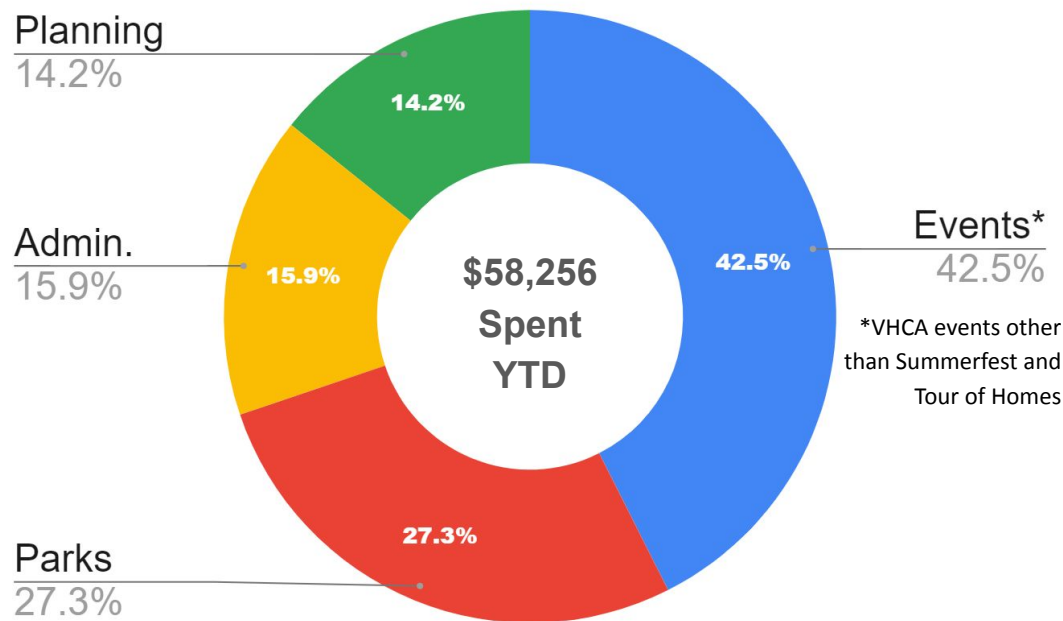
Challenges:

- We need more volunteers!
- Revamp Friday night kick-off with solid theme and more “neighborhood feel”
- Increase in 2023 income came from cutting costs, not more revenue
 - Revenue has been declining since mid 2010s
- If we are not able to replicate the success of previous years, might not be able to continue

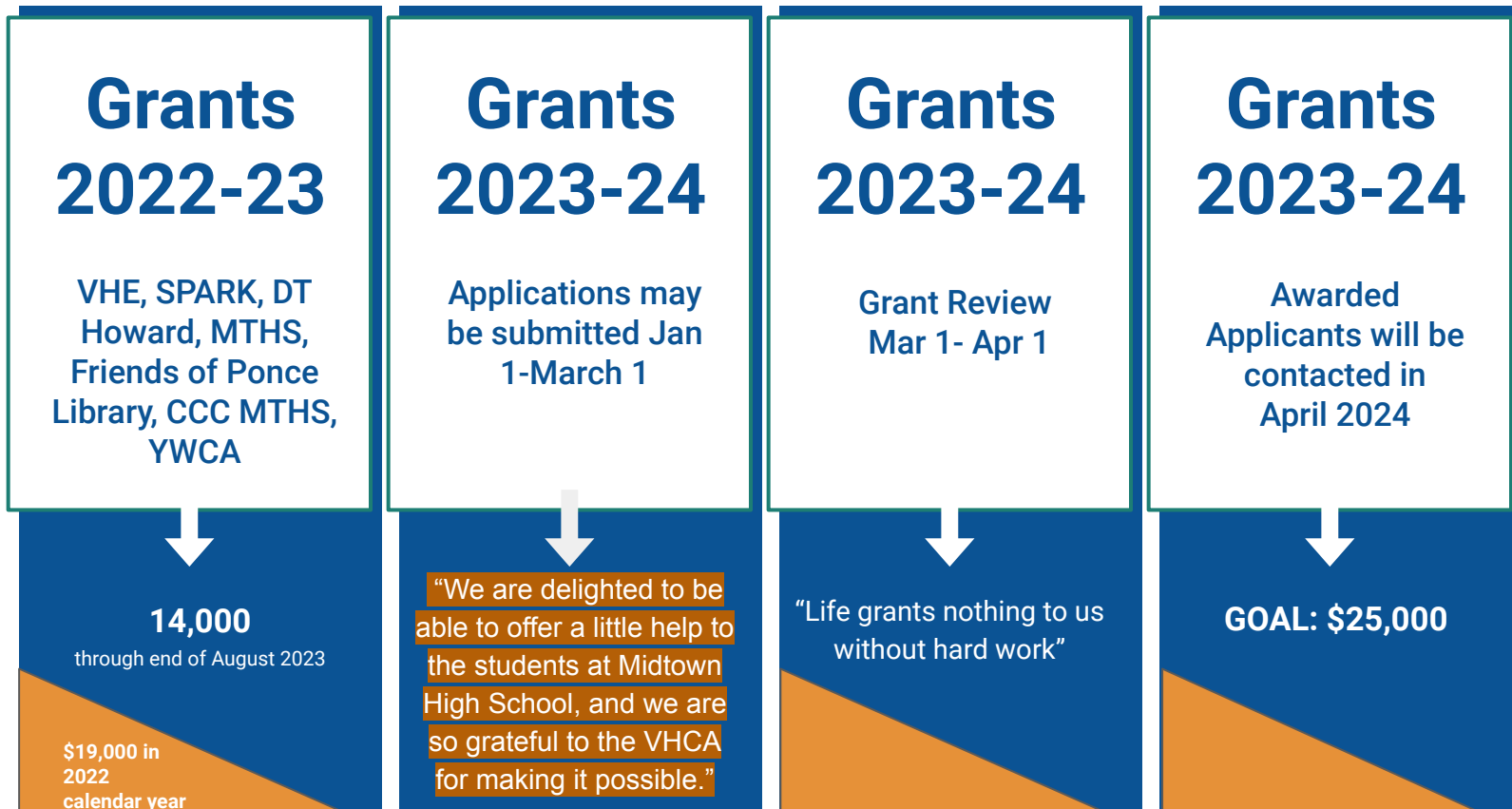
Feedback/Questions? email summerfest@vahi.org

Budget Report

Where Dollars from Summerfest and Tour of Homes are Spent



VHCA contributes ~\$20K annually to local organizations



*Friends
of Va Hi*

What is Friends of VaHi?

By becoming a Friend of VaHi, you will be integral in building community and neighborhood pride in Virginia-Highland.

It is *NOT* membership to the Civic Association. Membership and voting rights will always remain free to all who live within our boundaries.

It *IS* the newest way for us to secure funding for the key efforts of the VHCA.

It *IS* a donation to our general fund - allows our all-volunteer board to continue the work of planning, events, parks maintenance, safety/transportation, and support of our local schools and other organizations



Why Friends of VaHi?

- Other Civic Associations charge dues to their members. We would like to keep our membership free
- Our biggest fundraiser (Summerfest) is bringing in $\frac{1}{3}$ of the revenue it used to
- The more funds in the VHCA, the more the VHCA can do for our community
- At \$150 annual donation, we would need 240 families to cover our operating expenses of roughly \$35,000



There are 3 contribution levels for you/your household

VAHI VIP: \$250

Annual contribution, includes all members in a single-family household

- VOICE neighborhood newsletter
- Vote in Annual VHCA Board election*
- Informed neighborhood engagement with city police, parks, city council, and more
- Participation in monthly meetings and annual Town Hall
- Participation in Annual Friends of VAHI gathering
- Priority ticket purchasing for events, such as VAHI Concert in the Park Series
- VAHI Swag- first year of membership to be delivered Q4 2023 (house/yard sign, merchandise)

Family Level: \$150

Annual contribution, includes all members in a household, Great for Families

- VOICE neighborhood newsletter
- Vote in Annual VHCA Board election*
- Informed neighborhood engagement with city police, parks, city council, and more
- Participation in monthly meetings and annual Town Hall
- Participation in Annual Friends of VAHI gathering

Individual: \$50

Annual contribution, includes 1 person, Great for Singles and 65+

- VOICE neighborhood newsletter
- Vote in Annual VHCA Board election*
- Informed neighborhood engagement with city police, parks, city council, and more
- Participation in monthly meetings and annual Town Hall
- Participation in Annual Friends of VAHI gathering

Upcoming Events

FALL CALENDAR

- Tour of Homes - October 21st
- Concert Series in John Howell Park - September 9th & November 11th
- VaHi-lloween - Fall
- Park Cleanups

Virginia-Highland Civic Association 2023 Calendar
2023 Calendar

January						
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November						
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31						

Monthly Board Meetings
Holiday
2nd Sunday Park Cleanup

Fundraising & Fun		
Jan 30	Town Hall	TBD Concert Series
Mar 25	Concert Series	TBD Tour of Homes
Apr 8	Easter Egg Hunt	Sept 9 Concert Series
Apr 28	50th Anniversary Soiree	Oct VaHi-lloween
Jun 10	Summerfest	Nov 11 Concert Series

Please check Upcoming Events vahi.org for the latest.

Upcoming Events



VAHI
CONCERT SERIES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
7pm-9:30pm at John Howell Park

RUBY VELLE DUO

TABLES STILL AVAILABLE!

The poster features a black and white photograph of a man and a woman performing. The man is on the left, looking down, and the woman is on the right, singing into a microphone. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

Concerts in the Park

- Saturday, 9/9 - Ruby Velle Duo
- Saturday, 11/11 ...TBD





Dessert?



Order pick-up from one of your favorite local spots







CONCERT SERIES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

7pm-9:30pm at John Howell Park

RUBY VELLE DUO

GET YOUR TABLE TODAY!!



Get Concert Tickets
through our website
vahi.org under Fundraisers
or this code:



Tour of Homes

*The Virginia-Highland Tour of Homes is back on **October 21st**, 2023 with six beautiful properties included on this year's tour. Enjoy a Saturday of beautiful architecture and interior design in one of Atlanta's most charming neighborhoods. All proceeds from the tour go to The Virginia-Highland Civic Association. We need your help to inject the vibrancy and life of the neighborhood in the event. Sign up to Volunteer today!*







Saturday October 21, 2023

9 AM to 5 PM

Ticketing is live on the website.

Early bird special \$25

More details at

vahitourofhomes.org

Volunteer event staff needed and
appreciated!

Sign up at:

vahitourofhomes.org

Questions: lkuegeman@gmail.com or bhach09@gmail.com

VaHi-loween!





VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

CIVIC ASSOCIATION



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Join a Committee!!

- ***Communications*** - publishing, marketing, social media, and **digital design** help needed **communications@vahi.org**
- ***Events & Fundraising*** - highly organized hustlers and do-ers wanted! **events@vahi.org**
- ***Parks*** - environmentalists, arborists, rainwater managers, landscape/gardening enthusiasts wanted **parks@vahi.org**
- ***Planning*** - those interested and/or knowledgeable in city planning/architecture wanted **planning@vahi.org**
- ***Safety & Transportation*** - those with big feels about bike lanes and pedestrian walks wanted! **transportation@vahi.org**
- ***Summerfest*** - all skill sets needed! This event is our largest undertaking **summerfest@vahi.org**

Transportation News

Safety & Transportation Committee

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



VHCA Transportation and Safety Committee's Traffic & Infrastructure Resolution (Previously approved for support on 3/12/2017)



Using the Virginia-Highland [website](https://www.vhca.org), we found information, concerns, and documentation that we recommend presenting before the Board of Virginia-Highland Elementary School parents.

Stakeholders

- Virginia-Highland residents
- Virginia-Highland Elementary School
- City of Atlanta

Phase 1: Sign, Speed & Signal

- Ask that speed limit be lowered to 25 mph at all times on the new 401-25
- Request that the school and city create a "stop" sign at the intersection of Virginia Ave and N Highland Ave
- Request that the school and city create a "stop" sign at the intersection of Virginia Ave and N Highland Ave
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- Request that the school and city create a "stop" sign at the intersection of Virginia Ave and N Highland Ave

Phase 2: Infrastructure Improvements

- Request that the school and city create a "stop" sign at the intersection of Virginia Ave and N Highland Ave
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FREE CLASS from **ROPE TV** & **VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Get there by bike!

4TH & 5TH GRADERS!

SUNDAY 8/27 FROM 9-11 AM

SPACE LIMITED - PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FREE CLASS from **ROPE TV** & **VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Get there by bike!

for middle school

STREET SAFETY - BELTLINE ETIQUETTE

SUNDAY, 7/23 10 AM-NOON

CLASS FOR RISING 6TH-8TH GRADERS!
SPACE LIMITED - REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Committee goals for next term:

[illegible]

There have always been those in Virginia-Highland who prefer biking to driving. Improvements in the cycling infrastructure will accentuate the neighborhood's appeal to this demographic.



2018 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

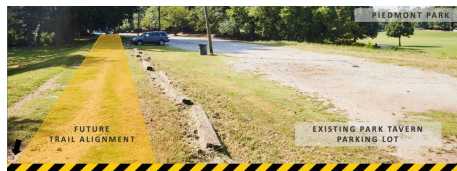


2.34 VIRGINIA BIKE LANES

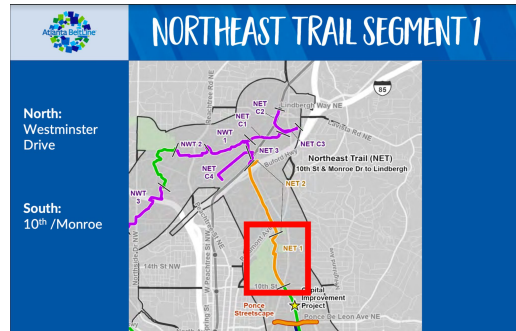
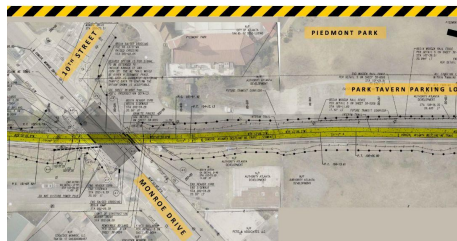
Add a striped 5' bike lane on the south side of Virginia Avenue from Kanuga Street to Barnett Street and on the north side of Virginia Avenue from Barnett Street to North Highland Avenue. Add an on-street sharrow marking on the north side of Virginia Avenue from Kanuga Street to Barnett Street and on the south side of Virginia Avenue from Barnett Street to North Highland Avenue (Figure 17).



Projects we're engaging...



NEW PIEDMONT PARK ENTRANCES



BeltLine Trail,
Piedmont Park
Entrances
triggering
Monroe
Complete Street



PONCE DE LEON IMPROVEMENTS

Project Location	Cross Street/Address	Start	Finish
north side	736 PDL (Common Market Shopping Center) to ABI Eastside Trail	Monday, January 30, 2023	Friday, March 3, 2023
light pole installation	all areas (periodic interruptions)	Thursday, February 9, 2023	Friday, March 1, 2024
north side	ABI Eastside Trail to 650 PDL (Midtown Place/Tacos and Tequilas)	Monday, March 6, 2023	Friday, April 7, 2023
north side	650 PDL (Midtown Place/Tacos and Tequilas) to Ponce de Leon Court	Monday, April 10, 2023	Friday, May 12, 2023
north side	Ramsey Connector Wall (ABI Eastside Trail)	Friday, April 28, 2023	Thursday, August 10, 2023
north side	Ponce de Leon Court to 526 PDL (McDonaldis)	Monday, May 15, 2023	Friday, June 16, 2023
north side	526 PDL (McDonaldis) to Monroe Drive	Monday, June 19, 2023	Friday, July 21, 2023
traffic signal installation	Monroe Drive/Boulevard	Monday, March 6, 2023	Friday, April 14, 2023
traffic signal installation	Glen Iris Drive	Monday, April 17, 2023	Friday, May 26, 2023
traffic signal installation	Midtown Place	Monday, May 29, 2023	Friday, July 7, 2023
traffic signal installation	Ponce de Leon Place	Monday, July 10, 2023	Friday, August 18, 2023



BeltLine Rail

STREETCAR EAST EXTENSION PROJECT Project History and Timeline



What we are watching in the Design Phase:

- Track crossing point design
- Track protection barrier materials
- Tree canopy effects

STREETCAR EAST EXTENSION PROJECT Proposed Alignment and Stop Locations



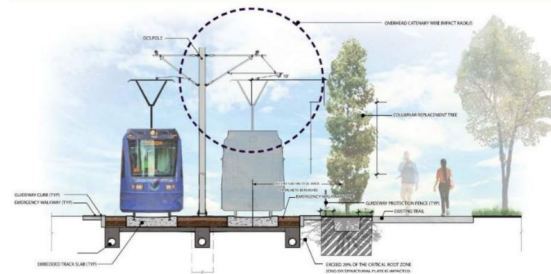
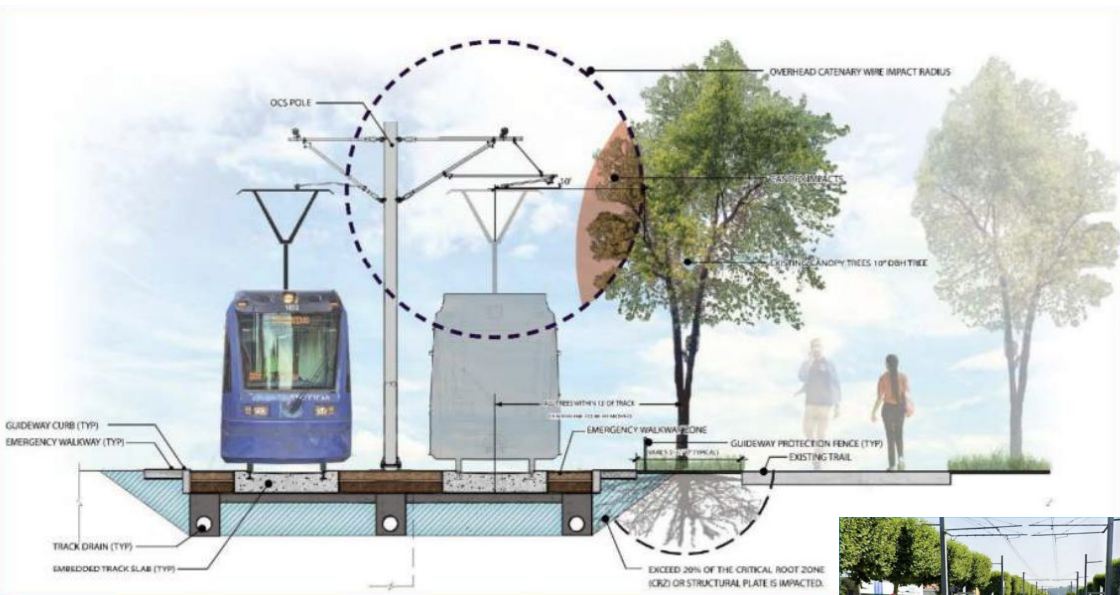
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING: TYPE 1



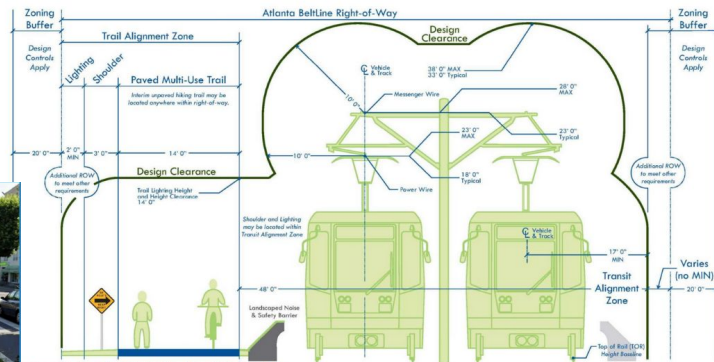
Granite Facing Retaining Wall with Chain-Link Fence



Tree canopy effects

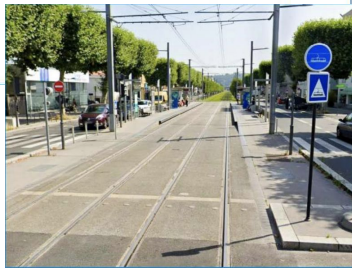


BeltLine Tree Replacement – Typical Section



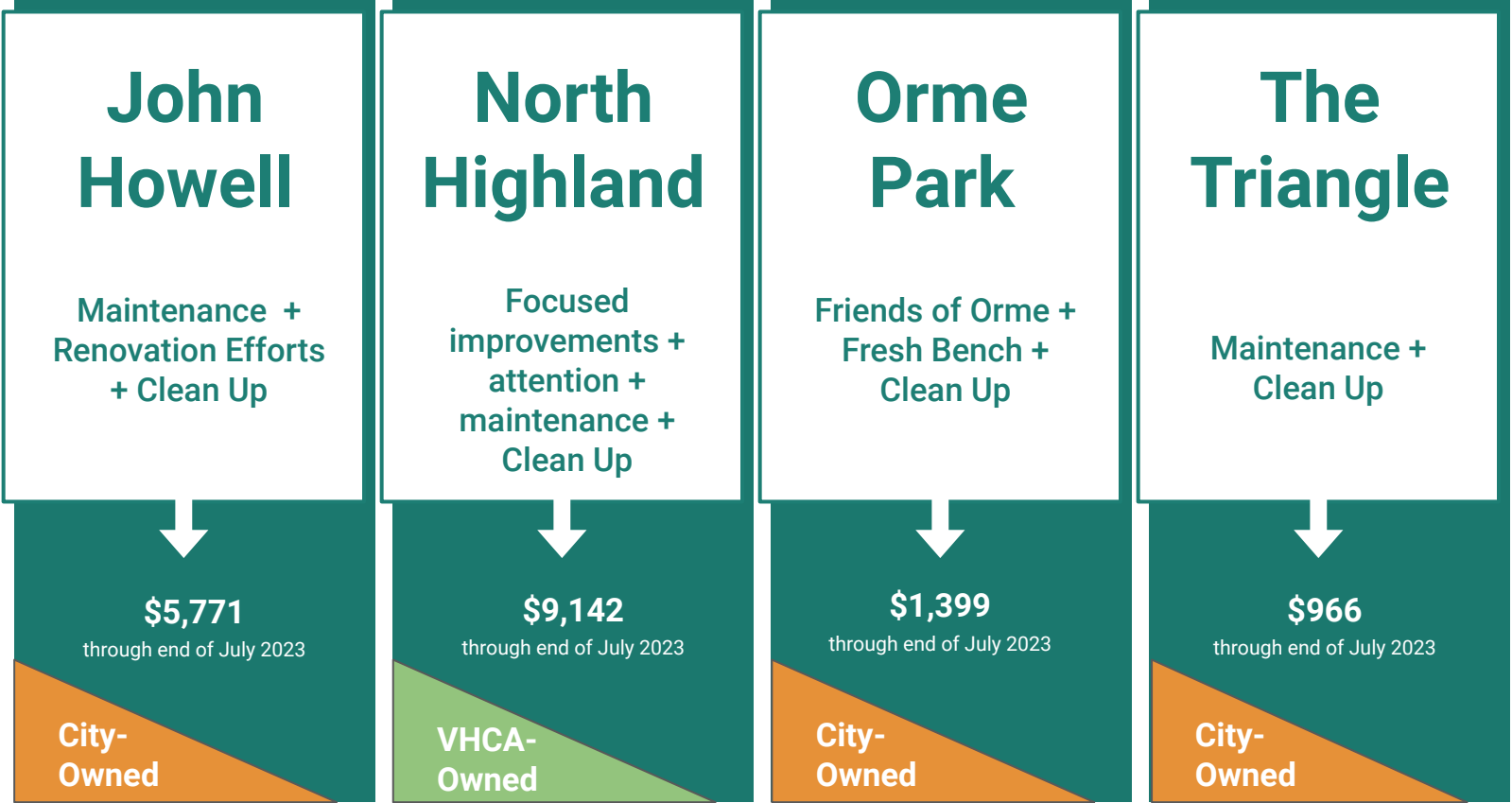
Requirements shown for typical trail and transit alignment only. Actual requirements may vary at specific locations in the corridor for various reasons and based on system needs, topography, access, and other factors.

Illustrative Only: Not to Scale
Actual ROW width varies throughout corridor.



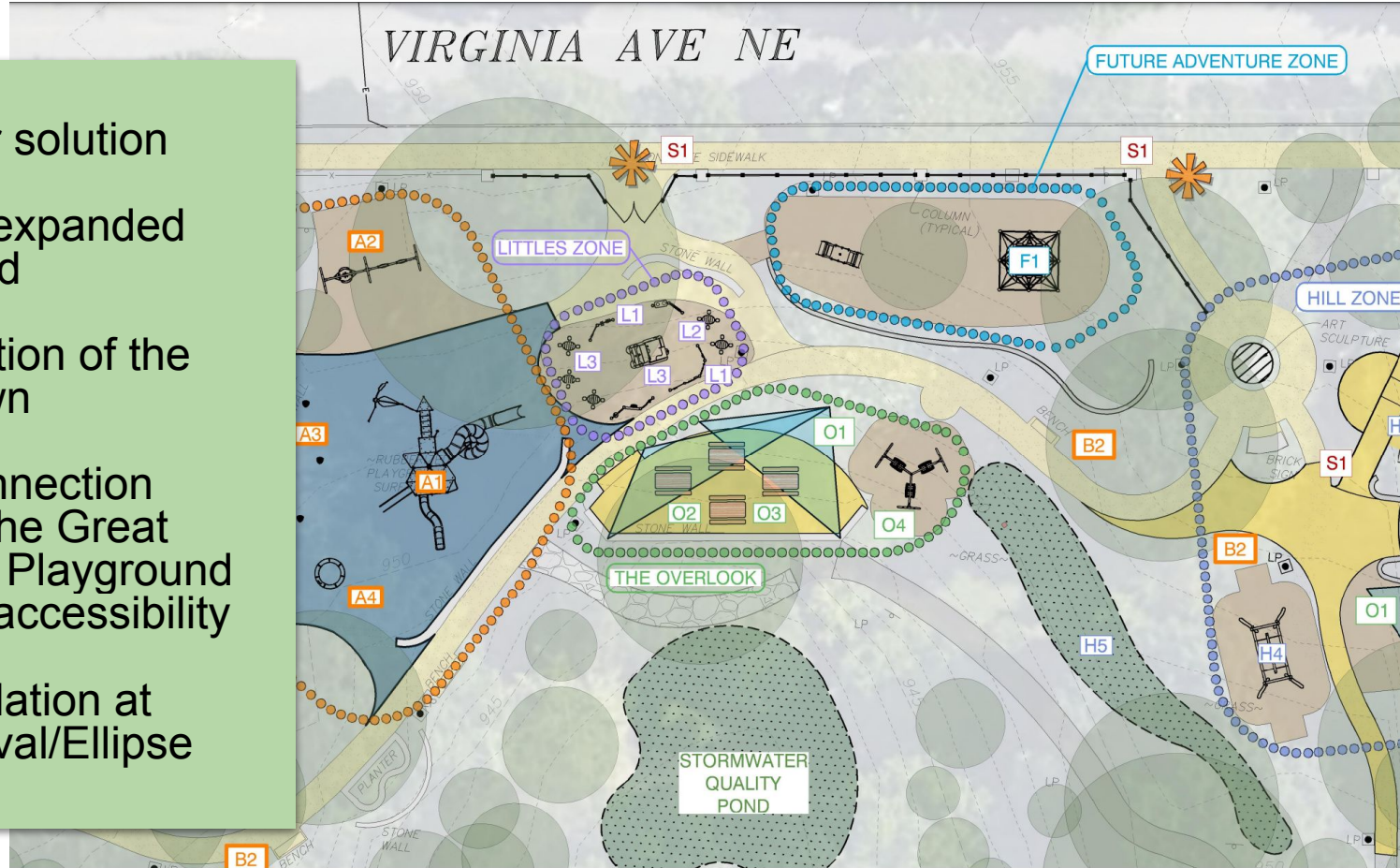
Parks

Overview of our Parks



John Howell Park Renovation - Overview

- Rainwater solution
- New and expanded playground
- Revitalization of the Great Lawn
- Grand connection between the Great Lawn and Playground with ADA accessibility
- Turf installation at Barnett Oval/Ellipse



John Howell Park Renovation - Preliminary Cost Estimate

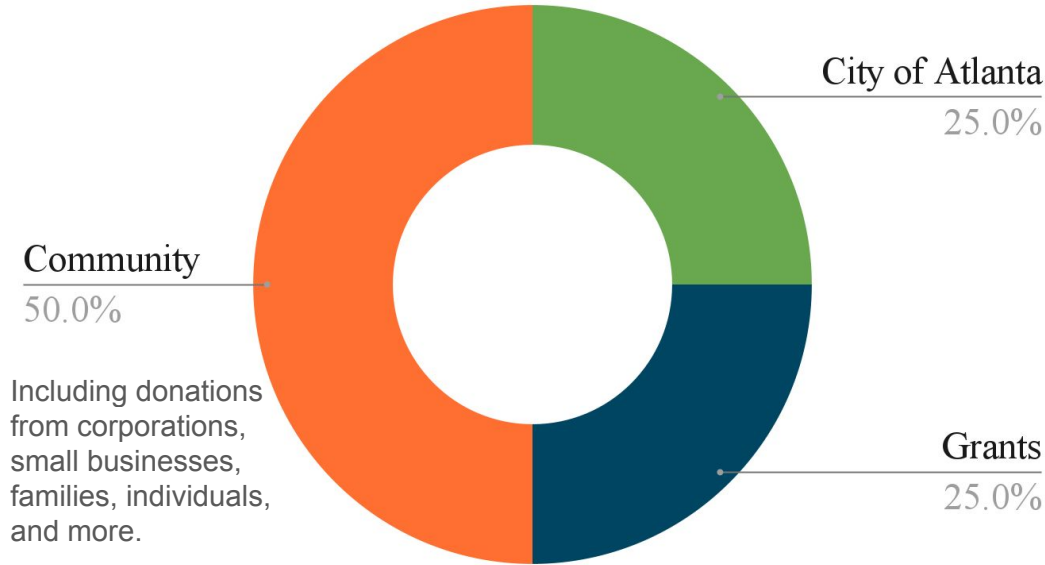
- New Playground equipment and surfaces (~\$700k)
- Rain gardens, grading, and stormwater management (~\$300k)
- Great Lawn restoration and Barnett Oval revitalization (~\$250k)

- Hardscapes - steps, brick sidewalks, ADA ramps, fencing and more (~\$250k)
- New plantings and existing tree management (~\$100k)
- Professional services (~\$50k)

Preliminary Cost Estimate: \$1.5-\$1.75M



John Howell Park Renovation - Potential Funding Sources



Contribute via tax deductible donation at www.vahi.org
To get involved email parks@vahi.org



How can you get engaged?



Virginia-Highland Civic Association 2023 (Virtual) Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election

Key Dates

- 8/30 - Deadline to register
- 8/30 - Deadline to submit for candidacy
- 9/5-9/17 - Voting period
- 9/20 - New board announced
- 10/1 - New board in place



Registration is
required to vote



Board Candidacy
Nomination



Virginia-Highland Civic Association **2023 (Virtual) Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election**

Board Candidacy Declaration - Term 10/1/23 - 9/30/24

- Are you interested in getting more involved in a leadership role in our neighborhood?
- Do you have some or all of the below qualifications
- A successful VHCA board member exhibits the following qualifications:
 - proven leadership
 - previous board experience
 - Virginia-Highland neighborhood knowledge
 - community organization experience
 - community involvement
 - communications, advocacy, event planning, fundraising

We champion diversity within the community and the board that represents it, in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, race, disabilities, etc.

Thank you for your leadership & years of service !!!



Jim Long



Mike Lewis

Ways to Get Engaged

- Join the VHCA - www.vahi.org
- Enjoy The VOICE newsletter
- Join a VHCA Committee: Parks, Communications, Planning, Historic Preservation, Tour of Homes, Summerfest, Education, Transportation, Safety
- Volunteer for a Park Clean-Up
- Join the VHSP (Safety)
- Attend neighborhood events
- Donate to the John Howell Park project
- Sign up for Alex Wan's District 6 Newsletter
- Join your school PTOs



VHCA membership

Questions?

Panel

People Experiencing Homelessness in Virginia-Highland

What we are observing

a rise in 'people experiencing homelessness' - in our Parks (John Howell and North Highland) and most recently on the streets. The same streets that we promote our young children to walk to school on everyday.

The conundrum we are facing

we want to respect and assist these individuals as best as we can but know that is not the ideal course of action. we are unsure of the resources available to assist.

The questions we are asking

Why is this happening on our streets? What resources are available for these individuals to get help? What can we do to improve the situation? When we witness inappropriate/illegal behavior by these individuals, how do we address it? How can we help?

Our intention

Can we work together to alleviate homelessness in our community?

Thank you to the organizations making a difference



PARTNERS FOR
HOME



POLICING
ALTERNATIVES
& DIVERSION
INITIATIVE



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND
CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Our panelists this evening



Alex Wan

District 6 Atlanta City
Council



Moki Macias

Executive Director,
Policing Alternatives &
Diversion (PAD)



Tim Peek

Deputy Chief,
Atlanta Police Department



Cathryn Vassell

Executive Director,
Partners for Home

You can call 311 to request in-person assistance for:

1. Disturbance

Yelling, interfering with business, noise, in traffic, unwanted contact, harassment, refusing to leave private property, blocking streets or businesses

2. Public Indecency

Bathing in public bathrooms or fountains, naked in public place, sexual activity in public places

3. Mental Health

Disoriented, erratic, agitated, talking to themselves

4. Substance Use

Drug activity, under the influence of substances, using drugs in public, drinking in public

5. Basic Needs

Food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, sleeping in public place, sleeping outside, sleeping on sidewalk, sleeping in doorway, taking food

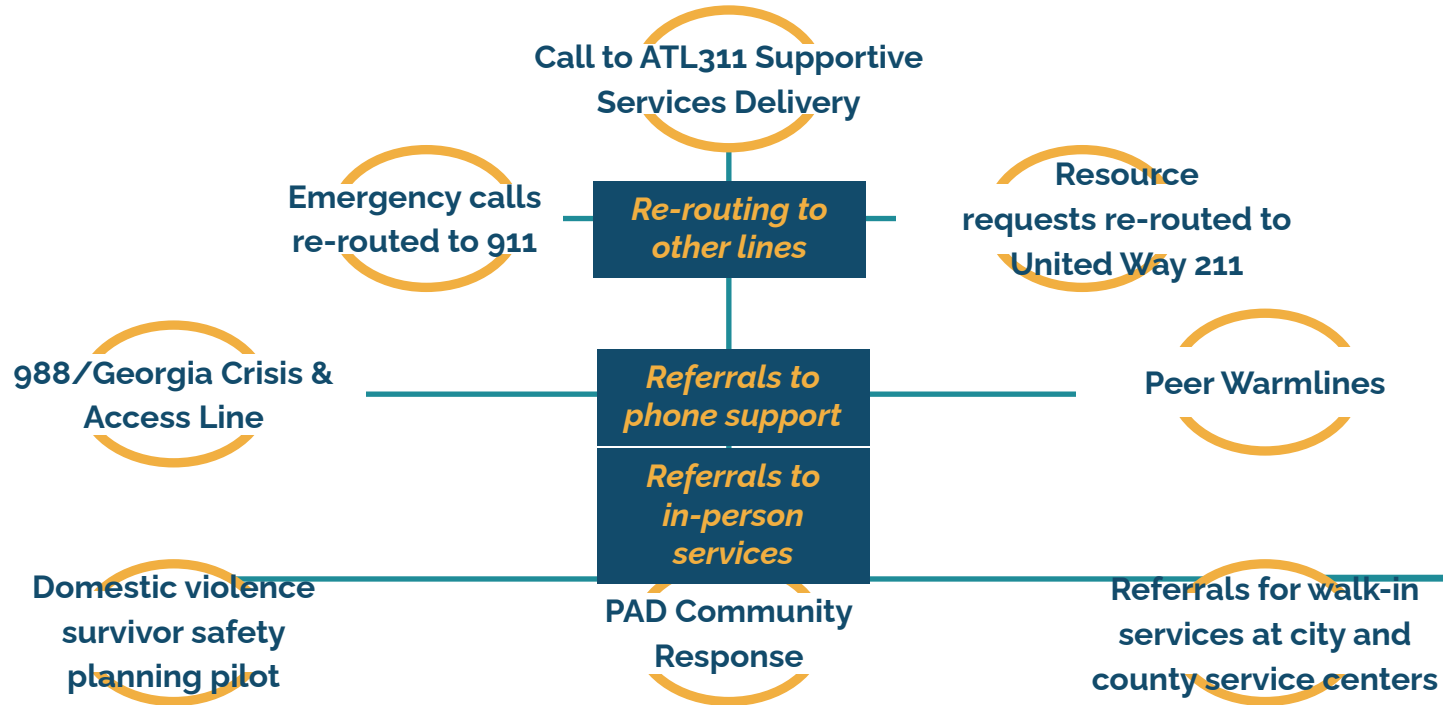
6. Welfare

Upset, asking for help, asking for food, asking for money, health issues, weather exposure

7. Public Health

Using the bathroom in public,, used needles, used condoms, piling trash, eating out of trash, dumpster diving

ATL311 – Option 1 for Supportive Services



Questions?

Discussion Guide

- **Kim with VHCA:** introduce the intention of the panel, intro Alex
- **Alex:** Highlight the importance of this topic related to our district and our need to address it. Why these entities are critical to the discussion
- **Each Panelist:** Introduce themselves and describe their entity's role on the issue
- **Q&A:** Alex to intro questions and ask for panelists to contribute
 - Q: Have you seen a rise in the homeless population in 2023? In Virginia-Highland? What are you seeing?
 - Q: What is your organization doing to address this challenge? Is it working? If not, what is needed to address?
 - Q: How can we help/take action? What specific actions can we take as individuals? How about as a VHCA organization?
 - Q: Who do we call to address incidents/issues?
 - Q: What examples has your organization successfully done – what have you learned?
 - Example: Alex convened group to address GDOT encampments – results and learnings

Thank you for your time this evening.



Join the VHCA Today



**Become a VHCA member
click on QR code and sign-up**

Preparation

- Confirm date, time **COMPLETE (6 months out)**
- Submit location paperwork with APS, get confirmation - **COMPLETE (3-4 months out)**
- Confirm top 5-7 topics & speakers for each section - **COMPLETE (2 months prior)**
- Confirm outside speakers - Kim **(1 month prior)**
- Promote/Marketing - Kim
 - Brief graphic artist for assets/alert Comms team - **(1 month prior)**
 - VOICE save the date teaser **8/1** (to KJ by 7/25)
 - A-frame Signs **8/15** (to printer by 8/7, creative by 8/1) - banner n print
 - Get a-frames from storage unit
 - Email **8/15** (content to KJ by 8/7)
 - Social 8/1 + (creative & content to KJ by 8/7)
 - Evite invitation (send 2 weeks in advance to email list) **8/10**
- Prepare content and send slides b

