



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

R. Brian Ball
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Members of the General Assembly
General Assembly Building
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Economic Crisis Strike Force Annual Report

Dear Governor Northam and Members of the General Assembly:

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Economic Crisis Strike Force regarding its activities. This report is submitted pursuant to § 2.2-205.1 of the Code of Virginia. I serve as chairman of the strike force and several cabinet members and agency directors are members. The statute requires the Economic Crisis Strike Force to report on its activities each year.

Chapters 79 and 80 of the 2006 Acts of Assembly codified the Economic Crisis Strike Force to “respond as needed to economic disasters in Virginia communities by (i) immediately providing a single point of contact for citizens in affected communities to assist with accessing available government and private sector services and resources, (ii) assisting localities in developing short-term and long-term strategies for addressing the economic crisis, and (iii) identifying opportunities for workforce retraining, job creation, and new investment.” Subsection E of the Act defines “economic disaster” as an employment loss of at least 5% during the immediately preceding six-month period, the closure or downsizing of a major regional employer in an economically distressed area, a natural disaster or act of terrorism for which the Governor has declared a state of emergency, or other economic crisis situations which in the opinion of the Governor adversely affect the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

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During the 2019 calendar year, the Economic Crisis Strike Force met five times in January regarding the prolonged shutdown of the federal government, and its impacts on Virginia's citizens serving as federal employees and contractors.

The Strike Force stands ready to respond to economic disasters and assist citizens with access to state resources. Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information about this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

R. Brian Ball

RBB/cls