



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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September 6, 2024

### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
President Pro-tempore, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Don Scott  
Speaker, House of Representatives

FROM: Karen Shelton, MD  
State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

SUBJECT: Henrietta Lacks Commission 2023 Report

This report is submitted in compliance with the Code of Virginia – §2.2-2541, which states:

*[The Commission shall] submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.*

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (804) 864-7002.

KS/AJ

Enclosure

Pc: The Honorable Janet V. Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

# HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2023



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**PREFACE**

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On March 30, 2018, Governor Ralph Northam amended §2.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia through the addition of Chapter 25 to Title 2.2, establishing Article 10. This enactment gave rise to the Henrietta Lacks Commission (Commission), as set forth in House Bill 1415 introduced by Delegate James Edmunds, II, and Senate Bill 171 introduced by Senator William Stanley, Jr. The Virginia General Assembly sanctioned this legislation on March 9, 2018, with the purpose of creating a Commission tasked with "sustaining the legacy of the life-changing contribution of Henrietta Lacks to medical science by advancing cancer research and treatment through the creation of a biomedical research and data center."

**HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, Chair & Member of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority  
Ms. Kristy Johnson, Vice Chair & Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority  
Mrs. Jeri Lacks-Whye, Member & Member of Lacks family  
Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, Member & Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group  
Mrs. Danyelle Duncan, Member & Designee for Mayor of South Boston, VA  
Senator William "Bill" Stanley, Jr., Member & Virginia Senate, 20th Senatorial District  
Delegate Marcia "Cia" Price, Member & Virginia House of Delegates, 95th District  
Dr. Betty Adams, Member & Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center  
The Honorable William "Bryant" Claiborne, Member & Designee for Chair of Halifax County Board of Supervisors.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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This document serves as the annual report for the Henrietta Lacks Commission (HLC or Commission), covering the calendar year 2023. As mandated by §2.2-2541.2 of the Code of Virginia, this report is submitted to the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor. The report offers an overview of the Commission's activities during its fifth year, detailing progress made towards its statutory obligations.

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## INTRODUCTION

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### HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION MANDATE

The Henrietta Lacks Commission (HLC) is established in § 2.2-2541 with a goal to establish a public-private partnership to create the Henrietta Lacks Life Sciences Center as a cancer research and treatment center located in Halifax County and designed to (i) transform and accelerate cancer research and treatment through the use of biodata tools, (ii) provide tailored cancer treatment medicine to an underserved portion of rural Southside Virginia, and (iii) incubate new biotech businesses across the Southside Virginia region. (Appendix A).

Comprised of 9 members, the HLC operates with administrative support of the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Office of Health Equity. Frequent VDH support staff changes continued during 2023. Changes occurred involving commissioners when Delegate James Edmunds resigned, and Delegate Marcia "Cia" Price was appointed to serve on the HLC. On April 28, 2023, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the reappointment of three commissioners, Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, Mrs. Jeri Lacks-Whye, and Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens for terms beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2024.

### HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Three of five planned meetings occurred in 2023. A virtual meeting scheduled for January 27, 2023, was cancelled due to VDH staff turnover, and lack of sufficient preparation. A scheduled hybrid meeting for November 13, 2023, in South Boston, Virginia, did not convene due to the lack of an onsite quorum. An onsite quorum of at least five commissioners in-person attendance was required for this meeting in accordance with HLC Bylaws which were updated at the March 2023 meeting.

#### MARCH 10 MEETING

The HLC met and received updates from VDH, updated the bylaws, and dissolved the previously established committees to work as a whole. HLC leadership expressed concern about the ability of the group to meet the legislative goals by the sunset date, and there was discussion about re-energizing the members. (Appendix C)

#### MAY 5 MEETING

The HLC met in Halifax and welcomed new and reappointed members. They further discussed ongoing communications with Sentara for the Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital, particularly around cancer research. (Appendix C)

#### AUGUST 30 MEETING

The HLC met in Halifax and welcomed a new House of Delegates member. They discussed requirements in the Code of Virginia to establish a public-private partnership and the effort needed to meet the requirements. (Appendix C).

This brief report will summarize the activities, challenges, and movement by HLC members to change the sunset date through legislation in the 2024 General Assembly Session.

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

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**DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEES**

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 2019 until December 2022, the HLC failed to meet due to the absence of adequate staff support from VDH. Subsequently, committees established prior to the pandemic within the HLC remained inactive. After the reassignment of VDH staff to provide needed support to the Commission and during the December 2022 meeting, committees were discontinued. The chair assigned tasks to commission members on key objectives, with commissioners reporting back and discussing at subsequent meetings.

**CHALLENGES**

Since its inception, the HLC has been hampered by the structure required of a legislated body, absence of consistent VDH staff support, and lack of funding to hire essential support staff. After much investment of time, effort, and resources, HLC officers and members repeatedly expressed concerns about the commission's ability to accomplish the legislated mission. Those concerns remain.

**CHANGING SUNSET DATE**

The HLC believes strongly in the goal of honoring and recognizing the contributions of the late Mrs. Henrietta Lacks in Halifax County. However, the HLC believes this is best achieved through local and regional efforts that do not require the formal structure of a governmental entity. HLC commissioners are united in the opinion that the legislated mission cannot be accomplished as codified. The HLC will therefore request the Commission's sunset date be moved to June 30, 2024. The Commission's intent will continue to move forward with the sunset of the HLC and with acknowledgement of the commission's purpose to ensure Mrs. Lacks is appropriately honored in Halifax County where she grew up, was married and is now interred.

Accordingly, the HLC has been successful in engaging with area thought leaders and major stakeholders to identify meaningful and high impact ways to leverage planned cancer-related treatment and services inclusive of honoring the late Henrietta Lacks. The HLC supports such efforts and recognizes that such efforts can and will move forward in the absence of the HLC and with acknowledgement of the commission's purpose. To this end, Delegate Marcia "Cia" Price, representing the 95th District, will lead efforts on behalf of the HLC in the 2024 Virginia General Assembly Session to change the HLC's sunset date to June 30, 2024.

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APPENDIX A – CODE OF VIRGINIA § 2.2-2537 ET SEQ.

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Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 25 of Title 2.2 an article numbered 10, consisting of sections numbered 2.2-2537 through 2.2-2543, as follows:

Article 10.

Henrietta Lacks Commission.

§ 2.2-2537. Henrietta Lacks Commission; purpose.

The Henrietta Lacks Commission (the Commission) is established as an advisory commission in the executive branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to sustain the legacy of the life-changing contribution of Henrietta Lacks to medical science by advancing cancer research and treatment through the creation of a biomedical research and data center.

§ 2.2-2538. Membership; terms; vacancies; chairman and vice-chairman.

A. The Commission shall consist of nine members that include two legislative members, three nonlegislative citizen members, and four ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: (i) one member of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; (ii) one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and (iii) one nonlegislative citizen member who is a member of the extended family of Henrietta Lacks, one nonlegislative citizen member who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group, and one nonlegislative citizen member who is a member of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority to be appointed by the Governor. The mayor of the Town of South Boston, the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Halifax County, the Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, and the Executive Director of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

B. Legislative members and ex officio members of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative members and nonlegislative citizen members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

C. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.

§ 2.2-2539. Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.



§ 2.2-2540. Compensation; expenses.

Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in § 30-19.12.

Nonlegislative citizen members shall not receive compensation. All members shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825.

Compensation to members of the General Assembly for attendance at official meetings of the Commission shall be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or Clerk of the Senate, as applicable.

Reimbursement for the reasonable and necessary expenses of nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be paid by the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority.

§ 2.2-2541. Powers and duties of the Commission.

The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. Establish a public-private partnership to create the Henrietta Lacks Life Sciences Center as a cancer research and treatment center located in Halifax County and designed to (i) transform and accelerate cancer research and treatment through the use of biodata tools, (ii) provide tailored cancer treatment medicine to an underserved portion of rural Southside Virginia, and (iii) incubate new biotech businesses across the Southside Virginia region; and

2. Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

§ 2.2-2542. Staffing; cooperation of agencies of state and local governments.

The Department of Health shall provide staff support to the Commission. Every department, division, board, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the Commission, upon request.

§ 2.2-2543. Sunset.

This article shall expire on July 1, 2026.

**APPENDIX B – ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

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This is a listing of the acronyms and abbreviations appearing throughout the report and its appendices.

HLC – Henrietta Lacks Commission

VDH – Virginia Department of Health

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APPENDIX C – MEETING MINUTES

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Henrietta Lacks Commission | Meeting Minutes March 10, 2023 | 1:30 PM

**ATTENDEES**

Senator William Stanley  
Dr. Betty Adams  
Kristy Johnson  
William Claiborne  
Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens  
Danyell Duncan  
Sandra Serna  
Veronica Cosby  
Sharmeka Williams  
Jazmine Martinez  
Tammy Smith  
Joe Dashiell

**AFFILIATION**

Member of Virginia Senate  
Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center  
Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority  
Designee of Chair of the Board, Halifax County Board of Supervisors  
Member of Halifax County Industrial Development Authority  
Designee of Mayor of South Boston, Town of South Boston, Clerk  
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
Virginia Department of Health, Office of Communications  
WDBJ7 Television, Senior ReporterMax Petrie

**Not In Attendance**

Delegate James Edmunds (resigned) Member of the Virginia House of Delegates  
Dr. Adele Newson-Horst Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group  
Jeri Lacks-Whye Member of Henrietta Lacks Family

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Call to Order &amp; Welcome</p> <p>Roll Call</p>	<p>The Chair, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, called meeting of the Henrietta Lacks Commission, hereafter, “Commission”, to order at 1:30 PM EST.</p> <p>A quorum was confirmed with five of eight members present. Sharmeka Williams</p>	
<p>Introductions</p>	<p>Virginia Department of Health representatives, Sandra Serna, Veronica Cosby, and Sharmeka Williams, introduced themselves, including their roles at VDH.</p>	
<p>Old Business:</p>	<p>Review of Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Bylaws Revisions</p> <p>Reports Facilitated by: Dr. Simon-Owens, Sandra Serna, and Kristy Johnson</p>	
<p>Review of Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Simon-Owens requested a motion for approval of the draft minutes from the December 18, 2019, and October 14, 2022, meetings. The motion was made by Dr. Betty Adams and seconded by Mr. William B. Claiborne.</p>	<p>VDH will reformat draft minutes for final posting. VDH will post final minutes to Commonwealth Calendar and the VDH Commissioner’s Meetings Calendar.</p>
<p>Bylaws Revisions</p>	<p>Sandra Serna briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on revisions made to the Bylaws by the VDH staff.</p>	<p>Commission members, advised by Dr. Simon-Owens, will continue to review the bylaws. Any additional changes and updates proposed will be presented at the May 2023 meeting.</p>

<p>Report: Updates from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Staffing</i></p> <p>Report: Updates Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Annual Reports</i></p>	<p><b>VDH Changes:</b> Sandra Serna informed the Henrietta Lacks Commission of the vacant commissioner position at VDH.</p> <p>Commission Member Appointments- Governor Youngkin has appointed Mr. Christopher Lindsay, who has a long background in in healthcare administration as the chief operating officer. VDH is working on appointments for the Commissioner. This impacts Henrietta Lacks Commission appointments. No further updates are available currently regarding appointments.</p> <p>Sandra Serna briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report, previously completed by former VDH OHE leadership, as well as the 2022 Annual Report. The 2022 Annual Report was recently signed off by the Deputy Commissioner of Government and Regulatory Affairs, and then sent to the General Assembly in January 2023.</p> <p><i>Note: The Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report was sent to the General Assembly in 2020.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Simon-Owens expressed her uncertainty to how involved the commission was in the development in the 2019 Annual Report.</i></p>	<p>VDH will continue to monitor the appointment information sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to attain appointment for the Member of the Halifax IDA, Lacks Family Member, and Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group. VDH will share the status update with the commission members upon receipt.</p> <p>The Chair, Dr. Simon-Owens, noted an error in the pagination listed for the appendices of the 2019 Annual Report. VDH will confirm correct appendices numbering before next meeting.</p>
<p>Draft Strategic Plan Review</p>	<p>The commission members reviewed key components of the Draft Strategic Plan such as stakeholder input, staffing efforts, SWOT, and public/private partnership successes and challenges. Commission leadership summarized the history of trying to secure funding for a full-time position dedicated to moving the Henrietta Lacks Commission’s efforts forward.</p> <p>The Chair, Dr. Simon-Owens, expressed concerns with Henrietta Lacks Commission’s work potential as a public/private partnership due to staffing and lack of funding.</p>	<p>The Draft Strategic Plan was accepted as a committee report.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Update on Committees Commission Status Discussion</p>	

	Other Henrietta Lacks Efforts	
Update on Committees	<p>The Chair, Dr. Simon-Owens, recommended discontinuing the Henrietta Lacks Commission Committees and forgoing the assigning of new committees, due to the lack of collective commission work engaged since 2019. The chair further recommended the Henrietta Lacks Commission should move forward as a committee of the whole.</p> <p>No further discussion</p>	Henrietta Lacks Commission Committees will be discontinued, and the commission is moving forward as a committee of the whole.
Commission Status Discussion	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission leadership expressed concerns about the commission’s ability to accomplish the mission by the sunset date, as the commission has only met twice since December 2019.</p> <p>Senator William Stanley made multiple remarks encouraging a rejuvenation of the commission’s work, further stating a need for a quantifiable plan to present to the General Assembly.</p> <p>Two commission members, Dr. Betty Adams and Danyell Duncan, agreed to help provide direct support to the plan.</p>	Commission members will convene to draft a plan to present to the General Assembly in order to gain financial support.
Public Comments	<p>No public comments were made.</p> <p>Dr. Simon-Owens invited all guests in the Zoom session to introduce themselves and share comments. WDBJ7 Senior Reporter, Joe Dashiell, introduced himself and expressed his interest in the Commission’s work.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	The Commission is scheduled to meet Thursday, May 18, 2023, 10AM-2PM	VDH will send calendar holds for all upcoming meetings and will register the meetings as public meetings. VDH and Commission Leadership will identify May 2023 meeting agenda.

Adjournment	All Commissioners were provided the opportunity to make a comment prior to the meeting adjournment. The Chair, Dr. Simon-Owens, thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. She requested a motioned for an adjournment of the Henrietta LacksCommission Meeting at 3:05 PM EST; Dr. Betty Adams made the motion and Kristy Johnson seconded the motion.	
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Henrietta Lacks Commission | Meeting Minutes May 5, 2023 | 12:00 PM

**ATTENDEES**

Dr. Betty Adams  
 William Claiborne  
 Danyell Duncan  
 Kristy Johnson  
 Jeri Lacks-Whye  
 Dr. Adele Newson-Horst  
 Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens  
 Veronica Cosby  
 Sandra Serna  
 Sharmeka Williams  
 Shirley Lacks  
 Brian Zowyer

**AFFILIATION**

Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center  
 Designee of Chair of the Board, Halifax County Board of Supervisors  
 Designee of Mayor of South Boston, Town of South Boston, Clerk  
 Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority  
 Member of Henrietta Lacks Family  
 Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group  
 Member of Halifax County Industrial Development Authority  
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
 Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity  
 Member of Henrietta Lacks Family  
 President, Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital

**Not In Attendance**

Senator William Stanley                      Member of Virginia Senate

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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<p>Report: Updates from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Staffing</i></p> <p>Report: Updates Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity - <i>Annual Reports</i></p>	<p>Virginia Department of Health Changes:</p> <p>Sandra Serna informed the Henrietta Lacks Commission of Governor Younkin’s selection of Dr. Karen Shelton as Health Commissioner, who has a long-standing background in OB/GYN rural health.</p> <p>Sandra Serna reported that there was no new information from the Speaker regarding the vacant House of Delegate position.</p> <p>Sandra Serna briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the updated appendices made by VDH to the Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report.</p> <p><i>Note: The Henrietta Lacks Commission 2019 Annual Report was sent to the General Assembly in 2020.</i></p> <p>No further Virginia Department of Health Updates</p>	
<p>Town Hall Updates</p>	<p>Veronica Cosby briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the public meeting requirements.</p>	<p>VDH will include the Town Hall publication in meeting invitations to the Commission members moving forward.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission Updates</p> <p>Process to move forward</p> <p>Commissioner’s Comments</p>	

<p>Process to move forward</p>	<p>Dr. Simon-Owens made remarks of encouragement regarding the rejuvenation of the commission’s ability to move forward. Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor to any commission member to share information on any tasks they worked on since the previous meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams presented the board with a summation of guidance received from Mr. Bryan Price, Outreach and Engagement Specialist of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Betty Adams also discussed a potential partnership opportunity with Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital (SHRH). She introduced Mr. Brian Zwoyer, the CEO of SHRH.</p> <p>Mr. Brian Zwoyer briefed the Henrietta Lacks Commission on the vision for the development of a healthcare campus focus for Halifax Sentara Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst notified the Henrietta Lacks Commission of the passing of Dr. Roland Pattillo, Professor Emeritus at the Morehouse School of Medicine-distinguished researcher, who worked alongside John Hopkins University and the Henrietta Lacks family to keep the Henrietta Lacks legacy and contribution alive.</p> <p>Ms. Shirley Lacks, the daughter-in-law of the late Henrietta Lacks, was introduced and echoed the importance of Dr. Roland Pattillo’s impact on the Henrietta Lacks Family.</p> <p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst and Ms. Jeri Lacks-Whye presented highlights of various efforts domestically and internationally to honor Henrietta Lacks.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams highlighted a contribution made by Halifax Sentara Regional Hospital towards the Halifax Hometown Initiative to have a statue of Henrietta Lacks located in downtown South Boston, VA.</p> <p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens directed the commission to a Cancer Research Center report created by Danyell Duncan.</p>	
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	<p>Mrs. Danyell Duncan presented findings on the various types of cancer facilities, services, and approaches including Comprehensive, Community, and Specialty Centers.</p> <p>Mrs. Kristy Johnson updated the Henrietta Lacks Commission on ongoing efforts to work with VEDP to vet any potential partnerships.</p> <p>It was properly moved by Dr. Betty Adams, seconded by Dr. Adele Newson-Horst and approved unanimously for the Commission to initiate steps to develop a partnership with Sentara Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens opened the floor for any further questions, comments or insight.</p> <p>No further discussion occurred.</p>	<p>VDH will send a copy of the Henrietta Lacks Commission members the comprehensive report written by Danyell Duncan.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams will formulate a quantifiable plan to recommend to the Henrietta Lacks Commission in conjunction with Mr. Zwoyer who will continue discussions with the Sentara organization.</p>
<p>Election of Officers &amp; Election Committee Appointments</p>	<p>Election of Officers shall be conducted at the Annual Meeting which is the regular meeting held in the third quarter of the calendar year. The Commission has two officers, the Chair and Vice-Chair.</p>	<p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens appointed commission members, Mr. William Claiborne, Mrs. Jeri Lacks-Whye, and Mrs. Danyell Duncan to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mr. Claiborne will serve as the committee chair. The committee will meet at the next Commission meeting.</p>

Commissioner’s Comments	Henrietta Lacks Commission leadership expressed the importance of looking forward. Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens encouraged the Commission to consider the fresh start that took place Fall 2022 for the Henrietta Lacks Commission. Further, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens reinforced the accomplishments of the Henrietta Lacks Commission since then.	
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	
Next Meeting Date	The Commission is scheduled to meet virtually on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 10AM-1PM.	VDH will send calendar holds for all upcoming meetings and will register the meetings as public meetings. VDH and Commission Leadership will identify August 2023 meeting agenda.
Adjournment	All Commissioners, guests and VDH staff were provided the opportunity to make a comment prior to the meeting adjournment. The Chair, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the meeting. She requested a motion for an adjournment of the Henrietta Lacks Commission Meeting at 2:41 PM EST. It was properly moved by Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, seconded by Mrs. Kristy Johnson, and unanimously approved to adjourn.	Meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Henrietta Lacks Commission | Meeting Minutes August 30, 2023, | 10:00 AM

**ATTENDEES**

Dr. Betty Adams  
 William Claiborne  
 Danyell Duncan  
 Kristy Johnson  
 Dr. Adele Newson-Horst  
 Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens  
 Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price

**AFFILIATION**

Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center  
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 Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority  
 Board Member of Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group  
 Member of Halifax County Industrial Development Authority  
 Member of the Virginia House of Delegates



<p>Introductions</p>	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission Members and Virginia Department of Health representatives introduced themselves, respectively, to newly appointed Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price.</p>	
<p>Old Business:</p>	<p>Review of Meeting Minutes</p>	
<p>Review of Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens requested a motion for approval of the draft minutes from the May 5, 2023 meeting. It was properly moved by Dr. Betty Adams, seconded by Mrs. Kristy Johnson, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2023 meeting.</p>	<p>The motion to approve the March 5, 2023, minutes passed unanimously.</p> <p>VDH will post final minutes to Commonwealth Calendar and the VDH Commissioner’s Meetings Calendar within three days of the August 30, 2023, meeting.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission Updates</p> <p>Process to move forward</p> <p>Commissioner’s Comments &amp; Updates</p> <p>Nominating Committee Report &amp; Election of Officers</p>	
<p>Process to move forward</p>	<p>Dr. Simon-Owens provided an encouraging reminder of the extended sunset date of July 1, 2026. Dr. Simon- Owens expressed happiness, on behalf of the commission, to be allowed the time to continue to move forward within the Henrietta Lacks Commission’s current body of work. Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor to Vice Chair, Mrs. Kristy Johnson, to provide an overview of the Code of Virginia- Chapter 22.1 The Public Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002.</p> <p>Mrs. Kristy Johnson provided an overview of: Code of Virginia- Chapter 22.1. The Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002.</p> <p>§ 56-575.3:1. Adoption of guidelines by responsible public entities.</p> <p>§ 56-575.4. Approval of qualifying projects by the responsible public entity.</p>	

	<p>§ 56-575.9. Comprehensive agreement.</p> <p>Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor to the Henrietta Lacks Commission members for questions or comments regarding the overview.</p> <p>In response, Dr. Betty Adams reminded the board of the potential partnership opportunity with Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital (SHRH).</p> <p>Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price offered commentary regarding legislative input. Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price indicated a distinction between legislative members who are members of the Division of Legislative Services and those who aren’t. Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price reminded the Henrietta Lacks Commission that in current discussions of moving forward; while considering the Code of Virginia- Chapter 22.1. The Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002, the Henrietta Lacks Commission must not get too far ahead, in order to stay within the current legal scope.</p> <p>Ms. Sandra Serna and Ms. Kristy Johnson provided Delegate Price with background information related to the range of support from the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Economic Development to the Henrietta Lacks Commission.</p> <p>Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price reiterated the need to move forward within the current rules until a legislative change occurs. Delegate Price provided ways that the Henrietta Lacks Commission could come together to create a proposal to broaden the current scope.</p> <p>After hearing suggestions from Augustine Doe and Mr. William Claiborne, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens opened the floor for comments on creating a committee to craft the proposal.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams and Mrs. Kristy Johnson voiced a preference for a committee to be formed.</p>	
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	<p><i>Dr. Simon-Owens expressed her concerns with developing a committee to accomplish the necessary steps in the development of a work plan that will procure a timeline, as well as bulleted requests to broaden the scope of the commission, as an initial draft before November 13.</i></p>	
	<p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens assigned the development of the work plan to the Virginia Department of Health and Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price as a collaborative effort. Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens opened the floor for any additional Henrietta Lacks Commission Updates.</p> <p>Mrs. Kristy Johnson updated the Henrietta Lacks Commission on ongoing efforts to work with VEDP to vet any potential partnerships.</p> <p>Dr. Betty Adams informed the Henrietta Lacks Commission of the fundraising efforts between the Henrietta Lacks Hometown Initiative and the Henrietta Lacks Family in erecting a life-size Statue in Constitution Square, located in Downtown South Boston.</p> <p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens opened the floor for any further questions, comments or insight.</p> <p>No further discussion occurred.</p>	<p>VDH will work with Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price to develop a bulleted list of requests on behalf of the Henrietta Lacks Commission.</p>
Election of Officers & Election Committee Appointments	<p>Dr. Simon-Owens opened the floor to Mrs. Danyell Duncan, member of the Nominating Committee, to initiate the election of Officers.</p> <p>The nomination process was initiated by Mrs. Danyell Duncan and carried out by Mr. William Claiborne, Nominating Committee Chair.</p> <p>Mr. William Claiborne moved that the nomination close with the slate of officers, being Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens and Mrs. Kristy Johnson remaining Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. The motion was unanimously voted.</p>	<p>Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens and Mrs. Kristy Johnson were elected to remain as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively.</p>
Public Comments	<p>Lori Haas inquired about the Henrietta Lacks Commission’s ability to serve in an advisory capacity to Sentara versus a partnership.</p>	



<p>Commissioner’s Comments</p>	<p>Henrietta Lacks Commission Leadership expressed their excitement for the future and appreciation of the time, engagement, and consideration provided by the Henrietta Lacks Commission members.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The Commission, based on availability, proposed an in- person meeting for Thursday, November 16, 2023.</p>	<p>VDH will send calendar holds for all upcoming meetings and will register the meetings as public meetings. VDH and Commission Leadership will identify November 2023 meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>All Commissioners, guests and VDH staff were provided the opportunity to make a comment prior to the meeting adjournment. The Chair, Dr. Nettie Simon-Owens, thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting. She requested a motion for an adjournment of the Henrietta Lacks Commission Meeting at 11:24 AM EST. It was properly moved by Mrs. Kristy Johnson, seconded by Dr. Betty Adams, and unanimously approved to adjourn.</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.</p>

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APPENDIX D – BYLAWS

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**ARTICLE I. APPLICABILITY**

**Section 1. General.**

The provisions of these Bylaws are applicable to all proceedings of the Henrietta Lacks Commission ("Commission") to the extent that the same are not otherwise governed by the requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia or by Executive Order. Whenever the provisions and authorizations of these Bylaws are in conflict with the provisions and authorizations mandated by the Code of Virginia or by Executive Order, the latter shall control.

**Section 2. Authority and Limitations.**

The Commission is constituted under Va. Code § 2.2-2538 as an "Advisory Commission." § 2.2-2537. (Expires July 1, 2026) Henrietta Lacks Commission, purpose.

*The Henrietta Lacks Commission (the Commission) is established as an advisory commission in the executive branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to sustain the legacy of the life-changing contribution of Henrietta Lacks to medical science by advancing cancer research and treatment through the creation of a biomedical research and data center.*

As an "Advisory" Commission pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-2100, the Commission is specifically charged with the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Basic Law governing the actions of the Commission, as generally established in § 2.2-2100, as well as in such other Titles of the Code of Virginia as authorizations and duties may arise, to provide advice and comment to the executive branch agency, consistent with the basic law, specifically to act as a liaison between the agency or office and the public to ensure that the agency or office understands public concerns and that the activities of the agency or office are communicated to the public, and such other enactments or amendments as the General Assembly may, from time to time, provide.

Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-2541 the powers and duties of the Commission are as follows:

§ 2.2-2541. (Expires July 1, 2026) Powers and duties of the Commission. The Commission shall have the power and duty to:

1. *Establish a public-private partnership to create the Henrietta Lacks Life Sciences Center as a cancer research and treatment center located in Halifax County and designed to (i) transform and accelerate cancer research and treatment through the use of biodata tools, (ii) provide tailored cancer treatment medicine to an underserved portion of rural Southside Virginia, and (m) incubate new biotech businesses across the Southside Virginia region.*

### **Section 3. Commission Membership and Terms.**

As defined in § 2.2-2538, the Commission will be made up of nine members. One legislative member will be from the House of Delegates; one legislative member will be from the Senate; one non legislative member will be a member of the extended family of Henrietta Lacks; one non legislative member who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group; one non - legislative member who is a citizen member of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority; one member who is the mayor of the Town of South Boston, or their designee; one ex officio member who is the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Halifax County, or their designee; one ex officio member who is the Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, or their designee; and one ex officio member who is the Executive Director of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority, or their designee. Terms for legislative and ex officio members will coincide with their terms in office. Terms for non-legislative members are for two years. Legislative and non- legislative members may be reappointed. No legislative citizen member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms or eight years in total.

§ 2.2-2538. (Expires July 1, 2026) Membership, terms; vacancies; chairman and vice chairman.

A. The Commission shall consist of nine members that include two legislative members, three no legislative citizen members, and four ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: (i) one member of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; (ii) one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and (iii) one no legislative citizen member who is a member of the extended family of Henrietta Lacks, one non legislative citizen member who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group, and one nonlegislative citizen member who is a member of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority to be appointed by the Governor. The mayor of the Town of South Boston, the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Halifax County, the Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, and the Executive Director of the Halifax County Industrial Development Authority, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with voting privileges. Nonlegislative citizen members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

B. Legislative members and ex officio members of the Commission shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for a term of two years. Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the unexpired terms. Legislative members and nonlegislative citizen members may be reappointed. However, no nonlegislative citizen member shall serve more than four consecutive two-year terms. The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

## **ARTICLE II. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Regular Meetings.**

Regular meetings of the Commission shall be held at least on a quarterly basis at such time and place as the Commission may determine, provided, however, that at least one meeting shall be held in the County of Halifax. No business requiring a vote or final decision of the Commission may be conducted in the absence of a quorum, as defined under Va. Code§ 2.2-2539.

§ 2.2-2539. (Expires July 1, 2026) Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.

### **Section 2. Annual Meetings.**

The regular meeting held in the third quarter of the calendar year shall be designated as an annual meeting. Elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting.

### **Section 3. Committee Meetings.**

Such Committees as the Commission or Chair may designate, pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of these Bylaws, may convene from time to time as such times may be established by the appropriate committee; provided, however, that all such meetings are open to the public and must comply with the notice requirements set forth in Va. Code§ 2.2-3707 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code§ 2.2-3700 et seq.

### **Section 4. Special Meetings.**

The Chair or any three members of the Commission may call a special meeting for a specific purpose or purposes. No business shall be transacted at such a special meeting except that expressly sent out in the notice for the special meeting.

### **Section 5. Remote Meetings.**

It Is the policy of the Henrietta Lacks Commission that individual Commissioners may participate in meetings of the Henrietta Lacks Commission by electronic means as permitted by Va. Code§ 2.2- 3708.3. This policy shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever an individual member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Henrietta Lacks Commission to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location, and there must be arrangements for the choice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

When such individual participation is due to an emergency or personal matter, such participation is limited by law to two meetings of the public body per member each calendar year, whichever is fewer. Subsection B of the aforementioned code allows for members of the Commission to attend meetings electronically should they live more than 60 miles from the meeting location provided that a physical quorum is present at the central meeting location. Additionally, the Commission shall hold at least one annual meeting in which no members participate by electronic methods and are physically assembled.

Individual participation from a remote location shall be approved unless such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, the Henrietta Lacks Commission shall vote whether to allow such participation. If the Henrietta Lacks Commission votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

Should a remote access meeting be approved the remote participation method used by the Commission member must be equally available to the public. The phone or web conference information shall be made available along with the agenda at least three (3) working days in advance of the electronic meeting.

It is also the policy of the Henrietta Lacks Commission that the Commission may hold all-virtual public meetings as permitted by Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3 Subsection C. In accordance with the Subsection C, Item 9, the Henrietta Lacks Commission will not:

not convene an a/I-virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting;

Any votes taken during an electronic meeting must be taken in roll-call fashion and must be included in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Section 6. Notice of Meeting.**

In all cases, public notice of meetings shall be provided at a time and in a manner consistent with the requirements of the then current Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code§ 2.2-3700 et seq.

### **Section 7. Quorum.**

A quorum for all purposes shall be that established by Va. Code § 2.2-2539, as the same may be amended from time to time.

§ 2.2-2539. (Expires July 1, 2026) Quorum; meetings; voting on recommendations.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The meetings of the Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever a majority of the members so request.

### **Section 8. Conduct of Meetings.**

The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Commission, except that, in the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall preside. The Office of Health Equity, as the named designee of the Department of Health, pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-2542, shall provide administrative staff support to the Commission as specified by Va. Code § 2.2-2542. The Office of Health Equity shall provide staff support, record all minutes of the meetings, and record in a minute book all resolutions adopted and all transactions occurring at the meeting.

§ 2.2-2542. (Expires July 11, 2026) Staffing, cooperation of agencies of state and local governments.

The Department of Health shall provide staff support to the Commission. Every department, division, board, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the Commission, upon request.

The then current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the Commission when not in conflict with statutory requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia, Executive Orders, or established policies of the Department of Health. Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3710, no written or secret ballots shall be taken in an open meeting, but all voting shall be accomplished by voice vote, show of hands, or rollcall vote. As established by a vote of the Commission on 9 November 2018, no Commission member may submit their vote via proxy voting.

### **Section 9. Documentation and Administrative Responsibilities.**

Established by a unanimous vote of the Commission on 9 November 2018, the administrative staff support shall issue the agenda, any support documentation, and meeting minutes requiring approval to the entire Commission no later than ten calendar days prior to any regularly scheduled meeting via email.

Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-2541 subsection 2, the Commission is required to submit an annual report for publication no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly.

§ 2.2-2541. (Expires July 1, 2026) Powers and duties of the Commission.

2. Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Commission shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive

summary of the interim activity and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

## **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS**

### **Section 1, Number and Title.**

Pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-2538 Subsection C, the officers of this Commission shall be as follows:

1. Chair
2. Vice Chair

§ 2.2-2538. (Expires July 1, 2026) Membership; terms; vacancies; chairman and vice-chairman. C. The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership.

### **Section 2. Duties.**

The duties of the officers shall be those usual incidentally to the respective office and such other special duties as may, from time to time, be specified by the Commission. Officers shall be elected at the inaugural meeting and shall assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they are elected, until such time as they resign, or the Commission closes at its predetermined sunset date.

### **Section 3. Vacancies.**

Vacancies in the position of Chair or Vice Chair shall be filled for the remainder of the term by voice vote, show of hands, or roll-call vote of the Commission at its next full meeting following the departure or resignation of the former incumbent. The Chair or Vice Chair may submit their resignation at any time during their office and must be accepted by the Commission in a majority vote at the next scheduled meeting. No Special Meetings may be called to resolve a resignation.

## **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Other Committees.**

The Commission or Chair, as its discretion, may appoint such other committees of its members as it may deem advisable and may designate the responsibilities of any such committees.

### **Section 2. Vacancies.**

Vacancies arising for any other committee established by the Commission may be filled for the unexpired term by the Commission at its next full meeting.

## **ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1. Nominations.**

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair may be made by a nominating committee appointed by the Chair or the Commission for that purpose. Additional nominations may be received by voice from the floor.

### **Section 2. Voting.**

Elections of officers and Executive Committee members must be conducted in open session of at least a quorum of the Commission by voice vote, show of hands, or roll-call vote, as required by Va. Code § 2.2-3710. Election to office or Executive Committee membership shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws of the Commission may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission at which at least a quorum is present by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Commission membership present and voting, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.



APPENDIX E – MEMBER PROFILES

Name	Contact Info	Short Bio
<p>Senator William Stanley, Member of Virginia Senate</p>	<p><a href="mailto:district20@senate.virginia.gov">district20@senate.virginia.gov</a> (804) 698-7520</p>	<p>Bill Stanley is Senator of Virginia representing District 20. The 20th district includes the cities of Galax and Martinsville, Henry and Patrick counties, part of the city of Danville, and parts of five other Southside Virginia communities. He earned the B.S. from Hampden-Sydney College and the J.D. from the District of Columbia School of Law.</p>
<p>Delegate Marcia "Cia" Price, Virginia House of Delegates</p>	<p><a href="mailto:delmprice@house.virginia.gov">delmprice@house.virginia.gov</a> (757) 266-5935</p>	<p>Del. Price was reelected for her fourth term to represent the 95th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. She currently serves on the Health, Welfare, and Institutions Committee and the General Laws Committee.</p>
<p>Dr. Betty Adams, Executive Director of Southern Virginia Higher Education Center</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Bettyadams@svhec.org">Bettyadams@svhec.org</a> (434) 572-5450</p>	<p>Dr. Betty H. Adams has served as the executive director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education (SVHEC) since 2009. In this capacity she oversees the SVHEC's strategic growth and ensures agency activities are aligned with its mission and values. She is a transformational leader with nearly three decades of experience developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating adult learner programs.</p>
<p>Kristy Johnson, Executive Director of Halifax Industrial Development Authority</p>	<p><a href="mailto:kjohnson@halifaxvirginia.com">kjohnson@halifaxvirginia.com</a> (434) 572-1734</p>	<p>Kristy Johnson is the Executive Director of the Halifax Industrial Development Authority. A Georgia native, Johnson moved to Halifax County in 2008. She's worked for the IDA since 2009 in various roles, starting as operations manager, then in marketing and business development before moving up the ladder to deputy director. Prior to that, she was mayor of the town of Halifax and served on several local chamber of commerce committees.</p>

<p>William Claiborne, Designee of Chair of the Board, Halifax County Board of Supervisors</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Ed8@co.halifax.va.us">Ed8@co.halifax.va.us</a> (434) 575-1119</p>	<p>William Bryant Claiborne has represented the 8th district as a member of the Board of Supervisors since January 2004.</p>
<p>Danyell Duncan Designee of Mayor of South Boston Clerk of Council and Assistant to the Town Manager</p>	<p><a href="mailto:dcrosby@southbostonva.us">dcrosby@southbostonva.us</a> 434 575 4200</p>	<p>Danyell Crosby serves as Clerk of Council and Assistant to the Town Manager. She in coordination with the offices of the Town Manager and Town Attorney and all other governmental offices. Ms. Crosby serves as the professional link between the citizens of South Boston and the Town Council.</p>
<p>Dr. Nettie Simm-Owens, Member of Halifax County Industrial Development Authority</p>	<p><a href="mailto:nettiesimon-owens@svhec.org">nettiesimon-owens@svhec.org</a> (434) 572-5477</p>	<p>Dr. Nettie L. Simon-Owens is the Chief workforce Development Officer at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in South Boston, Virginia. Dr. Simon-Owens earned the Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix, the Master of Business Administration from Averett University, the Master of Science in Micro environmental Studies and Design from Howard University, and the Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology from Virginia State University. She has served as a gubernatorial appointee for several Boards including Longwood University Board of Trustees, Virginia Board of Social Work, and Virginia State Board of Social Services (served as chair and vice-chair). Community engagements include serving as former Halifax County Chamber of Commerce Board of Director and former Tri-County Community Action Agency Board Member.</p>
<p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst, member of the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Group, Board of Directors</p>	<p><a href="mailto:hlackslepcy@gmail.com">hlackslepcy@gmail.com</a> (443) 885-3978</p>	<p>Dr. Adele Newson-Horst is a professor of English at Morgan State University (MSU). She is also the coordinator of Women's and Gender Studies at MSU. She earned the B.A. from Spelman College, the M.A. from Eastern Michigan University, and the Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Her books and articles focus on the literature of African,</p>

		<p>African American, and Caribbean women writers. She is also the vice-president of the Henrietta Lack Legacy Group (H.LG). She regularly reviews books for World Literature Today and Academic Choice. Among other publications, she has published two edited volume on Egyptian novelist and physician Nawal el Saadawi: The Essential Nawal El Saadawi: A Reader, London, 2. ed Publishers, 2010 and The Dramatic Literature of Nawal El Saadawi, London: Saqi, 2009.</p>
<p>Jeri Lacks- Wythe. Member of Henrietta Lacks family</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jeri@.lacksfamilycom">jeri@.lacksfamilycom</a> (410) 790-6284</p>	<p>Jeri Lacks Whye is the granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks and the daughter of Henrietta's middle son David "sonny" Lacks. Jeri works in the Judiciary System in the domestic violence unit. She travels the country giving her insightful account as the granddaughter of such an amazing African American woman that has left a legacy to the world. Jeri continues to keep the legacy of her grandmother active and conscious while at the same time using her family's story as a platform to take part in issue, we face nationwide such as patient rights, health prevention. health disparities. illiteracy. fighting cancer, partnership between research and research participants, trustworthiness between the communities and medical establishments.</p>