

Notes from the 12 September 2007 Meeting of the Council of Civic Organizations

CCO Met 9/12/07 at Central Library. The name of the Luminary Project has been selected: "Share the Light Night".

The main program was a meeting with State Representatives Stolle, Welch and Iaquinto. All three were friendly, open and well-informed. Congresswoman Thelma Drake also attended as a member of the audience.

Offshore Drilling, Transportation and Illegal Immigration were the three main topics.

Offshore Drilling: The Federal Government has declared a moratorium. There is a new bill in the House which, if passed by both House and Senate, would reinstate offshore drilling. If passed, Virginia would receive \$20 million to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

The Transportation bill hopefully will open the door to solving the area's transportation problems. Nobody likes the bill as written. The Delegates and Senator Stolle asked for citizens to phone their offices with input regarding this issue.

Senator Stolle and delegates Welch and Iaquinto all stated illegal immigration is the number one issue on the list of items about which the voters contact them. All called this a Federal issue, however, Delegate Welch stated there are a few things the state can do but Governor Kaine refuses to do them. He suggested citizens contact the governor at 1-804-786-2211 and voice their concerns. This is **not** a toll free number.

Since the City Council tends to blame the state whenever citizens ask difficult questions and the state tends to blame the Federal government when difficult problems arise, I suggested that we have reps. from city, state and federal meet with the citizens to answer questions so the buck could not keep being passed.

Elizabeth Gregory,
CBCL CCO Liaison