



## Notice to Our Members April 23, 2020

**HBAV:** Yesterday, the Virginia General Assembly passed a budget amendment authorizing public bodies to meet electronically to “discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations” during this emergency. This will make it easier for our local governing bodies, Planning Commissions, and other committees to hold meetings and conduct business even as COVID-19 limits their ability to meet in-person.

Given the varying interpretations of the Code of Virginia re: these entities authority to meet electronically to discuss land-use applications and other development/construction-related applications during the State of Emergency, HBAV and other stakeholders advocated for amendments to ensure that local governments may resume their customary business during the State of Emergency. *Although these amendments were intended to expand the authority for local governing bodies and appointed commission to meet electronically to review/take action on land-use applications (and other matters), it still remains to be seen how local governing bodies and local government attorneys interpret and implement the new statute.*

You can read the entire HBAV notification to EOs along with the analysis of the amendment [here](#).

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**Fairfax County:** Planning and Development is now accepting online payments for applications and permits that cannot be paid online through the County’s [FIDO platform](#). This new payment option, available through the County’s online payment system, [Velocity](#), provides an easy way to pay for applications and permits, without having to mail or drop off paper checks at the Herrity Building Drop Box.

Applications and permits eligible for this online payment option include, but are not limited to, rezonings and related development applications, special exceptions, special permits, proffer interpretations, 2232 and telecommunication applications including AREPS, non-residential use permits, home occupation permits, temporary special permits and appeals.

More information is available at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/online-payments>

**Blood Drive Campaign:** There is no known end date in the fight against coronavirus and the need for blood and platelet donors is greater than ever. In response to this outbreak, NVBIA, in partnership with HBAV, is putting out a call to membership to give blood to save lives. For more information on how you can partake, please click [here](#).

**Worksite Safety Guidelines:** As a reminder, the Governor has deemed our industry as essential but emphasized that our workers must adhere to the worksite safety guidelines. As this situation with COVID-19 changes rapidly, let’s not provide public health officials reasons to recommend tighter restrictions. It is imperative that our industry demonstrate that we are doing everything possible to protect public health and public

safety. If concerns mount about the safety of activities in the building industry, a future order could shut down our work. To prevent that from happening, everyone must take the utmost care in their operations. [Please review and follow these recommendations carefully.](#)

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