

Mayor Duman, City Council Members, and Planning Commissioners:

Care4Suffolk is a grassroots organization made up of individuals from all over Suffolk who have concerns about land use issues.

With this Public Comment submission, we are attaching a petition that was circulated by us since the last Planning Commission meeting. We have gathered hundreds of signatures respectfully asking you to vote 'NO' to the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

The 2045 Comprehensive Plan focuses on economic development centered around the Port of Virginia. It prioritizes Suffolk's "opportunity," with its vast land mass, to serve regional needs by allowing for more warehouses.

A Comprehensive Plan is supposed to serve the needs and desires of a city's people. This plan is contrary to the public feedback that the City received during this process. The summaries of the public feedback are on pages 16-20 of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft.

This is NOT what the public requested. The people specifically mentioned that they want economic development focused in Downtown and specifically for the City to **LIMIT** warehouses.

- "People see great opportunity in Downtown investment/revitalization." (Round 1: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 16)
- "People think that the City can promote business growth by investing in the downtown area and limiting new warehouse construction" (Round 2: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 17)

The citizens value Suffolk's agricultural land, open space, and rural small-town feel. Yet this comprehensive plan is set to make the LARGEST increase in growth area, the majority of which is currently agricultural land, rural, and open space.

- "Suffolk's rural / small town feel was identified as one of the City's biggest strengths." (Round 1: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 16)
- "Open space and parks are viewed as a significant asset." (Round 1: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 16)
- "It is important to preserve agriculture and rural areas in the City." (Round 3: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 18)
- "It is important to preserve agriculture and rural areas in the city." (Round 4: Key Takeaways, 2045 Comprehensive Plan draft page 20)

In addition to the comment summaries from the draft, we urge you to read through the actual comments themselves. Here the voices of the people of Suffolk: ([Link to Suffolk Engagement Comments](#)). There are so many citizens that voiced concern over the rapid development that Suffolk has had over the last decade and more. There is a lot of frustration with traffic, overcrowded schools, and a loss of agricultural land and open space.

Mayor Duman said about City Council at this year's State of the City:

“Together these outstanding individuals share a total of 82 years of public service. Together they work tirelessly to provide unparalleled representation of their constituents. Collectively as a council, we work cooperatively with one goal in mind, and that is, to serve our citizens. It is a privilege to work with them, and beside them, as we do the people's work.”

Mayor Duman, City Council Members, and Planning Commissioners, please represent your constituents, serve your citizens, and do the people's work. The people of Suffolk have spoken. Please listen to them and vote 'NO' on the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,
Care4Suffolk
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