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BAE Systems ship repair facility in Norfolk faced accusations of widespread sexual harassment and discrimination — but an investigation was halted by the Trump administration. **KRISTEN ZEIS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Official: Curfew for youth did its job

City has no plans to repeat June's temporary restrictions

By Devlin Epding
STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT NEWS — City officials say the temporary youth curfew enacted last month at City Center to tamp down on unruly youth gatherings was successful at deterring problematic behavior. Police issued three violation notices during the four weekends it was in effect, and officials hope they won't have to revive the strict measure for the remainder of the summer.

City Council implemented a temporary curfew in June which lasted four weekends through July Fourth weekend. The curfew banned unaccompanied minors from being out between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays at City Center in response to large takeover events in the city and to prevent future public disturbances.

Newport News police issued violation summons to three minors during the June 19-20 weekend and none each of the following weekends, according to Newport News Police Department spokesperson Kelly King.

Police also did not invoke a separately granted authority to establish temporary geographic curfews to restrict large gatherings in a specific space during that time.

King declined to comment further on the curfew's enforcement or implementation.

Council member Rob Coleman, who sponsored the curfew ordinance and also serves as chief operating officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, said the curfew was never meant to be strictly enforced and he doesn't see



Coleman

'CEASE AND DESIST'



Sam Maiden, a former director at the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs spent years leading an investigation of government contractor BAE Systems in Norfolk. **ZACK WITTMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Trump's gutting of civil rights agency stifled scrutiny of workplace bias, including at Norfolk's BAE Systems

By Coral Davenport
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NORFOLK — Federal investigators were working in early 2025 to wrap up a two-year inquiry into claims of pervasive sexual harassment and discrimination at a company that makes weapons, vehicles and cybersecurity tools for the Pentagon.

The investigators had found, among other things, that some male managers at a Navy shipyard had demanded oral sex and other sexual contact from female employees in exchange for promotions and overtime

pay, and that Black women had been paid less and promoted less frequently than men, according to three people with knowledge of the findings.

The government was zeroing in on a resolution to propose to the company, BAE Systems, to make seven-figure payouts to workers and to adopt reforms — or risk losing its roughly \$8 billion in annual federal contracts.

Then, the inquiry was suddenly halted.

On Jan. 21, the day after President Donald Trump was inaugurated, he directed the Labor



Trump

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"I wasn't even allowed to contact the workers. We were so angry that they wouldn't get the remedy that should have come to them." — **SAM MAIDEN**, former director at Office of Federal Contract Compliance programs, led the investigation of BAE

CHESAPEAKE

City Council to consider major battery energy storage facility

By Natalie Anderson
STAFF WRITER

CHESAPEAKE — City Council will consider a major proposed battery energy storage facility that the city's Planning Commission opposes, and numerous residents have spoken against.

The vote is on the council agenda this evening for a proposed Mill Stone Energy Center to be built on roughly 31 acres at 1912 Centerville

Turnpike South. The center would sit on a portion of a larger 180-acre parcel located about a mile from the Chesapeake Expressway.

Battery energy storage systems work by collecting and storing electricity generated by other facilities, such as solar plants or wind farms, and releasing it for use when power generation decreases. The systems can help alleviate congestion in electric power transmission and help bridge the gap

for intermittent alternative energy sources, according to a memo written by city planning staff.

Charlottesville-based Mill Stone Energy Center LLC is requesting a conditional use permit for the project as the land is currently zoned for agricultural use in the rural overlay district. Charlottesville-based East Point Energy is listed as the site owner. Douglas and Melody



A proposed Chesapeake battery facility, like this one in California, would sit on a portion of a larger 180-acre parcel located about a mile from the Chesapeake Expressway.

TERRY CHEA/AP FILE

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STAYING FOCUSED
Eyewear is helping workers to meet quality, output targets in Bangladesh garment factories. **Business, Page 10**

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