

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Chesapeake Alliance Announces New Board Members and Welcomes New Business Leaders



**Chesapeake, VA** — The Chesapeake Alliance, a non-partisan organization comprised of leading businesses and community leaders dedicated to supporting economic vitality and responsible growth in the City of Chesapeake, has announced the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors. Additionally, several new members from various sectors of the local business community have joined the Alliance, reflecting its ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable growth.

### New Board of Directors Appointments

Joining the Alliance Board of Directors are:

- **Drew Vakos**, Dragas Companies
- **Barrett Stork**, Virginia Natural Gas

Both Drew Vakos and Barrett Stork bring valuable experience in economic development, infrastructure, and regional growth initiatives. Their expertise aligns closely with the Alliance’s mission to promote thoughtful business leadership and collaboration within Chesapeake.

David Ropp, Chairman of the Chesapeake Alliance, expressed enthusiasm for the new board members, stating: “We are excited to welcome Drew and Barrett to the Board. Their professional expertise and commitment to our region will help guide the organization as we continue working to strengthen Chesapeake’s business climate and support responsible community development.”

### Welcoming New Members

In addition to the new board appointments, the Chesapeake Alliance welcomes several new and recent members whose organizations play important roles across the region’s economy:

- **Patrick & Anita Cavanagh**, Chilled Ponds & Norfolk Admirals
- **Christie Craig**, Community Consultants Group
- **Michael Dieffenbach**, Dwellings Development Company

- **Reagan Grohler**, Coastal Virginia Building Industry Association
- **Jeff Merritt**, Cox Communications
- **Victor Pickett**, BWE
- **Brian Pinckney**, Banister Nissan of Chesapeake
- **Tara Preston**, Preston Homes, Inc.
- **Erica & Jason Redman**, Riverview Centre
- **Angela Sadsad**, Atlantic Union Bank
- **Brian & Cody Wurst**, A Better Way Realty

These new members represent a diverse range of industries including finance, housing, automotive, development, communications, and community services. Their inclusion further strengthens the Alliance's ability to unite leaders who are committed to Chesapeake's long-term prosperity.

The organization shared, "The Chesapeake Alliance continues to grow because of the dedication of business leaders who care deeply about the future of our city. We are grateful for the engagement and insight these new members bring as we work together to support economic opportunity, strong communities, and informed public dialogue."

## About the Chesapeake Alliance

The Chesapeake Alliance serves as a collaborative forum for business and civic leaders to exchange ideas, share information, and engage constructively on issues affecting Chesapeake and the broader Hampton Roads region.

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