



VIRGINIA ISRAEL ADVISORY BOARD

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Virginia Israel Advisory Board
Office of the General Assembly
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
Senate Room 311

December 10th 2024, 10:00 AM

Reviewed

Attended in person

Chairman: Mel Chaskin
Deputy Chairman: Chuck Lessin
Bill Nusbaum
Jay Myerson
Charlette Woolridge
Bob Budoff
Josh Goldberg
Irv Blank

Attended on-line:

Julie Strauss, Nathan Shor, Jeffrey Bialos, Jeffrey F. Brooke, Sophie Hoffman, Sam Kaufman, Jack Kennedy, Rabbi Gershon Litt, Robert Slotnick, Eitan Stern, David Tenzer, Andrew Louis, David Leon, Dr. A.J. Nolte

1. **Chairman Mel Chaskin convened the meeting:**

Opened discussion to review the minutes of the July 30 2024 VIAB BOD meeting

The draft of the meeting minutes was discussed, cited in the record as “reviewed”, and to be published on VIAB website and state archives

2. The Chairman noted there have been protests against VIAB in several cities including Richmond, Alexandria and Arlington. In addition, there have been email campaigns to legislators asking to defund VIAB. The Chairman said he was in touch with several legislators who fully support VIAB and have seen no indication of any activity or intent to defund VIAB.
3. The Chairman noted an Israeli company in Virginia was vandalized. The FBI and other law enforcement agencies are investigating the incident.
4. A.J. Nolte, Associate Professor and Director of the M.A. in Government and the M.A. in International Development at Regent’s Robertson School of Government, presented an update on the activities of the newly established: Regent University [Institute for Israel Studies](#)
 - a. Launch event with former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Freedman
 - b. Creating a Masters Degree Program with a Concentration in Israel Studies
 - c. Establishing a Fellowship that will involve studying at Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
 - d. A range of business-related activities along with the School of Business to include leadership alumni in partnership with VIAB.
5. Executive Director Dov Hoch presented activities:
 - i. In Israel:
 1. Met with new U.S. Commercial Counselor Mark Russell
 2. Met with the American States Organization in Israel and established Virginia as a leader amongst the 43 states including regions and cities that have full-time representatives in Israel. For example at an EY Israel – U.S. Business Summit, the keynotes speakers were California, Texas and Virginia
 3. Presented to the Israel Bar Association foreign affairs committee
 4. Presented to the Institute of CPAs in Israel – Foreign Affairs Committee

ii. In Virginia:

1. Lectured at University of Virginia - Tamid Chapter, where 75 students consult Israeli companies.
2. Attended Oct. 7th Memorial (Richmond) with 20 Government officials including Legislators as well as the Governor
3. Attended Virginia Economic Development Association meeting
4. Presented at Virginia Tech Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Summit. CEA is a core segment in the Commonwealth Economic Development Plan; The Governor also spoke at the summit. In this area, VIAB conceived and worked with Virginia Tech to build a \$228M captive grown fish farm in Tazewell and Russell Counties.

iii. VIAB - Thomas Jefferson - Commerce with All Nations Awards- - Dov Hoch reviewed the recipients and merits for awarding five people and organizations with the VIAB Annual Award:

Health Wagon & Dr. Karen Rheuban - University of Virginia's Telemedicine program deployed 100 tele-medicine devices donated by Israeli company Tyto. VIAB Board members brought Starlink to the project to communicate patient data.

University of Virginia Tamid Chapter - 75 students consulted with Israeli companies including summer internships opportunities in Israel. Invested in stocks through the Tamid program

Attorney General Jason Miyares For visiting Israel after the October 7th massacre of 1,200 Israelis and the taking of 251 hostages into Gaza. He arranged for protective gear, donated by 123 Virginia Sheriffs Departments to Israel.

Regent University - Institute for Israel Studies headed by VIAB Board member Dr. A.J. Nolte, who is Associate Professor in School of Government

Richmond Ballet - For the Minds in Motion Program in Israel bringing Jewish and Muslim Israeli communities together. This is an annual summer program.

6. The Chairman discussed the 2024 annual report which was reviewed by three board members and will be sent to the Board on December 15th. The chairman noted the annual report is a digest of VIABs activity and requested Board members to circulate the Annual Report to interested parties.
7. The Chairman asked for any questions or comments from board members and the citizen attendees.
8. The Chairman concluded the meeting