



Office of the Town Manager
Frank Cassidy

Warrenton Town Council

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William Semple, Ward 2
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5
Paul Mooney, At Large
David McGuire, At Large

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	July 8, 2025
Agenda Title:	Homeland Security- Cyber Security Discussion
Requested Action:	Discussion
Department / Agency Lead:	Emergency Management, IT, and Police
Staff Lead:	Frank Cassidy, Town Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past several months, Federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and CISA, have issued a series of cybersecurity alerts aimed at state and local governments. These alerts are intended to raise awareness of active and emerging threats such as ransomware, supply chain vulnerabilities, and targeted phishing campaigns. They serve as both a warning and a guide, offering recommended mitigation strategies to help protect critical infrastructure and public-sector data.

In response, the Town has maintained a focused and proactive cybersecurity program. Through ongoing alignment with national best practices, regular system audits, and the use of layered defenses, including access control, data segmentation, and endpoint monitoring, the Town continues to build resilience and protect its data assets against outside threats.

BACKGROUND

The Town operates in an evolving threat environment where both cyber and physical security risks are increasingly complex and interconnected. In recent months, the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies have issued a series of alerts addressing a broad spectrum of threats, including cyberattacks, infrastructure vulnerabilities, insider risks, and potential physical security incidents.

These alerts are designed to increase situational awareness and preparedness across all levels of government. While some threats are national in scale, they offer valuable guidance to local jurisdictions on how to strengthen operational resilience, secure critical systems, and protect public assets.

The Town regularly reviews and incorporates the guidance from these alerts into its broader risk management strategy. To remain compliant with our formal agreements with several external agencies, we must adhere to their established rules and procedures for data interconnection and information sharing. We are also subject to established rules and procedures that govern data access and define who is

authorized to access specific information. By combining physical and cybersecurity measures, such as access control, data segmentation, surveillance, and endpoint protection, the Town continues to refine its ability to prevent, detect, and respond to a range of security threats that could impact service continuity and public safety.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends continued support and prioritization of the Town's integrated security strategy in response to ongoing federal alerts and the evolving threat landscape. This includes maintaining momentum on cybersecurity initiatives already underway, while also reinforcing physical security measures and preparedness protocols.

We recommend the following specific actions:

- Ongoing alignment with federal guidance from agencies such as DHS and CISA
- Continued investment in cybersecurity technologies, including endpoint protection, data segmentation, and monitoring tools
- Regular review and testing of incident response and recovery plans
- Staff-wide security awareness training that covers both cyber and physical threat scenarios
- Cross-department collaboration to ensure that security policies and procedures are implemented consistently and effectively
- Ongoing improvement of data access policies and procedures, including the application of least privilege principles, role-based access controls, and regular audits to ensure that only authorized individuals have access to sensitive information

By endorsing this approach, the Town can ensure it remains prepared, resilient, and responsive to the range of threats identified in recent alerts, while upholding our commitment to protecting Town operations, data, and public services.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

N/A

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

Community Facilities Goals:

CF-1 Through CF-6

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Legal Impact

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2. Related emails