



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, October 13, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Alternate Member (early departure)

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert (early departure)
Alexandra Griffin, Assistant City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Rachael Paul provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Sandra Witherspoon stated her questions and concerns regarding the city's inclement weather shelter and the treatment of homeless individuals. Ms. Witherspoon informed the committee that homeless persons were asked to leave the Arthur Ashe Center and relocate into the woods, where she alleged that a city employee sexually assaulted a homeless woman.

Rhonda Sneed, Executive Director of Blessing Warriors RVA, Inc., stated her concerns about the alleged sexual assault incident in the woods. She informed the committee that homeless individuals were asked to leave the Arthur Ashe Center and told they could relocate to a nearby baseball field but the gates were locked. She also stated that there was not enough information regarding the operations of the inclement weather shelter and questioned the qualifications of staff working there.

Chair Stephanie Lynch thanked the speakers and stated that she hoped questions they raised would be answered later in the meeting.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-275](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Legacy Nexus Foundation Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and the Legacy Nexus Foundation, for the purpose of implementing a skilled trades training credentialing program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-275](#)

Reggie Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services, explained that the request is for the Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) to provide skills trade training which would give an opportunity for people to obtain valuable life skills and career training.

Bernadine Doggett, Office of Community Wealth Building Operations Coordinator, provided additional information.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert asked what the process would be to inform the community about the program.

Bernadine Doggett responded with once the program is implemented there will be advertisements made throughout the city, and information provided at community events.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked what led to the decision to select Legacy Nexus.

Bernadine Doggett responded that the OCWB has partnered with Legacy Nexus in the past to offer apprenticeships. She stated that Legacy Nexus has a 90% placement rate and is the parent company to Legacy Builders Stem Academy, a trade school with which the OCWB has also previously worked.

Alternate Member Cynthia Newbille asked about the target number of participants for the program.

Bernadine Doggett responded that 25 candidates at a time will learn a series of trades and skills.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward Ord. 2022-275 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Robertson. Noes 0. Abstentions 1, Lynch.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2022-R068](#) To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R068](#)

Rhonda Gilmer, Deputy Director of Justice Services, stated that the proposed resolution resulted from a collaborative partnership with the state Department of Juvenile Justice Services and the Richmond Juvenile Domestic Relations Court. She also stated that the plan provides an array of youth programs with juveniles involved in the court system and will cover a series of five programs.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward Res. 2022-R068 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation(s)

Homeless Services Update

[CD.2022.349](#) Homeless Update Presentation

Attachments: [20221013 EHS Homeless Update Presentation](#)

Sherrill Hampton, Director of Housing & Community Development, provided the committee with a presentation that addressed the city's inclement weather shelter. Ms. Hampton stated that for FY2023, the department would like to issue scattered shelter sites throughout the city. She informed the committee that due to advertising requirements, the plan would not be implemented until November 15, 2022.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

After further discussion, Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Planning and Economic Development commented about plans for the inclement weather shelter.

Alternate Member Cynthia Newbille exited the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert exited the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Vice Chair Robertson called for action to expedite the process of implementing phase 2 of the shelter. She stated that Council would be willing to hold any necessary special meetings to move the plan forward.

Family Crisis Funding Update

Reggie Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services, provided the committee with information regarding the Family Crisis Fund.

Bernadine Doggett, Office of Community Wealth Building Operations Coordinator, provided the committee with the steps to access the Family Crisis line once it goes live.

Cordell Hayes, Jr., Office of the Mayor Legislative and Policy Management Analyst, discussed that the city is waiting on clarification and next steps on internal procedures from its fiscal agent.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Board Vacancies

[CD.2022.333](#) October 13, 2022 Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [20221013 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

Council Management Analyst Pamela Nichols reviewed board applications for the committee's consideration.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointments to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Lynch, Noes 0.

Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board:

Jaron Clay (reappointment)

Alison Martin

Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People, Inc.:

Quawneisha Peoples

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc.:

Alan Davis

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, September 8, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.332](#) September 8, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220908 - EHS Minutes - FINAL](#)

Staff Report

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided a copy of the October Staff Report, which has been filed.

[CD.2022.371](#) October 13, 2022 EHS Staff Report

Attachments: [20221013 Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.