



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
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### Minutes

#### Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, April 12, 2018

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### **Committee Members and Staff in Attendance**

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair  
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member  
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Charles Jackson, Council Budget Analyst  
M. Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney  
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator  
Candice Reid, City Clerk

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

#### **Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines**

Debra Bowles, assistant city clerk, 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**

There were no public comments.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Member Kim Gray moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2018, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

#### **Presentation(s)**

#### **Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of Virginia Overview**

Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) Executive Director Paige Bullen provided a brief overview of the programs, training and group meetings provided by SAARA. Ms. Bullen stated that SAARA offers a holistic approach to recovery, believes in peer support and sponsors and promotes community activities that are drug and alcohol-free. Ms. Bullen informed the committee that SAARA has been in existence for ten years offering daily group meetings, monthly trainings and peer recovery specialist classes. Ms. Bullen indicated that medication assisted treatment (MAT) trainings and family support groups are future programs that will be offered through SAARA.

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson suggested that SAARA develop a relationship with the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA) and stated that she would assist in making the connection for Ms. Bullen via email.*

*Chair Michael Jones thanked Ms. Bullen for the presentation and asked what is the greatest challenge affecting SAARA.*

Ms. Bullen stated that funding is a challenge as SAARA is primarily funded through the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority's (RBHA) peer recovery program but that there are additional funding needs to address the opioid epidemic and alcohol addiction.

*Member Kim Gray requested that the committee be informed of events and resources that can be shared with Council and at district meetings of Council. Ms. Gray thanked Ms. Bullen for the work that SAARA is doing.*

SAARA Board Member Melba Gibbs requested consideration of placing a one-page insert into the city's public utilities bill that promotes the crisis hotline for citizens in need. Ms. Gibbs also requested consideration of connecting with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Richmond City Health District to offer free training for individuals working with addiction cases.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

### **Paper(s) for Consideration**

**Member Kim Gray moved to continue the following paper to the May 10, 2018 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

#### ORD. 2018-044

To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 18 (§§ 2-1167—2-1172) and to amend ch. 17, art. I of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 17-1—17-3 for the purpose of establishing a Human Rights Commission and prohibiting certain discriminatory practices.

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis stated that the purpose of **ORD. 2018-044** is to establish a Human Rights Commission for the city. Ms. Davis introduced Charlottesville Office of Human Rights Manager Charlene Green.

Ms. Green provided information related to Charlottesville's Human Rights Commission via an online live video streaming broadcast. Ms. Green informed the committee that the primary function of the commission is to make recommendations to council regarding civil and human rights and the commission also educates citizens regarding their human rights.

Ms. Davis forwarded the committee members' questions to Ms. Green for her response. Ms. Green responded to questions regarding the use of city attorneys, school complaints and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) complaints. Ms. Green informed the committee that the commission does not handle complaints of public schools, only private schools. Ms. Green also stated that the majority of complaints are from constituents and employees relating to race, gender association and hostile work environments. Ms. Green informed the committee that Charlottesville's Office of Human Rights reports directly to the city manager.

Ms. Davis stated that an amendment to **ORD. 2018-044** has been drafted and was provided to committee members.

Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services Dr. Risha Berry stated that city administration supports the creation of a human rights commission and that the proposed amendment would shift the oversight from the Human Resources department to the Human Services. Dr. Berry commented that Human Services handles citizen issues as opposed to workforce issues which should remain handled by Human Resources. Dr. Berry reported that additional time would be needed to review and provide impact statements. Dr. Berry further stated that the commission would serve anyone lodging a complaint of a violation of rights and suggested that the commission be staffed or counseled by a member of the City Attorney's office.

After much discussion by committee members, Chair Jones requested that Ms. Davis make contact with the patrons of the proposed legislation to attend the May 10<sup>th</sup> Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

**Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward the following paper to the April 23, 2018, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

RES. 2018-R033

To express the Council's support for the oversight of the design and construction of public schools in the city of Richmond by the School Board of the City of Richmond and to request that the School Board prepare and submit to the Council, the Mayor, and the Chief Administrative Officer a construction plan for the design and construction of such facilities.

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson introduced RES. 2018-R033 informing the committee that the resolution is clarifying Council's support for RPS to build new schools and ensures transparency to constituents throughout the entire process.*

*Member Kim Gray asked if funding can be provided to RPS in phases or would 100% of funding need to be provided to RPS in a lump amount.*

*Ms. Larson stated that the intent of the resolution was to put in writing that RPS would manage the construction project and the investment of funds for new schools should be done in an efficient and effective way. Ms. Larson reported that the city's previous investment for new schools caused issues with warranties and there was not a smooth transition for ownership of the buildings. Ms. Larson informed the committee that school divisions usually manage the construction of schools and it is important that the buildings are built to provide the best learning environment for students and staff.*

*Member Gray stated that she is in agreement with the resolution; however, she is unsure of the affect that it will have on the outcome.*

*Chair Michael Jones expressed that the best process for a positive outcome is of the utmost concern to him in addition to the impact that the construction process will have on students and staff.*

**Support**

**Kenya Gibson**, RPS 3<sup>rd</sup> District School Board Member, stated that her comments were on her own behalf, and not on behalf of the school board. Ms. Gibson thanked Ms. Larson for submitting a resolution that would place the construction process with RPS. Ms. Gibson also noted that expertise is needed for the construction process by an entity that understands the scope, size and process of building schools. Ms. Gibson explained that simplifying the process through a consultant would ensure expertise and success.

## Board Vacancies

Boards and Commissions Administrator Alexander Rawles reviewed board appointment applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Kim Gray moved to forward the following appointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
<b>Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks</b>	Monroe Park Conservancy nominee * (1 vacancy)	James Hill
<b>Social Services Advisory Board</b>	Citizen of the city (1 vacancy)	Chelsea H. Wise

\* Applicants must either reside or work in the city

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items for consideration.

## Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with the April staff report.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.