



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

## Special Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:00 PM

Underground Kitchen  
205 Hull Street  
Richmond, VA 23224

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### Council Retreat Opening

#### Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President  
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker  
The Honorable Andrew Breton (late arrival)  
The Honorable Kenya Gibson (late arrival)  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson  
The Honorable Nicole Jones

#### Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

#### Others in Attendance

Danny Avula, Mayor  
Ross Catrow, Office of Strategic Communications and Civic Engagement Interim Director  
Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Planning and Economic Development  
Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Matthew Slaats, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk  
Lawson Wijesooriya, Office of the Mayor, Chief of Staff  
Thad Williamson, Office of the Mayor, Senior Policy Strategist

#### Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Reflections

The retreat opening was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Robert L. Dortch, Jr., Jordan/Syndor Innovation Group Principal, Retreat Facilitator, provided attendees with opening remarks. Mr. Dortch also addressed goals for the retreat scheduled for Friday, February 28, 2025, and he asked that attendees reflect on why they feel called to public service.

*Councilor Kenya Gibson arrived at 7:13 p.m.*

**Dinner**

Attendees engaged in conversations during a dinner service that addressed retreat goals, how to improve communication, and building working relationships.

*Councilor Andrew Breton arrived at 7:42 p.m, and was seated.*

At 9:41 p.m., Robert L. Dortch, Jr., Jordan/Syndor Innovation Group Principal, Retreat Facilitator, provided attendees with closing remarks and addressed motivations for a productive retreat scheduled for Friday, February 28, 2025.

**Adjournment**

There being no further businesses, the retreat opening adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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CITY CLERK