



# City of Richmond

## Council Retreat Minutes

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

Monday, March 1, 2021

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Council Retreat: Day 2

### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President (late arrival)  
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch  
The Honorable Reva Trammell (late arrival)

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the retreat to order at 2:03 p.m., and presided.

### **OPENING REMARKS**

*President Cynthia Newbille provided opening remarks and stated the primary objective of day two of Council's retreat was to identify Council's top priorities and to discuss paths forward to achieve Council's goals.*

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the retreat would be held through electronic communication means. Ms. Reid stated notice of the retreat was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on February 24, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment at the retreat.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided Council with a brief recap of day one of Council's retreat and provided additional information regarding the objectives and schedule of day two of the retreat.

### **DISCUSSION**

Charles Hartgrove, Virginia Institute of Government at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service associate director, and Yvonne Crenshaw, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service facilitator and trainer, addressed Council and provided information regarding the ground rules and priorities of day two of the retreat. Mr. Hartgrove provided Council with a presentation identifying Council's top five priorities based on the information provided by the analysis of Council's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) compiled during day one of the retreat. Mr. Hartgrove stated the five priorities of Council were as follows:

- *Pandemic Recovery*
- *Equity*
- *Quality of Life*

- *Economic Vitality*
- *Office of City Council*

Mr. Hartgrove led Council through a discussion addressing sub-categorical objectives and themes of Council's top five priorities. Mr. Hartgrove amended or provided additional information regarding sub-categorical objectives and themes based on the suggestions put forward by members.

*Vice President Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 2:14 p.m.*

*Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 2:26 p.m.*

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell joined the meeting at 2:27 p.m.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 2:34 p.m.*

Mr. Hartgrove continued the discussion with Council and reviewed a tactical plan to identify the actions necessary to address Council's priorities. Members provided Mr. Hartgrove with tangible steps that could be taken to mitigate and achieve the priorities. Members discussed with Mr. Hartgrove possible Council entities, such as Council's designated standing committees that could serve as vessels to strategize and accomplish identified goals.

*Copies of all materials provided have been filed.*

Mr. Hartgrove informed members that the Virginia Institute of Government at the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service would use the information collected throughout day two of Council's retreat to provide members with a report regarding necessary steps to be taken, responsibility assignments, and timelines for addressing the top priorities of Council.

*President Cynthia Newbille stated her appreciation for the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Council staff, and Councilmembers for the efforts put forward in organizing and facilitating Council's retreat.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, day two of the Council retreat adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

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CITY CLERK