



City of Richmond

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Richmond, VA 23219
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Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, December 8, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

DRAFT

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert (late arrival and early departure)

Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:00 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.

Chair Stephanie Lynch requested a moment of silence in memory of Jason Kuti, Richmond Police officer.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson arrived at 2:03 p.m. and was seated.

Public Comment Period

Rhonda Sneed, Executive Director of Blessing Warriors RVA ,addressed the committee and stated her concerns for homeless individuals that can't get a bed at a homeless shelter when they get off work in the late evening. She also requested that a washer and dryer be added to the women's emergency shelter.

Presentation(s)

Homeless Services Update

Sherrill Hampton, Director of Housing & Community Development, provided the committee with an update on the inclement weather shelter.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert joined the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Member Katherine Jordan thanked Ms. Hampton for corresponding with her about homeless youth and transgender homeless youth. She asked Ms. Hampton to include youth information in her report.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated she wanted an update on when the Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) homeless services site would open.

Ms. Hampton advised that Council approved a portion of the funding and that they have provided draft agreements to the site that need to be finalized. She stated she is hoping that they can open in late December or early January.

Chair Lynch had further discussion with Sherrill Hampton about the Commonwealth Catholic Charities shelter including the resources and funding for the shelter.

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Planning and Economic Development, made additional comments about the plans for the Commonwealth Catholic Charities shelter.

Reggie Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services, added additional comments about shelter funding.

Richmond Public Schools

Jason Kamras, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools and Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed, Richmond School Board Chair, provided the committee with a Richmond Public Schools update that addressed repairs to Fox Elementary and the Richmond Public Schools budget.

Vice President Ellen Robertson asked that a projected schedule for the school renovations be given to committee members.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the committee may need to reschedule its next Education and Human Services meeting to accommodate schedules and make the meeting more about the Richmond Public Schools budget.

Mr. Kamras stated he will share his Richmond Public Schools budget presentation with the committee after he presents to the Richmond School Board at its January 17, 2023 meeting.

Chair Lynch stated the meeting could take place on January 26, 2023.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-344](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a We Matter RVA Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and ChildSavers - Memorial Child Guidance Clinic, for the purpose of providing social and emotional wellness services as part of the We Matter RVA youth gun violence prevention program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-344](#)

2. [ORD. 2022-345](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a We Matter RVA Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Challenge Discovery Projects, Inc., for the purpose of providing social and emotional wellness services as part of the We Matter RVA youth gun violence prevention program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-345](#)

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, informed the committee about the We Matter Program and provided additional information about the ordinances presented.

The committee had further discussion with Eva Colen about the We Matter Program.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson requested a breakdown of the budget for the We Matter Program.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward Ord. 2022-344 and Ord. 2022-345 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

3. [ORD. 2022-350](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Presbyterian Homes & Family Services, Inc., for the purpose of providing family crisis funds to City residents with emergency financial needs.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-350](#)
[20221208 Education & Human Services Handout](#)

Cordell Hayes Jr., Legislative and Policy Management Analyst, Mayor's Office, gave an introduction to the ordinance.

Stan Southworth, President and Chief Executive Officer of HumanKind, informed the committee about the organization and the ordinance.

Angela Hart, Capital Region Program Manager of HumanKind, provided a handout of a flowchart reflecting the process of receiving funding through the Family Crisis Fund, and provided additional information on the program.

[CD.2022.430](#) After Item - 20221208 Family Crisis Fund (FCF) Process 2022 Handout

Attachments: [20221208 Family Crisis Fund \(FCF\) Process 2022](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Public Hearing

Bridgette Whitaker expressed to the committee that she was a concerned citizen and that she wanted to be sure that the ordinance would help homeless individuals.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked Mr. Hayes when the grant would be available.

Mr. Hayes informed the committee that after the ordinance goes through the approval process, it may be available towards the end of December.

Ms. Hart added that there will be a soft launch of the program, and she stated that the full launch will be closer to the second week in January.

Vice Chair Robertson had further discussion with Mr. Hayes and Ms. Hart about the resources and funding for the Family Crisis Fund.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward Ord. 2022-350 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, October 13, 2022, committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.402](#) October 13, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20221013 - EHS Minutes - FINAL](#)

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.