



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Minutes

Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, May 10, 2018

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair (*Late arrival*)
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Council Member
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
M. Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk

Call to Order

Vice Chair Kristen Larson called the meeting to order at 12:13 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.

Chair Michael Jones arrived and was seated.

Approval of the Minutes

Member Kim Gray moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 12, 2018, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations for review.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

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.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson and Mr. Agelasto

Councilor Parker Agelasto, a patron of the legislation, stated that the proposal for a Human Rights Commission is to protect residents and visitors of the city from potential discrimination. Mr. Agelasto

stated that a proposed amendment to the legislation should include, but not be limited to: discrimination on the basis of gender identity, transgender status or sexual orientation. Mr. Agelasto also stated that the Human Rights Commission should serve in the capacity of protecting all citizens and providing for an inclusive community. Mr. Agelasto further stated that he had received confirmation from the mayor's Chief of Staff, Lincoln Saunders, that the Office of the Mayor would accept the responsibility of housing the commission.

Support

Roland Winston expressed his support of the proposed ordinance and thanked Mr. Agelasto and the committee for consideration of creating a Human Rights Commission; however, he also expressed concern regarding the \$50,000 funding, stating that it may not be enough to fulfill the needs of the commission.

Member Kim Gray asked for clarity stating that the state lists sexual orientation as a protected class as it relates to housing and state employment.

Assistant City Attorney Janet Palmer responded that she would review the state's definition regarding sexual orientation; however, at this time sexual orientation is not considered a protected class.

Member Gray stated that she would provide Ms. Palmer with the information that she has read in reference to state employment and Virginia's Fair Housing Act.

Councilor Agelasto requested that the committee move the proposed ordinance forward to Council even if the city attorney states that sexual orientation is not permissible as a protected class under state code.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2018-044 to the May 14, 2018 Council meeting with recommendation to approve with an amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Board Vacancies

There were no board appointments for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with the May staff report and stated that information was submitted to the committee regarding the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Davis stated that she could work with the Office of the City Attorney regarding the requested definition change for amending the proposed ordinance. Ms. Davis explained the budgeting process to secure the \$50,000 funding referenced within the proposed ordinance.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.