



## City of Richmond

### Minutes

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

### Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, May 6, 2021

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Committee Member

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk  
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., and presided.

#### Electronic Meeting Announcement

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, 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 meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Deputy City Clerk Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on April 30, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, May 6, 2021, were provided to committee members. Mr. Warren indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

#### Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch addressed how the recent instances of violent shootings in the city have impacted communities and underscored the need for solutions to end gun violence.*

#### Public Comment

**Donte McCutchen, Love Cathedral Community Church Pastor**, addressed the committee

and shared personal testimony of how gun violence has impacted the city and urged the committee to advocate for program resources to combat the growing instances of gun violence in the city.

**Keisha Cummings, 2Love, LLC Founder**, discussed the adverse effects that the recent gun violence has had on the community. Ms. Cummings shared that additional city programs and resources are needed to appropriately support the community in the prevention of violence.

**Approval of Minutes**

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Thursday, April 1, 2021 and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

**Board Vacancies**

Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

**Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board reappointment applications 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>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Board</b> (5 members)	City Resident  (1 vacancy)	Dr. Kenneth Warren Foster 3rd District Resident Reappointment
<b>Social Services Advisory Board</b> (9 members)	City Resident  (1 vacancy)	Preston Page 6th District Resident Reappointment

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

**Paper for Consideration**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2021-104

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into a Facility Use Agreement between City of Richmond and School Board of the City of Richmond for the use of Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' community centers to be known as "Community Hubs" for the purpose of connecting Richmond Public Schools' families with information and resources to support student educational success.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Office of Children and Families, Office of the Mayor, and Cheryl Burke, Chair of the Richmond Public School Board, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-104.

**There were no comments or discussions and Member Katherine Jordan moved to forward ORD. 2021-104 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded**

**and unanimously approved.**

## **Presentations**

### **Healthy Equity Discussion**

Osita Iroegbu, Senior Policy Advisor for Community Engagement, Equity and Inclusion, Office of the Mayor, provided an overview of the city's gun violence prevention framework. Ms. Iroegbu shared that the goal of the collaborative gun violence prevention workgroup is to address gun violence in the city as a public health crisis. Rachelle Hunley, Virginia Commonwealth University Emerging Leaders Coordinator, provided information on the drastic increase in severe gunshot wounds in the city. Ms. Hunley also shared an overview of the six major program initiatives of the gun violence prevention workgroup. Torey Edmonds, Virginia Commonwealth University Community Outreach Coordinator, highlighted the correlation between systemic racism and the present day gun violence seen throughout the city. Jackie Lawrence, Director of Health Equity at Richmond and Henrico Health Districts, shared information on the crisis intervention and wrap around services that are key components of the gun violence prevention framework.

*Member Katherine Jordan inquired about the budgetary needs for funding the gun violence prevention workgroup program initiatives.*

Ms. Lawrence shared information on the budget requests for the program initiatives of the gun violence prevention framework.

Ms. Edmonds stated the importance of funding staff positions to ensure the successful operation of the program initiatives.

Ms. Iroegbu shared that there is a forthcoming comprehensive budget proposal that will outline staff positions, funding partnerships and program needs of the gun violence prevention framework.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch emphasized the need for sustainable funding streams for gun violence prevention programs.*

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

### **Victim Witness Program**

Sharron Saunders, Victim Witness Services Director, provided the committee with an overview of the Victim Witness Services Program and the various services provided to participants. Colette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond, was also available to provide additional information to the committee.

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson asked how long the Victim Witness Services Program has been in operation and for information on the program's budget.*

Ms. Saunders shared that the Victim Witness Services Program has been in operation since 1991 and has an annual budget of roughly \$760,000 funded through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired if there is additional funding to support the families, witnesses and survivors.*

Ms. Saunders confirmed that the Victim Witness Services Program assists families, witnesses and survivors with filing claims for funding support from the Virginia Victims fund.

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

### **Virginia Victim Fund**

Kay Bullock, Virginia Victim Fund Director, provided the committee with an overview of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Ms. Bullock also outlined how victims of crimes may submit both compensation claims and requests for crisis response services beyond compensation.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch asked for information on where Councilmembers can direct victims who may qualify for the Virginia Victim Fund to receive assistance. Chair Lynch asked for clarification on the scope of individuals impacted by a crime that may utilize the services of the Virginia Victim Fund.*

Ms. Bullock stated that victims may contact the Victim Witness Services Program for referral to the Virginia Victim Fund for assistance. Ms. Bullock shared that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is only for those victims who are directly impacted by the incident, but that crisis response services are open to the community.

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

### **Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

### **Staff Report**

Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff, provided the committee with the May staff report.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch provided information on discussion topics for upcoming Education and Human Services Standing Committee meetings.*

*Vice Chair Ellen Robertson requested that the administration provide information on the upcoming meetings of the gun violence prevention workgroup and a timeline for a program proposal.*

### **Adjournment**

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