

INTRODUCED: February 12, 2018

AN ORDINANCE No. 2018-038

To amend Ord. No. 2017-147, adopted Sept. 11, 2017, which established an Ethics Reform Task Force to review and provide recommendations concerning ethical standards applicable to local government in the city, to revise the reporting deadlines for the Ethics Reform Task Force.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron – Ms. Larson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney

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PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 26 2018 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

I. That Ordinance No. 2017-147, adopted September 11, 2017, be and is hereby amended and reordained as follows:

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council establish an Ethics Reform Task Force to review the ethical standards applicable in the City government for the purpose of making recommendations to the Council, the Mayor, and other City agencies on how to increase the level of accountability, public confidence, and public trust in City officers and employees and the officers and employees of other local governmental entities and constitutional officers in the city; and

AYES:                    9                    NOES:                    0                    ABSTAIN:                    \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:            FEB 26 2018            REJECTED:            \_\_\_\_\_            STRICKEN:            \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual operating costs for the Board will be approximately \$5,000, including ten staff hours;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That the Council hereby establishes the Ethics Reform Task Force (the “Task Force”) pursuant to the following guidelines:

A. **Purpose.** The Task Force shall make recommendations to the Council, the Mayor and other City agencies on how to increase the level of accountability, public confidence, and public trust in City officers and employees and the officers and employees of other local governmental entities and constitutional officers in the city. For purposes of section 2-761 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, the Task Force is classified as “advisory.”

B. **Composition.**

1. **Appointment.** The Task Force shall consist of 11 members. The Council shall appoint nine members, and the Mayor shall appoint two members. All appointments shall be otherwise governed by sections 2-755 and 2-756 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended.

2. **Qualifications.** The membership of the Task Force should possess experience and expertise concerning ethical standards in both the public sector and the private sector and concerning areas, such as human resources and procurement, that may be relevant to the consideration of appropriate ethical standards for a governmental organization.

C. **Duties.**

1. **Review.** The Task Force shall review (i) the State and Local Government

Conflict of Interests Act and any other applicable provisions of state law, (ii) the applicable provisions of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, (iii) any applicable provisions of the City Council's Rules of Procedure, (iv) any applicable provisions of the City's Administrative Regulations, [~~(iv)~~] (v) Resolution No. 96-R120-181, adopted November 25, 1996, and [~~(v)~~] (vi) any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices that apply to ethical considerations or standards in the City government, in other local governmental entities in the city, and to constitutional officers in the city.

2.     **Recommendations.** Based on its review pursuant to section 1(C)(1) of this ordinance, the Task Force shall make recommendations of any modifications to existing laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices that the Council, the Mayor, other City agencies, other local governmental entities in the city, or constitutional officers in the city lawfully may implement to increase the level of accountability, public confidence, and public trust in City officers and employees and the officers and employees of other local governmental entities and constitutional officers in the city. The Task Force should make recommendations in the following areas:

a.     Lawful modifications to City ordinances and resolutions, including, but not necessarily limited to, those provisions of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, concerning (i) the employee disclosure of misconduct and protection from retaliation found in Chapter 2, Article III, Division 5 thereof, (ii) the requirements for the filing of statements of economic interests found in section 2-760 thereof, and (iii) prohibited working relationships between family members found in section 2-1295 thereof, and including the City

Council's Rules of Procedure, that the Task Force recommends that the Council make.

b. Lawful modifications to the City's Administrative Regulations that the Task Force recommends that the Mayor make.

c. Lawful modifications to rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices that the Task Force recommends that City agencies, other local governmental entities in the city, and constitutional officers in the city make.

d. Modifications to state laws, including, but not necessarily limited to, the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act and the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006, that the Task Force recommends that the Council request the General Assembly to make.

e. Any consequences, where permitted by law, that the Task Force recommends be imposed for varying levels of ethical violations.

f. Any lawful ways in which policies on the acceptance of gifts and related issues may be clarified.

g. Any proposed requirements for mandatory training in ethical standards for specified City officers and employees.

h. Any lawful proposals for the expansion of accountability to the public in ethical matters and the expansion of public access to information concerning compliance with ethical standards.

i. If lawful, any proposal as to the establishment of a local government ethics board for the purpose of ensuring compliance with and enforcement of applicable ethical laws.

3. **Report.** The Task Force shall submit a written final report, containing the results of the Task Force's reviews and recommendations, to the Organizational Development Standing Committee no later than 180 days following its submission of a preliminary written report at the meeting of the Organizational Development Standing Committee scheduled for [~~March 5~~] October 1, 2018.

**D. Conduct of Affairs.**

1. **Quorum.** Six members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

2. **Officers.** The Task Force shall select from among its membership a chairman and other such officers as it may deem necessary for the conduct its affairs.

3. **Duration.** The Task Force shall continue in existence until it has submitted the report called for by section 1(C)(3) of this ordinance.

4. **Meetings.** The Task Force shall meet as often as it deems necessary in order to complete its duties and submit its report by the time called for in section 1(C)(3) of this ordinance.

5. **Freedom-of-Information.** All meetings and records of the Task Force shall be subject to the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, codified as sections 2.2-3700 through 2.2-3714 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

6. **Procedures.** The Task Force may adopt by-laws or rules of procedure not inconsistent with this ordinance to govern the conduct of its meetings and operations.

7. **Staff and Resources.** The Office of the Council Chief of Staff shall provide such staff and resources, and shall coordinate the provision of assistance by members of the City administration and the offices of appointees of the City Council, as may be necessary to assist the Task Force in completing the duties imposed by this

ordinance. The Office of the City Attorney shall provide any legal advice or opinions necessary to assist the Task Force in completing the duties imposed by this ordinance.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

II. This amendatory ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Lou Brown Ali  
Council Chief of Staff

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Allen L. Jackson, Richmond City Attorney

**THROUGH** Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff *LB*

**FROM** Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Office of the Council Chief of Staff *JLD*

**COPY** Kristen Larson, 4<sup>th</sup> District Council member  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff *MCB*  
Bryce Lyle, 4<sup>th</sup> District Liaison

**DATE** February 1, 2018

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE:** Amend Ordinance No. 2017-147 to Change Due Date to Complete Task Force Report to Council

RECEIVED  
FEB 02 2018  
OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance**  **Resolution**

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

Council Member Kristen Larson

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Governmental Operations

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

Amend Ordinance No. 2017-147 to change the due date from March 5, 2018 to October 1, 2018 for a preliminary report from the Ethics Reform Task Force.

**BACKGROUND**

The Richmond City Council Ethics Reform Task Force was established by Ordinance No. 2017-147, adopted September 11, 2017 to review the ethical standards applicable in the City government for the purpose of making recommendations to the Council and the Mayor on how to increase the level of accountability, public

confidence, and public trust in City officers and employees. Based on its review of current ethical standards, the Task Force shall make recommendations of any modifications to existing laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices.

The Task Force is composed of eleven members. Nine of the eleven members of this Task Force have been appointed. On January 30, 2018, members of the Ethics Reform Task Force met for their first meeting. The Task Force decided by a 7-0 vote to request an amendment to Ordinance 2017-147 to change the due date of the report to Council with its recommendations from March 5, 2018 as designated in the Ordinance to October 1, 2018. This report will be submitted to the Organizational Development Committee.

This will allow the Ethics Reform Task Force to conduct its initial research to provide a preliminary report of its initial findings and scope of work needed for the final report. The preliminary report will delineate the expected date of the final report which would be within six months.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	

Attachment/s      Yes     No