



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

DRAFT Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, October 12, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille - Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison - Member (early departure)

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Keisha Dillard-Brady, Assistant City Attorney
Tamiya Lunsford, Council Budget Analyst
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad 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.

Public Comment Period

Nancy Williams addressed the committee regarding hours of availability for homeless services during an emergency event. Ms. Williams also addressed the committee regarding assistance to employed individuals still seeking housing. Ms. Williams further addressed the committee regarding homeless services provided to the elderly.

Chair Stephanie Lynch arrived at 2:17 p.m. and presided.

Bridget Whitaker addressed the committee regarding items added to non-departmental funding for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille requested that city administration provide additional information regarding the comments stated by Nancy Williams and Bridget Whitaker.

Traci DeShazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, stated that city administration is beginning to see trends regarding the elderly's difficulty finding affordable housing. DCAO DeShazor also stated that homeless services are available 24/7, and that the miscommunication may be around providing the correct contact information for homeless services.

Dominic Barrett, Strategic Projects & Grants Advisor, Human Services, provided information regarding the current non-departmental grant application process.

Presentation(s)

Children's Funding Project Fiscal Mapping Update

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with an update regarding the Children's Funding Fiscal Mapping Project.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for city administration's continued work regarding the Children's Funding Fiscal Mapping Project.

Early Childhood - Update on State & Federal Funding Cliff

[CD.2023.318](#) 20231012 EHS - Update on State and Federal Funding Cliff

Attachments: [20231012 - Update on State and Federal Funding Cliff](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with a presentation regarding state and federal funding related to childcare and early education.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about the Governor's budget including \$250 million to maintain the state and federal funding set to expire. Chair Lynch also stated she did not see an agency budget requests on the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) website to get additional children's funding into the Governor's budget, and she also inquired when the request will be submitted.

Ms. Colen stated that she has not been made aware of any budget requests.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the state agency submission deadline for funding has passed. Chair Lynch also stated that funding for the children's budget is not on Council's current legislative agenda.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille stated Council has previously submitted their legislative requests. Vice Chair Newbille also stated Council could add the item to their list of legislative requests.

Member Andreas Addison inquired about other jurisdictions in Virginia dealing with the same funding issue.

Eva Colen stated that Richmond is not the only jurisdiction dealing with child care and early education funding.

Member Addison referenced his recent visit to the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference, and stated that the funding issue would be an item that should be shared with the Virginia Municipal League.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-297](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Fiscal Agency Agreement between NextUp RVA and City of Richmond for the purpose of authorizing NextUp RVA to act as a fiscal agent on behalf of the City to facilitate funding for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' 2023 CarMax Basketball Youth Development and Summer Camp program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-297](#)

Deborah Morton, Deputy Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, provided the committee with an introduction regarding ORD. 2023-297.

Public Hearing

Bridget Whitaker stated her concerns regarding ORD. 2023-297. Ms. Whitaker also stated that organizations like NextUp RVA need to go through the proper vetting process before moving forward with receiving funding.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2023-297 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The following ordinances were considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-298](#) 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 Emergency Shelter, Inc., doing business as HomeAgain, for the purpose of funding the operations of a 50-bed, year-round emergency shelter to be located at 7 North 2nd Street. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-298](#)

3. [ORD. 2023-299](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease between the City of Richmond as lessee and Potomac Area Hostels, Inc., as lessor, for the purpose of leasing the property located at 7 North 2nd Street for the operation of a 50-bed, year-round emergency shelter. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-299](#)

4. [ORD. 2023-300](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Sublease Agreement between the City of Richmond and Emergency Shelter, Inc., doing business as HomeAgain, for the purpose of subleasing the property located at 7 North 2nd Street to Emergency Shelter, Inc., doing business as HomeAgain, for the operation of a 50-bed, year-round emergency shelter. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-300](#)

Traci DeShazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, and Stephen Harms, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, provided the committee with an introduction regarding ORD. 2023-298, ORD. 2023-299, and ORD. 2023-300.

Public Hearing

Mandy Herbert, Executive Director for HomeAgain, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-298, ORD. 2023-299, and ORD. 2023-300. Ms. Herbert stated HomeAgain has been in operation since 1979, and that HomeAgain is excited to serve more families in need.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille expressed her gratitude towards city administration for their continued work and partnership with HomeAgain.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2023-298, ORD. 2023-299, and ORD. 2023-300 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

Member Andreas Addison left the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Discussion Item(s)

Homeless Services Update

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated there was a request to work with city administration to create a chart of staff members that currently work on homelessness and housing issues.

Traci DeShazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, stated that city administration can provide the requested information during the next Education & Human Services Standing Committee meeting.

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) and Richmond School Board Updates

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding Richmond Public Schools (RPS).

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille expressed her appreciation to Mr. Kamras for bringing on new leadership for Early Childhood and Head Start programming.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that she would like to partner with RPS to align lobbying, advocacy, and state coalition resources.

Cheryl Burke, Richmond School Board Vice Chair, provided the committee with an update regarding re-writing the RPS strategic plan, addressing an assessment for their facilities and schools, the approval of the fiscal mapping project, and updating the RPS school booklet for addressing acceptable behaviors.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2023.310](#) October 12, 2023 - Education & Human Services Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20231012 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward the following applications for appointment and reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve:

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:

David Lambert

Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board:

Natasha Houpe

Marianne Svoboda

Capital Area Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) Policy Advisory Board:

Andre Tolleris (reappointment)

Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board:

Carmen Simon (reappointment)

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:

Dana Sally-Allen (reappointment)

Malesia Taylor (reappointment)

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, July 13, 2023 and the Thursday, September 21, 2023 committee meetings, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.276](#) July 13, 2023 - Education & Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230713-EHS Minutes](#)

[CD.2023.305](#) September 14, 2023 - Education & Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230914 EHS Agenda](#)

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2023.321](#) October 12, 2023 - EHS Staff Report

Attachments: [20231012 - EHS Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.