



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

### Minutes

#### Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

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Tuesday, July 21, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
(Virtual Meeting)

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#### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member  
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council member (late arrival and early departure)  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Council member (late arrival and early departure)  
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff  
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., and presided.

#### Electronic Participation

Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on July 14, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She 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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020, were provided to committee members. Mrs. Nichols 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

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, provided citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

## Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 16, 2020, March 10, 2020 and June 29, 2020 Special Meetings, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

## Board Vacancies

City Clerk Candice Reid reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

**Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following board appointment and 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>
Board of Building Code Appeals, Electrical Division (8 members)	Public Electric Power Utility Representative* (1 vacancy)	Noah Ford 6 <sup>th</sup> District Employment (reappointment)
	Electrical Contractor* (2 vacancies)	Jason Biniasz 1 <sup>st</sup> District Resident

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following board reappointment application 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>
Board of Building Code Appeals, Plumbing and Mechanical Division (8 members)	Alternate* (2 vacancies)	Justin White 7 <sup>th</sup> District Resident (reappointment)

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following board appointment 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>
Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (6 members)	Resident* (2 vacancies)	Michael Dickinson 1 <sup>st</sup> District Resident  Nathan Joyce 6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following board appointment application 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>
Clean City Commission (15 members)	Corporate/Citizen Volunteer Representative (2 vacancies)	Charles D'Aprix 7 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

**Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following board reappointment application 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>
Commission of Architectural Review Board (9 members)	Richmond Association of Realtors (1 vacancy)	Neville Johnson 1 <sup>st</sup> District Resident (reappointment)

Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following board appointment 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>
Greater Richmond Transit Company (3 members)	*	George Braxton 4 <sup>th</sup> District Resident (reappointment)  Benjamin Campbell 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Resident (reappointment)  Eldridge Coles (reappointment)

(3 vacancies)

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City Clerk Candice Reid reminded the committee that an additional round of interviews were conducted of the Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority’s applicants, and that the committee’s recommendations for the tenant representatives would be forwarded to the next Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to the Organizational Development Standing Committee with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority (9 members)	Tenant Representative *	Veronica Blount ** 6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident (reappointment)  Charlene Pitchford 3 <sup>rd</sup> District Resident  Patrice Shelton 6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

(3 vacancies)

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

City Clerk Candice Reid advised the committee of the applicants’ ranking based on the evaluation of candidates from two rounds of interviews.

Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following board appointment and 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>
Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority (9 members)	Citizen Representative*	Neil Kessler 6 <sup>th</sup> District Employment (reappointment)  Basil Gooden 2 <sup>nd</sup> District Employment  Michael Barrett Hardiman 3 <sup>rd</sup> District Resident  William Johnson 6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

(4 vacancies)

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

**Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointment application 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>
Urban Design Committee (9 members)	Citizen Representative*  (1 vacancy)	Charles Woodson 5 <sup>th</sup> District Resident

\*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

The committee reconsidered its prior vote on the appointment applications for the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority.

*Member Jones and Chair Robertson stated they would like additional time to review information regarding matters concerning Michael Dickinson.*

**Member Michael Jones moved to reconsider the prior vote on the recommendation to appoint Michael Dickinson to the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

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

**Presentation(s)**

There were no presentations.

**Paper(s) for Consideration**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2020-152

To designate the 4000, 4100, 4200, and 4300 blocks of Crutchfield Street in honor of the late Leslie D. Jackson.

**Patron:** Ms. Lynch

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch introduced ORD. 2020-152.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward ORD. 2020-152 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2020-153

To rename that portion of U.S. Route 1, known as Jefferson Davis Highway and located within the corporate boundaries of the City, from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Hull Street to its southerly terminus at the corporate limits of the City near its intersection with Walmsley Boulevard, as "Richmond Highway."

**Patron:** Ms. Trammell

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding this legislation prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the July 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

## **Public Hearing**

**Free Bangura, History and Culture Commission chair**, advised the committee that the History and Culture Commission would like to provide assistance in a public forum for renaming Jefferson Davis Highway.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch exited the meeting.*

**Megan Rickman Blackwood** expressed support of the renaming of Jefferson Davis Highway but expressed concern that the public was not afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Ms. Blackwood asked the committee to amend ORD. 2020-153 to require public input.

**Bryan Green** expressed support of ORD. 2020-153 and stated he also looked forward to renaming public buildings and streets which would more accurately reflect the diverse history of the city.

**Ron Moore** stated he opposed the use of funds to rename Jefferson Davis Highway. He stated the money could be better served to provide support for low income communities or to bring to justice individuals who caused destruction within the city during recent protests.

*Member Michael Jones stated he supported the renaming of Jefferson Davis Highway; however, he stated there should be public input on an appropriate name.*

*Vice Chair Kim Gray stated she was comfortable forwarding ORD. 2020-153 to Council with an amendment which would require public input on the renaming, and to allow the History and Culture Commission to take part in the process.*

*Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, provided two options for the committee to consider regarding ORD. 2020-153.*

Lincoln Sanders, Office of the Mayor chief of staff, remarked that ORD. 2020-153 was similar to the request to rename the Robert E. Lee Memorial Bridge; he asked that the History and Culture Commission be able conduct public engagement prior to Council's consideration of the proposed legislation.

*Member Jones stated that the paper should be continued to allow for both an amendment and the commission to conduct its public engagement prior to consideration by Council.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to continue ORD. 2020-153 to the September 22, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### **The following ordinance was considered:**

#### **ORD. 2020-154**

To provide for the removal of certain monuments on City-owned property, provide for the disposition of such monuments, and repeal an ordinance accepting the General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson monument, adopted Mar. 3, 1920, as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1812.

**Patron:** Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch, Mr. Addison, Vice President Hilbert, President Newbille, Ms. Gray, Ms. Larson and Ms. Robertson

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding this legislation prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the July 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

**Free Bangura, History and Culture Commission chair**, stated that billions of dollars were spent in Virginia on heritage tourism and the pedestals which held the confederate statues should be resurfaced and repurposed to reflect the future of the city.

**Megan Rickman Blackwood** expressed support of ORD. 2020-154. She stated the pedestals represent change in the city and she hoped the pedestals would not be destroyed but offered to interested parties.

**Ron Moore** stated the Code of Virginia prohibits the destruction and alteration of statues, and the City Charter requires removal of statues to be reviewed by the Commission of Architectural Review. He further stated the July 1<sup>st</sup> removal of the statues was unlawful and the contractual agreement regarding General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson monument was binding and could not be repealed.

*Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, stated the proposed legislation was pursuant to provisions in the Code of Virginia which granted localities the ability to remove certain statues and the pedestals from city-owned properties.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-154 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

#### **The following resolution was considered:**

##### RES. 2020-R044

To express the Council's support for the Director of Public Works' administrative directive entitled "Protected walkways and crosswalks, bicycle lane, and shared use paths" requiring certain pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and pathways within construction work zones.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison and Mr. Jones

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding this legislation prior to the committee meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee and are included as an Appendix to the July 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation meeting minutes.

*Councilor Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2020-R044.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward RES. 2020-R044 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

*Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting at 2:13 p.m.*

#### **Discussion Item**

Julie Timm, Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) chief executive officer, acknowledged that GRTC Board of Directors Chair Benjamin Campbell and GRTC Communications Director Carrie Rose Pace were present to respond to questions. Ms. Timm presented an update on the impact of the civic protests on GRTC service, COVID-19 response and service impacts, GRTC's operational budget, and the downtown transfer center. Ms. Timm reported GRTC seeks support from the city for the formation of a task force to engage the community on potential plans for a permanent transfer station.

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

The committee asked questions regarding the impact on GRTC's budget for the replacement of the bus destroyed during the civil unrest, the waving of bus fares and the company's FY 2021 budget gap. The committee also asked that the presentation be sent to all members of Council.

Chair Ellen Robertson asked committee members and city administration to provide responses and recommendations regarding the topics of discussion provided by Ms. Timm.

### **Staff Report**

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the July staff report.

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

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.