



# City of Richmond

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

## Minutes

### Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, June 14, 2018

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair  
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member (*Late arrival*)  
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Charles Jackson, Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
M. Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, 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.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### Approval of the Minutes

Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 10, 2018, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Jones, Larson. Noes, none. Member Kim Gray had not yet arrived.

#### Paper(s) for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

##### RES. 2018-R045

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer annually cause to be conducted a review of dedicated funding strategies for Richmond Public Schools and provide the Council, the Mayor, and the School Board of the City of Richmond with recommendations concerning (i) the total budget appropriation for Richmond Public Schools for each ensuing fiscal year, (ii) funding sources for Richmond Public Schools, and (iii) any proposed changes to state legislation necessary to increase state funding to Richmond Public Schools.

**Patron:** Ms. Robertson

The committee was advised that the patron of **RES. 2018-R045** requested a 30-day continuance of the proposed legislation.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to continue the following ordinance to the July 12, 2018, Education and Human Services Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Jones, Larson. Noes, none.

### **Presentation(s)**

*Member Kim Gray arrived and was seated.*

### **Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board Annual Report**

Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board (ADAB) Chair Charles Barker provided a brief summary of the ADAB annual report. Mr. Barker stated that the main purpose of ADAB is to identify issues that could affect senior citizens and/or disabled citizens and make recommendations to Council. Mr. Barker informed the committee that creating an email system, [agingdisabilitybd@richmondgov.com](mailto:agingdisabilitybd@richmondgov.com), in addition to the help line at 804-646-1082 have been beneficial to both citizens' needs and to ADAB. Mr. Barker noted that ADAB has checked all Council districts and is compiling an accessibility needs listing that will be forwarded to Council upon completion. Mr. Barker also stated that ADAB has made a recommendation for interpretive services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

*Chair Michael Jones inquired about the cost of an interpreter and what events were recommended for these services.*

Human Services Manager Yvette Jones informed the committee that interpreter costs vary based on one's skill level, the length of time needed, and mileage. Ms. Jones stated that events for consideration are the Mayor's State of the City Address and Council meetings.

*Chair Jones requested that a listing of events considered for interpretive services be provided to the city clerk or Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis.*

Mr. Barker stated that ADAB is working with the Free Foundation to provide adaptive equipment to citizens that do not have the resources to purchase these items, and Ms. Jones stated that ADAB is involved with the Richmond 300 Master Plan project regarding housing, parking and transportation needs.

Mr. Barker reported that ADAB will be conducting a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis in each Council district to develop a strategic aging and disabilities plan. Mr. Barker also reported that ADAB is collaborating with the Office of Community Wealth Building to identify employment opportunities for seniors and disabled citizens, and he informed the committee that the annual disability fair will be held in October.

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson requested the email address for Free Foundation.*

*Member Kim Gray asked if the expansion of handicap parking spaces in the Downtown area is being considered in the Richmond 300 Master Plan and if information is available regarding relief for solid waste and recycling fees.*

Ms. Jones stated that she is currently working on the master plan technical team regarding parking issues, and information regarding fee relief is posted on the website and distributed at resource fairs and events.

## **Communities in Schools of Richmond (CIS) Report**

CIS President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Harold Fitrer provided an overview of the CIS program and stated that the city has a 40% poverty rate for students in public schools. Dr. Fitrer informed the committee that the CIS program works to help students receive a safe place to learn and grow, a relationship with a caring adult, a healthy start and future, a marketable skill to use upon graduation and a chance for the student to give back to peers and the community. Dr. Fitrer stated that there is a CIS site coordinator located in 33 Richmond schools and each spring, a school support plan is generated as a result of a needs assessment completed by surveying teachers, parents, administrators and students. Dr. Fitrer explained that the support plan is defined in three tiers with tier one being enrichment and preventive activities, and tiers two and three offering intensive intervention that targets “at-risk” students. Dr. Fitrer also stated that outcomes show that 70% of these students make positive progress in attendance, behavior and course completion. Dr. Fitrer further stated that CIS offers a pipeline approach connecting at early childhood and continuing through post-secondary programs with transition activities across all levels and the necessary support for student success. Dr. Fitrer shared details relating to funding for the program and thanked the city for the \$400,000 that was allocated to the program.

*Members of the committee expressed their appreciation for the CIS program and thanked Dr. Fitrer for his presentation. Vice Chair Kristen Larson requested that CIS be involved in conversations regarding after school programs.*

### **Board Vacancies**

There were no appointments for consideration.

### **Discussion Item(s)**

There were no discussion items for consideration.

### **Staff Report**

Council Budget Analyst Charles Jackson provided the committee with the June staff report.

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

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.