



# City of Richmond

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

## Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, September 14, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance**

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Council Member (early departure)

### **Absent**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Vice Chair

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member

### **Staff and Others in Attendance**

Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk

Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney

Candice Reid, City Clerk

RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:04 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**

Rhonda Sneed, Blessing Warriors Executive Director, addressed the committee regarding the impact of severe weather on the homeless population within the city. Ms. Sneed also addressed the recent allocation of funds for homeless services.

Willy Fields addressed the committee regarding the city's allocation of funds for homeless services in the city. Mr. Fields also stated that there is an inaccurate count of homeless individuals in the city.

Nancy Williams addressed the committee regarding the impact of inclement weather on the homeless population in the city. Ms. Williams also stated her concerns regarding housing assistance programs.

Joe Reeves, Pastor for Tabernacle of Praise Ministries, addressed the committee regarding the services that Tabernacle of Praise Ministries has provided the homeless population in the city.

Bridget Whitaker addressed the committee regarding the implementation of an inclement weather shelter. Ms. Whitaker stated her support for the Salvation Army's effort to assist the homeless population.

### **Presentation(s)**

There were no presentations.

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

#### **Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Update**

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding recent test score improvements, additional accreditation, and the implementation of an all-year school schedule.

#### **Richmond School Board Update**

Cheryl Burke, Vice Chair of the Richmond City School Board, provided the committee with updates on behalf of the board.

Superintendent Kamras spoke regarding upcoming admissions changes to specialty high schools and Governor Schools to reflect economic diversity.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about recent policy changes for high school athletic events.*

Superintendent Kamras stated that additional changes to athletic and non-athletic event policies include, no bags, limited ticket availability, anyone under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult, and a maximum of four minors per adult.

#### **Homeless Shelter Update**

[CD.2023.290](#) 20230914 Salvation Army Center of Hope Schematic

**Attachments:** [20230914 Salvation Army Center of Hope Schematic](#)

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

Traci Deshazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, provided the committee with an update regarding the city's collaboration with the Salvation Army and the implementation of the Center of Hope.

Stephen Batsche, Executive Director of Program Services, the Salvation Army Central Virginia Area Command, provided the committee with an update and presentation regarding the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if there would be health services provided within the Center of Hope.*

Mr. Batsche stated that health services will not be included immediately due to the focus of implementing an inclement weather shelter. Mr. Batsche also stated that there is room for collaboration to support providing health services.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about training of staff to provide the proper intake to assist individuals seeking services.*

DCAO Deshazor stated that staff training is still in development. DCAO Deshazor also stated that she recognizes that housing is a critical component of the intake process.

*Chair Lynch inquired about existing barriers to develop the right structure of training for the intake process.*

DCAO Deshazor stated that with the continued collaboration with the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCCOC), the necessary training will be provided to combat the existing barriers of the intake process.

DCAO Deshazor and the committee had continued discussion regarding the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

### **Family Crisis Fund Update**

[CD.2023.289](#) 20230914 Family Crisis Fund Building Forward

**Attachments:** [20230914 Family Crisis Fund Building Forward](#)

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

Angela Hart, Capital Region Program Manager, HumanKind, provided the committee with an update regarding the Family Crisis Fund.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the amount of remaining funds and the amount of funding needed in the future.*

Ms. Hart stated that there is \$719,000 remaining from the \$2,000,000 that was originally allocated by the city.

Angela Hart had continued discussion with the committee regarding the Family Crisis Fund.

### **Opioid Settlement / Legislation Update**

Dominic Barrett, Office of Human Services Strategic Projects and Grants Advisor, provided the committee with an update regarding the city's opioid settlement and related legislation.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.*

*Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired if Council needed to provide any additional information.*

Dominic Barrett stated there that is no additional information required at this time and the city will reach out to Council if more information is needed.

### **Fiscal Mapping Exercise**

[CD.2023.287](#) 20230914 Fiscal Mapping Presentation

**Attachments:** [20230914 Fiscal Mapping Presentation](#)

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

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, and Amelia Vaughn, Co-Director of Research Capacity, Children's Funding Project, provided the committee with an update regarding fiscal mapping.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch asked if there was any follow up given from the Richmond School Board regarding fiscal mapping.*

Eva Colen stated the city has not received any feedback from Richmond Public Schools.

### **Paper(s) for Consideration**

**The following ordinance was continued to the October 12, 2023 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, due to a lack of a quorum:**

[ORD. 2023-237](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute The Salvation Army Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and The Salvation Army for the purpose of funding the implementation of a financial literacy program.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

**Attachments:** [Ord. No. 2023-237](#)  
[20230914 EHS Presentation](#)

### Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

### Approval of Minutes

The following Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting minutes were continued to the October 12, 2023 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, due to lack of a quorum:

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

**Attachments:** [20230713-EHS Minutes-DRAFT](#)

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.