



City of Richmond

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

Council Advance Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 25, 2024

8:45 AM

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden,
Kelly Education Center Auditorium,
1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond, VA 23228

City Council Advance Day 1

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Kristen Nye – President
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice President
The Honorable Nicole Jones
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival and early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Others in Attendance

Riad Ali, City Auditor
LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Kimberly Kyle, Council Management Analyst
Craig Johnson, Deputy Inspector General
Dominique McKenzie, 9th District Council Liaison
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Sam Patterson, 7th District Council Liaison
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Amy Robins, 5th District Council Liaison
Timmy Siverd, Jr., 4th District Council Liaison
Debora Shaw, Council Management Analyst
Steve Skinner, Council Public Information Manager
Kiya Stokes, 3rd District Council Liaison
Steve Taylor, Council Management Analyst

Welcome and Opening Remarks

LaTesha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff (CCOS) called the advance to order at 9:04 a.m., and provided a welcome and introduction.

A copy of all material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.263](#) 2024 City Council Advance Meeting Documents

Setting the Stage for the Advance

Ms. Holmes welcomed attendees and outlined the objectives and goals of the Council Advance. She also addressed housekeeping matters and introduced the facilitator.

Council President Kristen Nye welcomed attendees and expressed her appreciation to Councilmembers and staff for their participation in the City Council Advance. President Nye further noted that the Council Advance would assist in uniting Councilmembers to better deliver necessary services and ensure effective governance for city residents.

Session 1: Future-Focused Conversation

Robert L. Dortch, Jr., Jordan/Syndor Innovation Group Principal, Council Advance Facilitator, provided attendees with opening remarks. Mr. Dortch also thank Councilmembers and staff for their work in making Richmond a better place.

Mr. Dortch inquired about what Councilmembers and staff want to gain from the advance.

Councilor Katherine Jordan conveyed her intention to achieve specific deliverables from the advance.

Vice President Ann-Frances Lambert emphasized her aim to promote greater alignment and intentional collaboration.

Councilor Nicole Jones expressed her desire to foster connections. She also expressed her intention to foster intentional collaboration.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille indicated her objective to establish priorities in order to build consensus.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 9:35 a.m. and was seated.

Councilmembers and staff members participated in a group activity regarding the future of Richmond City.

CCOS LaTesha Holmes led a discussion on the development of Council and Council staff, and she also outlined both current and future goals for City Council offices.

Kathy Burcher, Advantus Strategies Senior Director, Government Relations, provided attendees with a presentation that addressed the city's legislative agenda.

Councilmembers discussed their goals for agenda setting and lobbying the Richmond delegation of the Virginia General Assembly.

The Council Advance recessed at 10:38 a.m.

The Council Advance reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

Session 2: Addressing Change

Exploring Innovative Governance and Community Engagement Approaches

Robert Dortch, Jr., facilitated a discussion between Council and Council staff regarding how change can make an impact.

Councilmembers and Council staff discussed upcoming changes to City Council and City administration after the 2024 election.

The Council Advance recessed at 12:28 p.m.

The Council Advance reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

Session 3: Role of Innovation

President Kristen Nye provided an introduction regarding Session 3: Role of Innovation.

Thomas Okuda Fitzpatrick, Executive Director and Laura Dobbs, Director of Policy, for Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) of Virginia, provided attendees with a presentation that addressed racial disparities in neighborhood home values and the related risk of displacement.

Councilmembers and Council staff had discussion with Mr. Fitzpatrick and Ms. Dobbs regarding racial disparities and risk of displacement.

Councilor Ellen Robertson left the Council Advance at 2:39 p.m.

Robert L. Dortch, Jr., Jordan/Syndor Innovation Group Principal, Council Advance Facilitator, led attendees in a discussion that addressed:

- Innovation regarding racial disparities within housing
- Building trust
- How to use innovation to address change

Robert Dortch, Jr., facilitated an activity between Council and Council staff regarding how Council could use innovation to make changes in the communities that they support.

The Council Advance recessed at 2:47 p.m.

The Council Advance reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

Session 4: Interactive Workshop - Hands-on Activities to Develop Strategies for Overcoming Distrust and Leveraging City Assets

Fostering a Culture of Trust and Collaboration

Mr. Dortch facilitated a conversation between Council and Council staff regarding building a culture of trust to meet the needs of the city.

Council and Council staff participated in a group activity regarding growing a culture of trust, competence, care, character and consistency.

Closing Remarks

President Kristen Nye summarized discussions held throughout Day 1 of the Council Advance, and she highlighted commitments and action plans noted by Council and staff.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Council Advance adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

CITY CLERK