



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Kristen Nye – Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Alternate
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Councilmember (Late arrival)

Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Michael Jones – Member

Call to Order

Chair Kristen Nye called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles 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 comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 23, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.117](#) February 23, 2022 Governmental Operations Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220223 Gov Ops Mins - DRAFT](#)

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Agenda Review and Amendments

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to amend the agenda as follows, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. To amend and reordain City Code § 2-1105, concerning the Aging and
2022-054 Disabilities Advisory Board, for the purpose of modifying the membership composition of such Board to specify that one member shall be a member at-large and one member shall be an employee of the City's Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services with program manager duties.

Patrons: Vice President Robertson

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-054](#)

**Continued to the April 27, 2022 Governmental Operations Standing
Committee meeting**

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 20
2022-091 (§§ 2-1202.1-2-1202.5) for the purpose of establishing a Civilian Review Board.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-091](#)

Office of the Mayor Chief of Staff Maggie Anderson provided a brief presentation to introduce ORD. 2022-091, regarding the establishment of the Civilian Review Board (CRB). Ms. Anderson also provided a brief summary of the process that occurred prior to creating the proposed ordinance. Ms. Anderson further provided information regarding the appointment of CRB members and the responsibility of the CRB. Ms. Anderson stated further that the CRB would be independent of the Richmond Police Department (RPD). Ms. Anderson noted that the Public Safety Standing Committee forwarded the proposed ordinance to Council with a recommendation to approve.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

CD.2022.127 ORD. 2022-091 Presentation

Attachments: [20220323 - CRB Proposal](#)

[CD.2022.136](#) Handouts Related to ORD. 2022-091

Attachments: [20220323 After Item - CRB Review of Proposed Plans Side by Side](#)
[20220323 After Item - Comparative Analysis by Dr. Eli Coston](#)

Public Hearing

Dr. Eli Coston, Task Force on the Establishment of a CRB Co-Chair, requested committee members not support ORD. 2022-091, stating that the proposed ordinance does not incorporate recommendations of Council's appointed task force. Dr. Coston requested that Council draft an ordinance based upon recommendations of the task force.

Maisie Osteen, attorney with Legal Aide Justice Center, requested Council members amend the proposed ordinance to conform with the recommendations of the Council appointed task force.

Portnoy Johnson stated that the CRB should meet specific needs of communities and follow the recommendations of the task force. Ms. Johnson stated that she is opposed to having law enforcement serve on the CRB.

Yohance Whitaker, member of Richmond Transparency and Accountability Projects (RTAP) and organizer with Legal Aide Justice Center, stated that there has been demonstrated need for an oversight board to transform policing within the city. Mr. Whitaker requested that the oversight board be empowered to solve problems within neighborhoods, end racial disparity, have final disciplinary authority, and make budgetary recommendations.

Keisha Cummings, RTAP member, spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance based on the lack of professionalism by police within the under resourced areas of the city. Ms. Cummings stated that a representative of the people needs to serve on the CRB.

Bill Pantele, attorney and representative of Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP), stated that the addition of body cameras has helped reduce police misconduct accusations. Mr. Pantele stated that the CRB would have full access to information needed to form decisions on the actions of current police officers that are in question.

Brendan Leavy, RCOP President, requested that members of the CRB be fully educated and informed of their responsibilities. Officer Leavy also requested that the CRB review the actions and responsibilities of RPD Internal Affairs.

Alternate Member Ann-Francis Lambert provided a summary regarding the March 22, 2022, Public Safety Standing Committee's discussion of proposed ORD. 2022-091. Ms. Lambert stated that more discussion is needed on the proposed ordinance.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan stated that the CRB should compliment the review process that is already in place; however, if there is already community distrust, then Council needs to work harder at initiating the CRB. Ms. Jordan also stated that more discussion is needed to correct varied issues of the proposed ordinance and that a one year review of the CRB is needed.

Council Member Stephanie Lynch arrived at 2:49 p.m. and was seated.

Inspector General (IG) Jim Osuna voiced concerns regarding the assignment of a CRB staff member to the IG's Office. Mr. Osuna also voiced concern regarding potential conflicts of interest based on the cases that will be presented to the CRB in addition to budget and procedural concerns of the position.

Chair Kristen Nye requested that IG Jim Osuna provide his concerns in writing to Council.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Maggie Anderson provided clarity regarding the CRB position that is in question by the Inspector General. Ms. Anderson stated that the position is not meant to be the conductor of investigations but is meant to oversee the CRB. Ms. Anderson also stated that if an investigation is warranted by the CRB, an independent contractor would be tasked with the investigation.

Committee members discussed the possibility of amending ORD. 2022-091.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to continue ORD. 2022-091 to the April 27, 2022, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis stated that she would work with administration on possible amendments to ORD. 2022-091.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.