



## City of Richmond

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

### Minutes

## Governmental Operations Standing Committee

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Thursday, September 26, 2019

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Member  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m., and presided.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley 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

General Registrar Kirk Showalter addressed the committee with information regarding the impact of the recent changes to the absentee voting law, Senate Bill 1026 and House Bill 2790, on the Office of the General Registrar.

*Member Parker Agelasto acknowledged that Ms. Showalter is searching for a location to accommodate staff and equipment and requested additional information regarding such location.*

*Chair Andreas Addison discussed communicating with Virginia General Assembly representatives for additional funding.*

*Ms. Showalter stated that notwithstanding the Virginia state fiscal impact analysis, many general registrar offices in Virginia are experiencing budget deficits in accommodating Senate Bill 1026 and House Bill 2790.*

*Member Agelasto requested staff to amend the 2020 legislative packet to include a request to grant the general registrar the authority to designate locations outside of the central office for early voting, and to discontinue early voting within the central office.*

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

## Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Thursday, June 27, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

## Presentation(s)

### Fiscal Year 2019 Performance Measure Audit Update

City Auditor Lou Lassiter presented the committee with updates regarding results of the Fiscal Year 2019 audit to include past and existing audits, performance measures and plans for the future.

*Member Parker Agelasto inquired about the new electronic audit system and report tracking. He requested the City Auditor's office to examine in-house urban forestry delegation, the prioritization structure for tree removal and tree maintenance equity city-wide.*

*Mr. Lassiter advised that audit point sheets are submitted to management and are utilized to document the audit process.*

*Vice Chair Michael Jones inquired about developing guidelines for continuing education and professional development spending to be published and shared with the public for transparency and educational purposes.*

*Mr. Lassiter advised the committee that due to a conflict of interest involving the responsibility of the City Auditor's office to audit travel, he is unable to set guidelines concerning professional development spending.*

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

## Board Vacancies

There were no board applications for review.

## Paper(s) for Consideration

**The following resolution was considered:**

### RES. 2019-R052

To express the Council's support for the passage of voter redistricting reform legislation by the General Assembly of Virginia.

**Patron:** Mr. Agelasto

*Member Parker Agelasto introduced RES. 2019-R052.*

### Support

**Greg Lucyk, OneVirginia2021 advocacy board member**, spoke in support of RES. 2019-R052 and stated that its purpose is to express the council's intent to depoliticize and bring fairness to the redistricting process.

**Nicholas Smith, OneVirginia2021 volunteer**, spoke in support of RES. 2019-R052 and suggested that the council consider creating an independent commission to oversee the upcoming voter redistricting for the city.

*Chair Andreas Addison requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2019-R052.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2019-R052 to the October 14, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-264

To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 10 (§§ 2-1002-2-1006) for the purpose of establishing an Ethics Reform Commission.

**Patron:** Ms. Larson

*Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, introduced ORD. 2019-264.*

*Vice Chair Michael Jones inquired about residential requirements for appointees to the commission and discussed the importance of city-wide representation.*

*Member Parker Agelasto discussed city-wide representation as a requirement for appointees and suggested the committee provide a platform at future meetings for the Ethics Reform Commission to address issues and findings. He also requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2019-264.*

*Chair Andreas Addison thanked Ms. Davis for her comments and asked about the process for adding a Council district requirement for members of the commission. He also asked to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2019-264.*

*Ms. Davis provided several recommendations regarding the addition of a Council district requirement for appointees, and explained the format followed by the Human Rights Commission which utilizes a similar model.*

*Vice Chair Jones requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2019-264, and moved to amend the ordinance to include a requirement for a representative from each of the nine Council districts.*

*Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown advised the committee that the commission has yet to appoint any members, and that there are nine Council vacancies and two mayoral vacancies. He stated that the listed requirements refer to the body as a whole. Mr. Brown asked whether the intent of the motion was to change the text of ORD. 2019-264 or the practice going forward. He stated that changing the text will alter Council's flexibility in the appointment process.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2019-264 to the October 14, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to approve with amendment to the qualifications section, such that members of the commission should be broadly representative of each of the nine Council districts, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-265

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Franchise Agreement by and between the City of Richmond and the Greater Richmond Transit Company for the purpose of facilitating the placement of advertisements on Bus Rapid Transit stations.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*Dironna Moore Clarke, Department of Public Works multimodal transportation manager, introduced ORD. 2019-265.*

*Member Parker Agelasto inquired about the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) franchise agreement with sponsors Bon Secours Health System and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Health*

*Systems and the reasoning behind the exclusion of two city-controlled windscreen spaces designated for public art from the agreement in ORD. 2019-265. He also requested a copy of the legal agreement between GRTC and the two sponsors.*

*Carrie Rose Pace, GRTC director of communications, and Ms. Moore Clarke advised that both sponsors are aware of the two windscreens designated for public space under the control of the city. Ms. Pace assured the committee that GRTC will work with the city to ensure that there is no contradiction of the legal agreement with the sponsors.*

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

There were no further comments or discussions and **Chair Andreas Addison moved to forward ORD. 2019-265 to the October 14, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Jones, Addison. Noes, None. Abstentions 1, Agelasto.

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

*Chair Andreas Addison requested Sharon Ebert, Economic and Community Development deputy chief administrative officer; Leonard Sledge, Economic and Community Development director; and John Wack, Finance director, attend the October 24, 2019, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting to discuss the in-depth operations of tax increment financing (TIF) regarding the proposed Navy Hill Development project.*

*Member Parker Agelasto informed the committee of outstanding items from city administration regarding Council requests and ordinances, and suggested the committee track the implementation of the review of all city departments' real estate portfolios.*

### **Staff Report**

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst provided the committee with the September staff report.

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

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.