



**Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 7, 2023
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:30 pm**

Click [HERE](#) to access rebroadcasts of past Human Rights Commission meetings on YouTube.

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1. WELCOME

- a. CALL TO ORDER
 - i. Chair, Jessica Harris, called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
 - i. Jessica Harris
 - ii. Ernest Chambers
 - iii. Jeanette Abi-Nader
 - iv. Mary Bauer
 - v. Wolfgang Keppley
 - vi. Suzanne Lynn
- c. MISSION (recited by all): *Act as a strong advocate to justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights.*

2. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. Commission is currently not receiving virtual public comment.
- b. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- c. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

3. MINUTES

- a. Review of minutes from 11/16/23
 - i. Vote
 - 1. In favor: 4
 - 2. Opposed: 0
 - 3. Abstained: 2
 - ii. Motion to approve minutes passes

4. BUSINESS MATTERS

- a. CHAIR UPDATE
 - i. Last month, the Commission celebrated its ten-year anniversary
 - 1. Commission and the OHR will have a small celebration amongst themselves after this meeting
 - 2. Chair and Vice-Chair thank Todd for his work over the past year
 - ii. Chair spoke at City Council meeting on 12/4/23 to remind them of the Commission's role and presence and encourage members of the public to apply to become a Commissioner

b. OHR STAFF REPORT

i. Outreach & Administrative Specialist

1. Is printing brochures on the process of filing a complaint, fair housing and unequal employment, and the Commission itself
2. Deadline for Commission applications is tomorrow, 12/8/23 at 5pm
3. Has been bringing brochures to various locations in the community; ask Outreach Specialist if there is somewhere else the brochures could be relevant
4. There will be Commissioner one-on-ones with Lily to help get to know her (information upcoming via email)
5. Tabling event for Westhaven Holiday Celebration on Thursday, 12/21/23 at 4-8pm at City of Promise
 - a. Unsure whether it is a public event or private residents, but there will definitely be other organizations tabling

ii. Director

1. The OHR is welcoming Chyelle Pitts-Chatman as the new Investigator-in-Training; begins Monday 12/11/23
 - a. Feel free to stop by to meet her and Intake & Administrative Specialist Saad Khaleefa
2. Currently in talks with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to facilitate the Commission's strategic planning meeting in March
 - a. Also asking about other resources they have available, such as Board training
3. Proclamation to recognize the Commission's ten-year anniversary has been drafted and sent, and it will be brought in front of the Mayor for his consideration
 - a. Will be read at the 12/18/23 City Council meeting which begins at 6:30pm; proclamations are usually read at the beginning
 - b. Commissioner asks if a particular Councilor will be reading the proclamation
 - i. Todd can ask about this
 - ii. Commissioners recommend Mayor Lloyd Snook read it
4. There is a pending request to the City Attorney and Mayor to attend an HRC meeting to talk about the legislative recommendations which they have adopted from the Commission's recommendations
 - a. Are currently looking for sponsors in the General Assembly
 - b. Commissioner points out that the session will be almost over by the end of February, so they should probably attend an earlier meeting if the Commission wants to be able to do any advocacy
 - i. Director says there may not be much advocacy that the Commission can do at this point
5. Paul Rudacille, ADA Coordinator, will attend 1/18/24 regular meeting to talk about the new ADA Transition Plan

- a. Is under the same Office of Social Equity as the OHR
- b. Deputy City Manager for Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is now the Deputy City Manager for Social Equity

5. WORK SESSION

- a. Action updates
 - i. None
- b. Nominating committee updates
 - i. Has received two nominations to date; the committee will present the slate during this meeting and allow for additional nominations
 - ii. Current slate:
 - 1. Chair: Ernest Chambers
 - 2. Vice-Chair: Wolfgang Keppley
 - iii. No additional nominations made
 - 1. It will be possible to nominate during next regular meeting before the vote, as well
 - iv. Ernest accepts nomination
 - v. Wolfgang accepts nomination
 - vi. Commissioner thanks current Chair for all of the work she has done for the Commission
- c. Confirmation of next work session on 1/4/24
 - i. Todd can ask if the City Attorney and Mayor can attend this meeting
 - ii. Will keep the meeting if they accept, and not hold the meeting if they cannot attend
 - 1. Will assume meeting will not happen if they do not respond by next week mid-week
 - iii. Commissioner asks about HRC preparation for 1/18/24 regular meeting
 - 1. The ADA Coordinator and his consultant will present information; Director will put any materials in the agenda packet beforehand
- d. New business
 - i. None

6. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - i. None
- b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
 - i. None

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

- a. Jeanette
 - i. Climate and Protection Office has changed its name to the Office of Sustainability, and they are now also under the Office of Social Equity

8. NEXT STEPS

- a. Todd
 - i. Ask about who will read the ten-year HRC Proclamation
 - ii. Ask Jacob Stroman and Lloyd Snook to attend 1/4/24 work session to speak about legislative recommendation process
- b. Tentative work session 1/4/24 to discuss legislative recommendation process

9. ADJOURN

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm