



**Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2024
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.

Click [HERE](#) to access an archive of past Human Rights Commission work on the City website.

1. WELCOME

- a. Call to Order
 - i. Chair, Ernest Chambers, called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm
- b. Roll Call
 - i. Present
 - 1. Ernest Chambers
 - 2. Wolfgang Keppley
 - 3. Mary Bauer
 - 4. Kathryn Laughon (arrived 7:23pm)
 - 5. Suzanne Lynn
 - 6. Jason Melendez
 - 7. Heather Roberson-Gaston
 - 8. Elizabeth Stark
 - ii. Absent
 - 1. Dawn Lawson
- 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. Public Comment
 - i. None
- b. Commission Response to Matters by the Public
 - i. None

3. MINUTES

- a. None

4. BUSINESS MATTERS

- a. Chair Update
 - i. No update on reparations inquiry
- b. OHR Staff Report
 - i. Outreach Specialist will be tabling at the Community Festival of Hope on Sunday from 12pm—5pm at IX Art Park
 - ii. Pregnant Workers Fairness Act Brochure has been translated and will be printed soon
 - iii. Intake Specialist shares that there has been an influx of intakes and contacts from the community

- iv. The OHR's Investigator (In Training), Chyelle Chatman, has completed her training and been promoted to Investigator
- c. Nomination Committee Update
 - i. Nomination Committee member plans to send a letter to all Commissioners gauge interest in holding officer position

5. WORK SESSION

- a. Director presents proposed amendments to Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance (slides available in agenda packet)
 - i. Jason moves to approve the proposed changes to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance. Wolfgang seconds the motion.
 - 1. Approved: 7
 - 2. Abstained: 0
 - 3. Opposed: 0
 - a. The motion passes
- b. Director provides overview of changes to HRC Rules and Procedures
 - i. Jason moves to approve the proposed changes to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance. Wolfgang seconds the motion.
 - 1. Approved: 7
 - 2. Abstained: 0
 - 3. Opposed: 0
 - a. The motion passes
- c. Work Plan Check-in
 - i. Commissioners discuss scheduling for their 2025 Annual Planning Meeting
 - 1. The 2025 Annual Planning Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd 2025
- d. Confirmation of Work Session on 1/2/2025
 - i. Chair decides not to hold the January Work Session
 - ii. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16th, 2025 at 6:30pm

6. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. Public Comment
 - i. None
- b. Commission Response to Matters by the Public
 - i. None

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

- a. Commissioner shares that Virginia state legislators are concerned with potential that localities that do not cooperate with federal immigration law enforcement could face federal pressure
- b. Commissioners discuss updates on low-barrier shelter provided at last City Council meeting
 - i. Another Commissioner shares that there has been an increase in the need for shelter for unhoused families in recent weeks

8. NEXT STEPS

- a. Ernest
 - i. Contact community members to ask about interest in exploring options for Vinegar Hill reparations

9. ADJOURN

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm