



**Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
August 21, 2025  
City Space, 100 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902  
6:30 pm**

**1. WELCOME**

- a. CALL TO ORDER
  - i. Chair, Heather Roberson Gaston, called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm
- b. ROLL CALL
  - i. Present
    - 1. Heather Roberson Gaston
    - 2. Jason Melendez
    - 3. Wolfgang Keppley
    - 4. Dawn Lawson
    - 5. Suzanne Lynn
    - 6. LD Perry
    - 7. Elizabeth Stark
    - 8. Jayson Whitehead
  - ii. Absent
    - 1. Mariane Asad Doyle
- 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

**3. MINUTES**

- a. Review of minutes from 07/17/2025
  - i. Vote
    - 1. In favor: 8
    - 2. Opposed: 0
    - 3. Abstained: 0
  - ii. Motion to approve minutes passes
- b. Review of minutes from 08/07/2025
  - i. Vote
    - 1. In favor: 5
    - 2. Opposed: 0
    - 3. Abstained: 3
  - ii. Motion to approve minutes passes

**4. BUSINESS MATTERS**

- a. CHAIR UPDATE
  - i. Chair shares that she has been conducting research on the status of recommended bills from last General Assembly session and confirming the recommendations made by expert panelists

- b. OHR STAFF REPORT
  - i. Outreach Specialist shares that data in the OHR Monthly Report is up to date
  - ii. Outreach Specialist states that upcoming tabling opportunities in the OHR Monthly Report are tentative
  - iii. Outreach Specialist shares that the City plans to release a City Service Handbook for members of City boards and commissions in December

**5. WORK SESSION**

- a. Legislative Recommendations for City Council's 2026 Legislative Agenda
  - i. Commissioners discuss recommendations made by expert panelists during the 07/17/2025 HRC Regular Meeting as well as input gathered through commissioner outreach
  - ii. Commissioners review legislative recommendations made by the HRC in 2024 and choose to repeat some recommendations that were unsuccessful last year
  - iii. Approval of recommendations and authorization of Chair to finalize and submit to City Council (finalized letter attached to these minutes below)
    - 1. Vote
      - a. In favor: 8
      - b. Opposed: 0
      - c. Abstained: 0
    - 2. Motion to approve recommendations and authorize the Chair to finalize and submit them to City Council passes
- b. Commissioners decide not to hold a Work Session on September 4, 2025
  - i. The next HRC meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025

**6. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

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

**7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

**8. NEXT STEPS**

- a. Heather
  - i. Finalize and send Recommendations for 2026 Legislative Agenda Letter

**9. ADJOURN**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm