

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201
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January 13, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA TEAMS
7 PM

Meeting Minutes

- I. Chair Helen Connolly called the meeting to order. Members present included Walter Sergeant, Bill Price, Shawn Pierce, Carole Lieber, and Roland Watkins. Executive Director Gurjit Chima and Anna Maynard were present from the Office of Human Rights. A member from the public, "Fatima," was also present.
- II. The Chair introduced Kellen McBeth to discuss changes he proposed to the Human Rights Ordinance's prohibitions against discrimination in housing in his capacity as Chair of the NAACP's Arlington Branch's housing committee. Mr. McBeth shared that he felt the ordinance's section on housing was inconsistent with federal and state housing discrimination laws. Commissioners engaged Kellen on his recommendations and asked questions. Mr. Watkins thanked Mr. McBeth for his presentation. Mr. Pierce asked the Executive Director if OHR knew how many complaints were made at the state level to which the Executive Director responded that OHR was not aware of that statistic. Ms. Lieber shared that the commission previously requested through former chair Roland Watkins updates to the ordinance from the board and asked if there was any update from the board.
- III. There was public comment.
- IV. The Chair shared changes to the make-up of the commission and added that the commission was recruiting additional volunteer members for the board's consideration. She also shared that the new board liaison to the commission was Christian Dorsey whom she intended to invite along with the new County Attorney to a future commission meeting. The Chair shared that Mr. Pierce agreed to chair the Equality Task Force while Mr. Price agreed to chair the Tiffany Joslyn Forum Planning Committee and Ms. Lieber agreed to head the James B. Hunter Awards Committee. The Chair shared that she hoped Ms. Kernodle could continue her leadership role on the Education Task Force. The Chair shared the priorities for the year starting with the AAP, followed by the commission's internal policies including its conflict of interest policy and changes to the ordinance discussed in previous years. The Chair shared that the commission's fourth priority would be the MEI index and follow-up on the anti-bullying policy. The Chair reiterated that the commission required more commissioners to volunteer for events and on the commission's work this year. Mr. Watkins asked that the commission also follow up on the Police Practices Group. The Chair discussed the calendar of events.
- V. Ms. Lieber introduced member of the public "Fatima." Commissioners introduced themselves to the member of the public.

- VI. The Executive Director provided her report, reminding commissioners on the change in process for the AAP, the reasons therefore, and status. The Executive Director shared that any delays in the AAP were due to short staffing. The Chair explained the MEI score and shared that information provided by the county was not considered for additional points even though it was responsive to HRC's request for the same. The Executive Director shared that the HRC had not been responsive to requests for a change or update to the county's perfect score to include additional bonus points based on its responsive submissions.
- VII. There was one extension which was granted.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned.