



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 318
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201
Fax (703)-4390 TTY (703) 228-3446



April 13, 2023
VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM

AGENDA

- I. Chair Helen Connolly called the meeting to order. Members present in person included Stephan Kline, Roland Watkins, Walt Sargent, Shawn Pierce, Whytni Kernodle, and Steven Kreiger. Investigations Lead Anna Maynard and Executive Director Gurjit Chima were present on behalf of the Office of Human Rights (OHR).
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A vote was taken to approve the January Meeting Minutes. The vote unanimously passed.
- III. Public Comments
 - None
- IV. Executive Director's Report
 - A discussion ensued about getting the Affirmative Action Plan vendor to deliver a training to the HRC, ideally for the May meeting.
- V. Statistical Reports
 - No questions.
- VI. Extensions
 - i. None
- VII. Member Reports
 - EEO Standing Committee
 - i. None
 - Equality Taskforce (Member Pierce update)
 - i. Member Pierce updated that we have not received updates from the Human Rights Campaign for the MEI
 - ii. Confirmation that the open items that County need to feature are:
 1. Conversion therapy legislative update
 2. Information to the MEI on benefits offerings for same sex partners
 3. Implementation of the Anti-bullying policy at the County level
 - Hunter Award
 - i. None
 - Tiffany Jocelyn
 - i. None
 - Education

- i. None.
- Police Practices Group
 - i. None

VIII. Other business

IX. Chair updates on the Proposed Recommendations to the Ordinance

- Chair gave an overview of the drafting committee history:
 - i. Exercise began in 2020
 - ii. A lot of Members touched the Ordinance over time with attrition
 - iii. Member Watkins (former Chair) sent to the Board in 2020
 - iv. Drafting committee worked with the CAO on edits since Summer 2022
 - v. CAO iteration work is ongoing
 - vi. Member Kernodle has had a campaign with individual Board members previewing the proposed edits
 - vii. Chair testified at the budget committee meeting about the coming recommended edits to the Ordinance
- Member Kernodle gave an update on her efforts on Board outreach through her role as Founder of Black Parents of Arlington which included the following points:
 - i. Numerous recent concerning events in Schools
 - ii. School Board and County Board are separated and School Board is self-governed, despite County funding
 - iii. Arlington’s long history of progressive commitment to racial justice
 - iv. Need to be able to investigate issues that are harming marginalized children in our schools.
 - v. Discussion of the philosophical need to not be “reactive” to issues but the urgency of this issue is potentially dictating bifurcated capturing Schools jurisdictionally from the other recommended revisions.
- Member Kernodle recommended an strong recommendation to accompany the recommended revision.
- Member Kline raised the question around whether the Ordinance can cover Schools jurisdictionally. Member Kernodle responded that we have the ability (as the HRC) to ask/strongly recommend and leverage other resources of transparency (media). Discussion that other jurisdictionally cover Schools (e.g. Alexandria).
- Chair confirmed that the CAO had not yet not identified a Dillon Rule issue with adding Schools jurisdictionally but did send an additional issues list.
- Chair presented three options:
 - i. Option 1: submit a revision that only adds Schools to Ordinance Scope. Submit with an advocacy piece explaining the urgency.
 - ii. Option 2: submit a slightly heavier mark up that include Schools, Disability, Source of Funds and Conversion Therapy with an advocacy piece.

iii. Option3: submit all of the recommended edits understanding it would take more time for the Board to review.

- Chair and Member Kernodle shared that the Vice Chair supports Option 1.
- Member Watkins recommended Option 1.
- Member Pierce recommended Option 1.
- Member Krieger recommended Option 1 because of the impact that the one edit will have, it will be worth it.
- Member Kline recommended Option 1 and recommended a preview on the later recommended edits.
- Member Watkins moved to approve Option 1.
- The HRC unanimously approved Option 1.
- Drafting Committee took the action of getting the mark up and the cover letter submitted to the County Board as soon as possible.

X. The meeting was adjourned

Arlington County Government provides accommodations for individuals with disabilities as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act. To arrange for an accommodation, please call 703-228-3446 or 703-228-7096 (voice/TTY). Please provide as much notice as possible. Requests for sign language interpreters should be made at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Arlington County website www.arlingtonva.us