



## **ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201



### **Arlington Human Rights Commission**

#### **October 12, 2023, Hybrid Meeting**

I. Chair Helen Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:05. Members present included:

- Fatima Argun, Stephan Kline, Steven Krieger, Carole Lieber, and Roland Watkins (in person).
- Members present online: Walt Sargent and Chris Wimbush.
- Investigations Lead Anna Maynard was present on behalf of the Office of Human Rights (OHR).

II. Chair Update

- The Chair initiated a discussion relating to the events in Israel/Palestine and any outreach to affected interfaith groups. This is a reminder of why the HRC exists and works in the community.
- The Chair announced that on behalf of the HRC, she had transmitted to the County Board the Commission's recommended amendment to the ordinance relating to expanding jurisdiction to the APS schools. The Chair heard that a County Board member would be reaching out to discuss this with her. Later this fall, the HRC will transmit to the board a second more fulsome set of recommendations for changes to the ordinance relating to more technical issues.
- The Chair summarized the conversation that the HRC had had with County Human Resources Department Manager in September. The Commission decided to memorialize that conversation and its recommendations with a follow-up letter. Commissioners Kline and Argun will draft the letter for the HRC's approval.
- It has been difficult to have a quorum for in-person meetings. The Chair initiated a conversation on the appropriate number of HRC meetings during the year beginning in 2024 with a recommendation for quarterly meetings plus meetings for appeals and extra meetings for speakers. The Chair asked the Commission staff to obtain clarification from the County Attorney when quorum is required. As there is not yet consensus on the appropriate number of meetings, the issue was tabled. Commissioner Argun will send out a poll on preferred day for meeting and preferred number of meetings per year.
- The Chair announced that Vice Chair Chris Wimbush will be stepping down from the HRC and Whytni Kernodle's term on the HRC had ended and she had not sought a reappointment.



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### III. Approval of Minutes

- The June 8, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

### IV. Public Comments

- No members of the public were present.

### V. Executive Director's Report

- Anna Maynard presented the report mentioning that a new investigator was starting in November, bringing the complement of investigators to 3.

### VI. Statistical Reports

- The members of the HRC had no questions.

### VII. Extensions

- The Commission voted to approve one extension where a witness was unavailable.

### VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.