

June 15, 2023

To: Honorable Ms. Katherine Jordan, 2nd District Council Representative and Chair of Government Operations

From: Mr. Antoine Banks (Secretary), Ms. Rachael Deane (Vice Chair), Dr. Thad Williamson (Chair), on behalf of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission

Re: June 15, 2023 – Minutes of the Public Hearing of the City Charter Review Commission (DRAFT)

Please review the attached meeting minutes that were taken at the twelfth meeting of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission in Richmond, VA.



**CITY OF RICHMOND
2022 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
June 2023**

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023

Meeting Location: Richmond East District Initiative Center

Presiding: Thad Williamson, Chair

Approval: **DRAFT**

Recorded by: Antoine A. Banks, Secretary _____

Attest: Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

2 **OPENING:**

3

4 The twelfth meeting of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission was called to order at 6:03 p.m. on Thursday, June 15,
5 2023 by Commission Chairman **Williamson** in the auditorium of the Richmond East District Initiative Center, 701 N. 25th
6 Street.

7

8 **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

9 Thad Williamson, *Chair*

13 Kyle Elliott

10 Rachel Deane, *Vice Chair*

14 John P. Girardi

11 Antoine Banks, *Secretary*

15 Steve Koski

12 William "Bill" Echelberger, *Historian*

16 Daisy Weaver

17

18 **STAFF AND COMMUNITY IN ATTENDANCE (REPRESENTATION):**

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20 Hon. Cynthia Newbille, City Council District 7 (*Council*)

21 Hon. Stephanie Lynch, City Council District 5 (*Council*)

22 Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst (*Council*)

23 Sven Philipsen, Council Liaison, City Council District 2 (*Council-Virtual*)

24 Steve Skinner, PIO, City Council (*Council*)

25 Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney (*Administration-Virtual*)

26 Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney (*Administration*)

27 *Online Attendance Count: 3*

28 *Live Audience in Attendance: 9*

29

30 **ADOPTION OF APRIL COMMISSION MINUTES:**

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32 The chair announced the postponement of the approval of the minutes of the eleventh Charter Review Commission
33 meetings held on June 8, 2023 until the next scheduled meeting of the CRC.

34

35 **OVERVIEW REMARKS:**

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37 Chairman **Williamson** gave an overview of history of the charter, the purpose of the charter review commission and
38 the goals of the 2022 Charter Review Commission and provided the orders of the day.

39

40 **REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION PROCESS:**

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42 The chair called upon Commission Vice Chair **Deane** to provide a summary of the commission process to those in
43 attendance at the public hearing.

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45

46 **SUMMARY OF GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE PRILIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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1 The vice chair called upon Commissioner **Elliott** to present the draft of the preliminary recommendation written by
2 the Governance Sub-Committee. Commissioner **Elliott** gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the committee's
3 recommendation on the Strong Mayor form of government.

4
5 **SUMMARY OF ELECTORAL SUB-COMMITTEE PRILIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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7 The vice chair called upon Commissioner **Gunn** to present the draft of the preliminary recommendation written by the
8 Electoral Sub-Committee. Commissioner **Gunn** gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the committee's
9 recommendation on the Council-Manager form of government.

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11 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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13 The chair called upon Commission Secretary **Banks** to provide an overview of the public hearing process. Secretary
14 **Banks** directed all audience members interested in offering testimony to clearly state their full name, council district,
15 remain on topic, keep your discussion within the 3-minute time allotted and avoid ad hominem attacks.

16
17 **PUBLIC COMMENTS 10.1:**

- 18 1. **William Burnett, 4th District:** Support the electoral form of government.
- 19 2. **Clarence McGill, 5th District:** Requested the PowerPoint be posted online.
- 20 3. **Charleta Shorts, 8th District:** Recommended that the City Treasurer to "removed from ballot". She
21 mentioned that the office has no defined duties or relevancy. Second Statement: She recommend
22 that we return to the Electoral Form of Government as soon as possible. She also provided testimony
23 to all commission members.
- 24 4. **Hon Stephanie Lynch, Councilwoman District 5:** Inquired on Electoral Form of Government's position
25 on budget processes. Question: Who authors the budget? Gunn replied – City Manager.
26 Councilwoman Lynch offered a suggestion to share that power with the Council which provides total
27 transparency. **Commissioner Echelberger** shared the Proposed Budget Process as he drafted.
- 28 5. **Hon. Cynthia Newbille, Council District 7:** Noted that she would like to review the final draft
29 recommendation from the commission to and provide questions to the CRC and determine next steps.

30 *

31 ***No other member from the live or virtual audience testified before the Commission.***

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34 **UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATES:**

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36 The chair announced the upcoming meetings of the commission to be held on **Thursday, June 22nd – Southside location,**
37 **June 28th (vote on proposal), July 13th – Draft Report, July 20th – Final CRC meeting, July 24th – Presentation to the**
38 **Richmond City Council at 4pm Meeting. All meeting times to be announced.** Subcommittees will schedule meetings
39 and provide notice to the public.

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41 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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43 There being no further discussion or business that came before the commission at the time, A motion was made and
44 seconded and unanimously adopted that the meeting be adjourned at 7:25 pm. Motion carried.