

June 23, 2023

**To:** Honorable Ms. Katherine Jordan, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22, 2023 – Minutes of the Public Hearing of the City Charter Review Commission (DRAFT)

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



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

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, June 22, 2023

**Meeting Location:** Richmond Police Department 2nd Precinct Headquarters

**Presiding:** Thad Williamson, Chair

**Approval:** **FINAL – ADOPTED – June 28, 2023**

**Recorded by:** Antoine A. Banks, Secretary

**Attest:** Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

2 **OPENING:**

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4 The thirteenth meeting of the 2022 City Charter Review Commission was called to order at 6:12 p.m. on Thursday,  
5 June 22, 2023 by Commission Chairman **Williamson** in the auditorium of the Richmond Police Department 2nd  
6 Precinct Headquarters, located at 177 E. Belt Boulevard, Richmond, VA.

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8 **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

9 Thad Williamson, <i>Chair</i>	14 John P. Girardi
10 Rachel Deane, <i>Vice Chair (Excused Absence)</i>	15 Travis Gunn
11 Antoine Banks, <i>Secretary</i>	16 Steve Koski
12 William “Bill” Echelberger, <i>Historian</i>	17 Daisy Weaver
13 Kyle Elliott ( <i>Excused Absence</i> )	

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

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21 Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst (*Council*)  
22 LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff (*Council-Virtual*)  
23 Steve Skinner, PIO, City Council (*Council*)  
24 Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney (*Administration-Virtual*)  
25 Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney (*Administration-Virtual*)  
26 *Online Attendance Count: 18*  
27 *Live Audience in Attendance: 12*

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29 **ADOPTION OF JUNE 8 AND JUNE 15 COMMISSION MINUTES:**

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31 The chair called upon members to review the minutes of the eleventh and twelfth Charter Review Commission  
32 meetings held on June 8, 2023 and June 15, 2023, respectively.

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34 **MOTION 13.1:**

35 Commissioner **Banks** moved to adopt the June 8, 2023 and June 15, 2023 CRC minutes.

36 **Notes on the Motion:** amendments were recommended to update attendance and upcoming meeting dates.

37 **AMENDMENT 13.1.1:**

38 Commissioner **Banks** moved to amend the June 8, 2023 and June 15, 2023 CRC minutes.

39 **Notes on the Motion:** minutes were amended to add Travis Gunn as present during the eleventh and  
40 twelfth meetings and strike July 24<sup>th</sup> as an upcoming CRC meeting date.

41 **Second the Motion:** Amendment was properly seconded by Commissioner **Koski**.

42 **Second the Motion:** Adoption of minutes as amended was properly seconded by Commissioner **Girardi**.

43 **Resolution:** Motion carried. Minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

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46 **OVERVIEW REMARKS:**

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

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2 **REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION PROCESS:**

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4 The chair called upon Commissioner **Weaver** to provide a summary of the commission process to those in attendance  
5 at the public hearing.

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

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9 Chairman **Williamson** presented the PowerPoint detailing the preliminary recommendation written by the  
10 Governance Sub-Committee focused on the Strong Mayor form of government.

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12 **SUMMARY OF ELECTORAL SUB-COMMITTEE PRILIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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14 Chairman **Williamson** called upon Commissioner **Gunn** to present the draft of the preliminary recommendation  
15 written by the Electoral Sub-Committee. Commissioner **Gunn** gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the  
16 committee’s recommendation on the Council-Manager form of government.

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18 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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

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24 **PUBLIC COMMENTS 13.1:**

- 25 1. **Kathy Graziano and Clarence McGill, on behalf of the Citizens for Better Government:** Testified  
26 requesting CRC focus on timing of election among other matters. CBG provided a copy of their  
27 testimony for CRC files.  
28 2. **Cory Nicholson, 4th District:** Inquired on number of stakeholders interviewed and shared his concern  
29 that other organizations were not aware of the process. Joyce Davis shared the process of notifying  
30 the public.  
31 3. **Lisa Nicholson, 4<sup>th</sup> District and of the Richmond Crusade for Voters:** Made an observation of the CRC:  
32 the representatives on the CRC are not reflective of the City. She wanted to note that citizens were  
33 not made aware of the process. She asked that we engage the Civic Association and Churches in  
34 Richmond.  
35 4. **Fmr. Councilman Martin “Marty” Jewell and current President of Richmond Crusade for Voters:**  
36 Inquired on the “problem we are trying to fix with this CRC?” Inquired on tax based in Richmond and  
37 expressed that the CRC should focus on historical trends to help shape recommendations.  
38 5. **Brian Bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> District,** Thanked the commission on their work and shared several statements on the  
39 importance of the work of CRC.  
40 6. **Katina Harris, President of the Richmond Education Group:** Asked that the community be made more  
41 aware of meetings and process.

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

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46 **UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETING DATES:**

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48 The chair announced the upcoming meetings of the commission to be held on **Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Southside location,**  
49 **June 28<sup>th</sup> (vote on proposal), July 13<sup>th</sup> – Draft Report, July 20<sup>th</sup> – Final CRC meeting. All meeting times to be announced.**  
50 Subcommittees will schedule meetings and provide notice to the public.

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52 **ADJOURNMENT:**

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54 There being no further discussion or business that came before the commission at the time, A motion was made and  
55 seconded and unanimously adopted that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm. Motion carried.