

ALEXANDRIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023  
7:00 p.m., City Hall  
301 King Street, Room 2000  
The Chet and Sabra Avery Room

Members Present

Lisl Brunner, Chair  
Marc Bendick, Jr  
Matt Harris  
Elisabeth "PJ" Palmer Johnson  
William Tom Reeder, Jr.  
David Rigsby, Vice Chair  
Scott Schwartz, Vice Chair  
Jon Thompson

Members Excused

Danielle Beach  
Michelle Cho  
Susan Kellom  
Katherine O'Connell  
Conrad Sylvanus

Staff Present

Jean Kelleher, Director  
Miladis Martinez Gutierrez, Adm. Support

Members Unexcused

Justin Beland

Guests

Sean Casey, Sheriff  
Robyn Nichols, Undersheriff  
Shelbert Williams, Chief Deputy  
Shahram Fard, Chief Deputy  
Candra Callicott, Captain  
Quentin Wade, Captain  
David Cutting, Captain  
Mary Beth Plaskus, Captain  
Larry Richardson, Captain

Latonya Erwin, Director; Cicely Woodson, Director; Latoscha Hart, Director; David Nye, Director;  
Amy Bertsch, PIO

**1. Call to Order/Introductions by Commissioner Harris**

Chair Brunner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Chair Brunner said that the Commission was fortunate to be joined by Sheriff Casey this evening. Introductions were made.

**2. Approval of Minutes of February Meeting**

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Schwartz, seconded by Vice Chair Rigsby, the Commission approved the minutes of the February meeting. All Commissioners present voted aye and one abstained.

**3. Guest: Sean Casey, Sheriff**

Chair Brunner welcomed and thanked Sheriff Casey and his staff.

Sheriff Casey started his presentation by thanking the Commission for inviting him tonight.

He stated that this is his first term and said that he took over as the Sheriff in January of 2022, prior to that he worked for the Sheriff's office for about four years; he was a Sargent, a Lieutenant and then Captain. He said that he grew up in Alexandria and went to all the public schools in Alexandria, graduated in 2000; went to Virginia Tech; graduated in Psychology; he said that he did a couple of rides along with the Alexandria Police Department and joined the Police Department in 2004. when he was there, he was an Officer, a Detective and a Sargent.

Sheriff Casey gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office does, He also explained the Department's demographics and talked about diversity within the department. He explained that the Sheriff's office is responsible for the operation of the adult detention center and overseeing the Court House (520 King Street). It is also responsible for servicing Court legal documents, transportation, and general law enforcement duties. He stated that they have four Bureaus at the Sheriff's office right now: Administrative Services, Detention Center Bureau, Support Services Bureau and Judicial and Special Operations.

Please see the attached PowerPoint presentation. After his presentation, Sheriff Casey answered questions from the Commission.

Chair Brunner thanked Sheriff Casey for his presentation. Chair Brunner also expressed interest in doing a tour of the detention center.

#### **4. Executive Committee Report**

Chair Brunner reported that on March 8, the Commission sent a letter to the City Manager and to the Chief of Police regarding the Commission's oversight role of the Police Department until the Community Policing Review Board is prepared to assume this responsibility.

Director Kelleher stated that a lot has been happening since Kim Neal was hired as the Independent Policing Auditor and said that the Community Policing Review Board has been meeting. Director Kelleher also reported that she has invited Kim Neal to meet with the Commission and she is confirmed to meet with the Commission at the April meeting.

Director Kelleher also stated that the City Manager believes that having Ms. Neal meet with the Commission will answer a lot of the Commission's questions and will reassure the Commission that as of April the Community Policing Review Board will be up to speed. Vice Chair Rigsby suggested forwarding the letter to the City Council members.

#### **5. Old & New Business**

Vice Chair Schwartz reported that he had sent a letter to Kirk McPike last week. Director Kelleher stated that she had talked to Kirk McPike and said that he has talked to his colleagues and has also talked to the City Manager as well. Director Kelleher stated that she talked to the City Manager and that he had said that he is confident that there will be some movement on this matter. Director Kelleher stated that she thinks what needs to happen is that there needs to be a committee or someone in charge.

Director Kelleher distributed statistics of the cases that the office is handling and explained the different basis and issue of the cases; she said that most of the cases are employment cases, but that lately the office has received a lot of housing and disability related questions, issues and complaints.

Director Kelleher also talked about the case management system that she is trying to get for the office and said that she picked a preferred vendor, but the IT has some security concerns which are being sorted. She shared that she is hopeful she will get an approval by end of March.

Director Kelleher reported that the work has begun with the LGBTQ+ Task Force on Pride month and shared that a draft of the proclamation has been circulating and that she has asked General Services to order new flags to be displayed at the Market Square.

## **6. Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Palmer Johnson reported that the Commission for Women had a report from David Lanier about FOIA. She also reported that the tentative date for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Commission for Women is going to be February 24, 2024.

Commissioner Reeder reported that the Commission on Aging is seeking nominations for four awards for citizens and organizations. He stated that the deadline for nominations is March 31, 2023. He also reported that they heard from a rental assistance program for seniors and people with disabilities in DCHS.

Chair Brunner reported that the Landlord and Tenant Relations Board has reached out to Morgan Properties and is trying to hold a public meeting with them, and the Commission will be invited to participate on that.

## **7. Announcements /Adjournment**

**MOTION:** adjourn the meeting.

Palmer Johnson/Schwartz **PASSED** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.