



**Human Rights Commission
Work Session
February 6, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:30pm**

Agenda Packet Attachments

1. Agenda
2. Martha's Rules (for reference)
3. 2024 HRC Work Plan (for reference)

Attachment 1



**Human Rights Commission
AGENDA
Work Session
February 6, 2025
In-person Meeting
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:30pm**

Please take Notice that this in-person meeting of the Human Rights Commission is for the purposes of planning, developing, and drafting management and administration documents for the Human Rights Commission. This meeting will be a limited public forum to discuss the agenda items presented below and to ensure the continuity of services provided by the Commission. The Commission Chair may limit public comments or discussion points that are unrelated to agenda items or that pertain to topics outside the scope of this Agenda. This will be an in-person meeting open to the public.

The Commission welcomes comments and questions and commits to listening carefully and thoughtfully to what is presented. A maximum of sixteen public comment time slots are allotted per meeting. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak. The Commission requests that members of the public refrain from engaging in personal attacks against Commissioners and staff members and asks that comments and questions focus on matters related to human rights within the city of Charlottesville.

1. WELCOME

- a. Call to order
- b. Roll call
- c. Mission (recited by all): *Act as a strong advocate to justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights.*

2. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. Public Comment
- b. Commission response to Matters by the Public

3. WORK SESSION

- a. Discussion of sidewalk accessibility and snow
- b. Discussion of proposed low-barrier shelter on Cherry Avenue

4. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

- a. Public comment
- b. Commission response to Matters by the Public

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

6. NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

*** ACTION NEEDED**

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call the ADA Coordinator at (434) 987-1267 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide a 48-hour notice so that proper arrangements may be made.

Attachment 2

Martha's Rules of Order
As adopted by the HRC on February 20, 2020

1. The proposal is presented. Clarifying questions are taken.
 - a. Proposal should always be in writing.
2. Friendly amendments are offered. Discussion is allowed only on the amendments.
 - a. Amendments should be prepared in advance when possible.
3. Speakers in favor of the proposal present their views.
 - a. This is not a time for debate.
 - b. Time limits should be set and enforced.
4. Speakers in opposition to the proposal present their views.
 - a. This is not a time for debate.
 - b. Time limits should be set and enforced.
5. General discussion and/or debate OR small group discussion time on the proposal is allowed.
 - a. Time limit on discussion is set by the group.
 - b. Facilitator helps group identify key issues.
 - c. Motion to table or refer is in order and requires $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.
6. First vote is taken.
 - a. People vote
 - i. In favor of the proposal, or
 - ii. Can live with the proposal, or
 - iii. Opposed to the proposal.
 - b. If a majority of those present votes "in favor" or "can live with," proceed to Step 8.
 - c. If less than a majority of those present votes "in favor" or "can live with," proposal dies.
7. Those voting in opposition are allowed to state their objections and concerns.
 - a. No discussion is allowed, only clarifying questions.
8. The second vote is taken as in Step 6.
 - a. It takes a majority of those present to override objections and pass the proposal.

Attachment 3

**Human Rights Commission
Annual Focus Areas, Goals, & Work Plan
March 2024 – February 2025**

Primary Focus Area(s):

1. Housing
 - a. Homelessness
 - i. City policies
 1. Shelter
 2. Wraparound services
 - ii. Expert panel and fact gathering to determine current trends
 - b. Systemic Barriers
 - i. Restrictive housing access policies based on criminal records
 - ii. Excessive rental costs
 - iii. Excessive application fees
 - iv. Source of funds
 1. Rents for market rate units above HUD voucher payment standards
 2. Rental properties in states of disrepair that can't pass HUD voucher inspections

Secondary Focus Area(s):

1. Legislative recommendation
 - a. Removing voter exclusion from state constitution
 - b. Rental application fees
 - c. Rental registry
 - d. Proactive rental inspections
 - e. Legal representation for people facing eviction
 - f. Anything housing related the emerges from primary focus areas
 - g. Amplifying local food justice initiatives
2. Ally/Safe Space training program development – to be considered in 2025
3. Reparations – to be revisited in December
 - a. Public discussion to determine public interest and priorities of impacted communities

Annual Goals and Ordinance Alignment

Consider developing goals that align with the primary and secondary focus areas, where applicable.

Goals	Human Rights Ordinance Alignment
Adopt an amended draft of the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance for presentation to City Council by June 2024.	• Sec. 2-433. (a) Individual Assistance • Sec. 2-433. (d) Federal Workshares • Sec. 2-433. (f) Commission Policies • Sec. 2-439.1. Enforcement Authority

Complete public hearing training following the adoption of the revised Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance.	• Sec. 2-433. (a) Individual Assistance • Sec. 2-433. (d) Federal Workshares • Sec. 2-433. (f) Commission Policies • Sec. 2-439.1. Enforcement Authority
Plan and hold a public panel with experts in housing to focus on homelessness (shelter and wraparound services) and barriers to entering stable housing during the June 6, 2024 HRC Work Session.	• Sec. 2-433. (b) Awareness and Guidance • Sec. 2-433. (d) Federal Workshares • Sec. 2-434. Community dialogue and engagement
Submit policy recommendations to City Council pertaining to housing issues by October. <i>Note: budget-related recommendations should be made by October 2024 for fiscal year 2026.</i>	• Sec. 2-433. (c) City Policies • Sec. 2-435. Systemic Issues
Submit a letter with legislative recommendations focused on homelessness and systemic barriers to housing to City Council by August 20, 2024.	• Sec. 2-433. (e) Legislative Program

March 2023 – February 2024 HRC Work Plan

Actions should support the goals identified above.

Month	Actions
March	• Annual Meeting (3/9)
April	• Work Session (4/4: Carver Rec.) ○ Finalize 2024 Annual Goals and Work Plan • Regular Meeting (4/18: City Space) ○ Training: FOIA/COIA/VPRA ○ Expert panel planning discussion • Actions Between Meetings ○ June expert panel outreach (OHR staff to work with Chair and Vice Chair to identify panelists) -- DONE ○ Prepare draft ordinance for review – DONE
May	• Work Session (5/2: City Space) ○ Review proposed ordinance amendments • Regular Meeting (5/16: City Space) ○ (Open) • Actions Between Meetings ○ Finalize June expert panelist list - DONE ○ Outreach for July Legislative agenda expert panel – Staff working on this ○ Commissioners talk to individuals in the community regarding work done on reparations – Chair will work on this ○ OHR staff will collaborate with partners to develop Ally/Safe Space training – in progress ○ Chair and OHR staff prepare to present CY2023 annual report to Council - DONE

Month	Actions
June	• Work Session (6/6: Carver Rec.) ◦ Expert Panel: Housing, homelessness, and wraparound services. - DONE • Regular Meeting (6/20: City Space) ◦ Proposed: Adopt ordinance amendments – DONE ◦ HRC Research Presentation (Ginny Helmandollar) - DONE • Actions Between Meetings ◦ June 3: Present CY2023 Annual Report to Council (Chair and Director) - DONE ◦ Tentative: VAHR Conference
July	• Work Session (CANCELED) ◦ (Note: the first Thursday in July is July 4th) • Regular Meeting (7/18: City Space) ◦ Expert Panel: Focus Area Legislative Priorities - DONE • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Proposed: Present Ordinance Revisions to Council - DONE ◦ OHR staff finalize training opportunities for HRC public hearings – pending ordinance changes
August	• Work Session (8/1: City Space) ◦ Draft legislative recommendations • Regular Meeting (8/15: City Space) ◦ Proposed: Adopt legislative recommendations - DONE ◦ Revisit HRC annual calendar • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Proposed: Present Legislative Recommendations to Council - SENT
September	• Work Session (9/5: City Space) ◦ Tentative: Public Hearing training - Postponed • Regular Meeting (9/19: City Space) ◦ Discuss focus area City policy recommendations based on earlier panels and research • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Amend HRC Rules & Procedures regarding elections and language around annual meetings
October	• Work Session (10/3: City Space) ◦ Fill in remaining months of 2024 HRC Work Plan ◦ City policy recommendations • Regular Meeting (10/17: City Space) ◦ Form Officer Nomination Committee ◦ Finalize policy recommendations for submission to City Council • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Submit additional recommendations to Council ◦ Nominating Committee begins nomination process ◦ Staff prepare redacted case file for Case 2020-2 for 10/17 agenda packet ◦ HRC reviews Case 2020-2 case file ahead of public hearing vote during 11/7 work session
November	• Special Meeting (11/7: City Space) ◦ Vote on whether to hold public hearing on Case 2020-2 - DONE • Regular Meeting (11/21: City Space) ◦ Finalize effective right to counsel letter • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Nomination committee will send out a call for nominations

Month	Actions
December	• Work Session (12/5: City Space) ◦ Public Hearing preparation with City Attorney's Office (tentative) • Regular Meeting (12/19: City Space) ◦ Officer Nominations ◦ Amend Rules & Procedures to reflect new election timeframe ◦ Review amended Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance • Actions Between Meetings ◦ Chair to provide update on reparations ◦ Vice Chair to send out Doodle poll for date for annual meeting in March
January	• Work Session (1/2: City Space) • Regular Meeting (1/16: City Space) ◦ Officer elections ◦ Plan date for Annual Meeting in March • Actions Between Meetings
February	• Work Session (2/6: City Space) • Regular Meeting (2/20: City Space) ◦ Planning for Annual Meeting • Actions Between Meetings