



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Charlottesville City Council and Charlottesville Redevelopment
and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting
CitySpace, 100 Fifth Street NE

The Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (CRHA) held a joint meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Wade called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Oschrin, Payne and Pinkston. Six of the seven members from the CRHA were present at their roll call, including Council representative Michael Payne, and the final member arrived during the initial presentation.

Mayor Wade made opening remarks, stating the mutual desire between Council and CRHA to have this meeting.

Johns Sales, Executive Director of CRHA, made a presentation, which included information about CRHA strategic planning efforts; redevelopment at South First Street Phase 1, South First Street Phase 2, Sixth Street Phase 1, Sixth Street Phase 2, and Westhaven; and new initiatives. Mr. Sales also requested collaboration around safety and community policing to address issues in several communities and citywide.

Council asked clarifying questions during the presentation. CRHA is exploring the possibility of establishing a non-profit agency with a deadline of 2024 year-end.

Commissioner Laura Goldblatt spoke about resident safety as a crisis requiring immediate attention and a multi-year plan. She also requested a review of housing eligibility requirements and making processes as transparent as possible.

Council and CRHA engaged in discussion. Commissioner Goldblatt stated that some of the safety concerns expressed by residents involve use of their parking areas, drugs, and speeding. Commissioner Brigid Wicks mentioned her attendance at Safety Committee meetings and expressed concerns about shootings and other crime, which are problems for the entire community. Commissioner Goldblatt brought up the need to address trauma with mental health support when community members feel unsafe. Commissioner Wes Bellamy expressed the need to address gun violence as a public safety issue in CRHA communities and the Charlottesville community in general. Councilor Payne mentioned recent city department meetings focused on safety solutions. Mr. Sales stated that residents want to see more of a police presence and involvement. Commissioner Goldblatt stated that in the past, residents requested a Memorandum of Understanding MOU with the police department and that the then chief did not agree to have

different policing criteria for certain areas of the city. Councilor Snook asked about a previous request from the BUCK Squad to collaborate to address safety concerns. Mr. Sales stated that at a meeting in August the BUCK Squad will be given an opportunity to make a presentation. Commissioner Bellamy added that per regular procedures, outside agency requests are considered by the Resident Services Committee.

Mayor Wade opened the floor for public comments:

- Emily Dreyfus, city resident, expressed thanks to City Council and CRHA on behalf of the Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR). She echoed concerns around safety and past issues of overpolicing, while hoping for a new solution for effective police presence. She suggested developing a sustained city effort to address safety issues, decrease conflicts and increase tolerance. Regarding Choice neighborhoods, she stated that PHAR's positive visioning for redevelopment envisioned increasing density for the sake of increasing deeply affordable housing, yet Choice neighborhoods would increase market rate housing, decreasing quality of life.

City Manager Sanders stated that PHAR requested a meeting, and he is working with the police chief and outside agencies, and efforts are underway to address several issues discussed during the meeting.

Councilor Pinkston suggested doing more to support funding for CRHA staffing, given the magnitude of their work. Mr. Sanders noted the suggestion for follow-up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council