

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

7:00 P.M., City Hall
301 King Street, Room 1900

Members Present

Kristen Creighton
Caitlin Fitzsimmons
Rachel Dixon
Huayra Forster
Lawrence Lewis
Megan Prince, Chair
Deanne McNulty
Alex Radt
Alex Sprague, Vice Chair
Howard Weiss
Tom Valluzzi

City Staff Present

David Miller, Acting Director

Members Excused

Members Absent

Jacob Griffin

1. **Call to Order/Introductions by Vice Chair Prince**

Chair Prince called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Prince, seconded by Commissioner Sprague, the Agenda was approved with edits. All Commissioners present voted aye.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the November Minutes Meeting**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Creighton, seconded by Vice Chair Sprague, the March minutes were approved, with changes. All Commissioners present voted aye.

4. **Public Comment**

None

5. **Chair's Report**

No Report

6. **Guest speakers**

Captain Jeff Woolsey (Ret) Community Paramedic, Firefighter Paramedic and Registered Nurse presented to the commission. Chief Gálvez asked Cpt. Woolsey to come and provide additional information on the File of Life. Cpt. Woolsey stated that the City of Alexandria uses File of Life not Vile of Life™, which is similar but uses a red tube to put information in. The File of Life is a blue form with a magnet; you would put your medical information and other important information on the form, put in in the pouch, and stick it to your refrigerator. This is something old paramedic knew to look for, now we use Smart911. You can go online a create a profile online that can be accessed. The downside is that it is attached to one phone

number. If you have a cell number attached, your information comes up. The concern is that if you have an emergency and cannot call 911, and someone else uses their phone to call, that information is not available.

As a community paramedic, I can come to your house and help you create what's called a premises notifications, which allow me to add medical information regarding the person and address and it goes into our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system so that if a medical unit is dispatched to the address, they have the ability to pull up that information. Cpt. Woolsey said that the greatest part of his job is to come out and talk to the community about how to help. To setup a personal home visit you can email him at: Jeff.Woolsey@alexandriava.gov.

Commissioner Radt asked if his program could be given to the school. Cpt. Woolsey said that it is individual based. Commissioner Lewis asked for clarification about the Smart911 system and suggested that instead of being activated by the phone number, the information is accessed by a code that the person may share with others, such as a spouse, so that anyone with the code can call 911 from their phone and the medical history can be accessed. Cpt. Woolsey said that it sounds like a great idea, SMART911 is not owned by the City, it is a nationwide company that runs the system. Commissioner Lewis suggested that the City can go back to the contractor and ask that the alteration be incorporated. Commissioner Lawrence suggests that the City contact the vendor and see if that can be done. To access Smart911, go to: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Smart911>.

Cpt. Woolsey went down a three-page list of questions that was provided by commissioner Valluzzi and addressed each question in his presentation. Cpt. Woolsey addressed the number of fire apparatuses that will come to a fire. Also, he explained that there are several systems in different hi-rise apartment buildings in the City and there are pre-plans. Training is done for various situations and different types of buildings. Cpt. Woolsey address not using the elevators and spoke about building staff not being asked to assist. Cpt. Woolsey address Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). He spoke about Evacuation chairs, which the buildings are not required to have. The Fire Department has them. Cpt. Woolsey states that there are no requirements, but Cherry Blossom Place has two chairs, but there is no requirement. If there is a fire, we will lift you up if we need to in an emergency. Cpt. Woolsey spoke about smoke detectors and the Floor Above Nozzle. Also, he said that the iPhone has a file that you could add all of your medical information. Cpt. Woolsey stated that Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) information can be posted on the refrigerator, but it has to be in an obvious area, like over the bed. Cpt. Woolsey reiterated that he is the community paramedic, and his job is to come out to help you to learn how to be safe in an emergency.

Chair Prince thanked Cpt. Woolsey for his presentation to the commission.

7. **Committee Reports**

- **Executive Committee:** Still being formulated, updates to follow.
- **Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Sprague stated that they hope to update the commission on the adoption of Bill 1800, which will give people with disabilities more

access to playgrounds, House Bill 2104, which is a seizure medication issue, and House Bill 2116, which is a DMV related issues, but the Governor has not moved on them.

- **Housing Committee:** None
- **Housing Affordability Committee:** None
- **Accessibility-Friendly Businesses Committee:** Commissioner McNulty sent information about businesses and tax incentives for hiring individuals with disabilities. Commissioner McNulty said the City is holding information sessions on Fair Housing.
- **Board of Architectural Review-** None
- **Disability Pride Month -**
- **ACPD Awards Committee -**

8. **Liaison Reports**

- **Human Rights Commission:** Chair Prince reported that The HRC had a long discussion with a member of Tenants & Workers United who does outreach to the immigrant community and there has been community disengagement because of fear. There are volunteers in Alexandria to come out to a possible ICE sighting to assist with knowing their rights. Immigration Rapid Response Network. Talked about the Red cards. Commissioner Forester thought that the cards are available at the libraries and INOVA. Chair Prince talked about the Community Policing Review Board and subpoena power and that they are trying to take away the CPRB's ability to investigate complaints. Chair Prince said that the Mayor will attend the next Human Rights Commission meeting.
- **HAAC:** No Report
- **ACPS 2020 Strategic Planning Committee** – Commissioner Dixon shared the timeframe of the meetings and that their work is complete, and it is in the hands of the School Board. See the ACPS website for more information:
<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/about-us/acps-2030-strategic-plan>

9. **Action Items**

Special election held for the Vice Chair position. Chair Prince called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Sprague volunteered their name for the Vice Chair position. Commissioner Sprague ran unopposed for the position. A vote was held, and all Commissioners present voted aye. Commissioner Sprague was elected as Vice Chair.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee was formed – Commissioner Creighton and Chair Prince volunteered to serve on this ad hoc committee.

Executive Committee will be formed after the election and the Executive Committee will come up with the strategic initiatives for the commission and meeting date and time.

Commissioner Griffin and Commissioner Radt volunteered to serve on the Committee.

10. **Member Report**

- Commissioner Forester – None.
- Commissioner Prince – None
- Vice Chair Sprague – Stated that there is an event scheduled with the Sheriff’s Office on April 23 at the Dunkin Potomac Yard, 3325 Richmond Highway, to highlight autism acceptance month. The event begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Commissioner Radt –Disability Committee for Pride Month in July and said that they can take the lead on it. Commissioner Creighton and Commissioner Forster volunteered to serve on this committee.
- Commissioner Dixon - None
- Commissioner Fitzsimmons – None
- Commissioner Ludke - None
- Commissioner Lewis- None
- Commissioner Creighton – None
- Commissioner Weiss – Attended council’s budget meeting and spoke of the need to improve services regarding payment by credit card and the need for increased staffing in the dispatch center.

11. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Lewis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Creighton. All Commissioners present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May14, 2025, and it will be held at 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room.