

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

7:00 P.M., City Hall
301 King Street, Chet & Sabre Avery Room 2000

Members Present

Megan Prince, Chair
Alex Sprague, Vice Chair
Donna Spencer
Huayra Forster
Alex Radt
Shannon Loelius
Thomas Valluzzi

Members Excused

Rachel Dixon
Robbie Woodson
Kristen Creighton
Robert Ludke
Deanne McNulty

Member Unexcused

Lawrence Lewis

City Staff Present

Delante Wade
Eric Heller
Chris Do

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

Chair Prince called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Introduction of new Commissioner Donna Marie Turnage Spencer and introduction of Commissioners.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Upon a motion by Chair Prince, seconded by Vice Chair Sprague, the Agenda was approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

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

Upon a motion by Chair Prince, seconded by Vice Chair Sprague, the June minutes were approved. All Commissioners present voted aye.

4. **Public Comment**

Sarah Radt stated that she is one of the representatives from Alexandria on the Accessibility Advisory Board for WMATA and is available to take any questions that anyone may have. On June 29 WMATA started a new "Better Bus" system. All of the bus numbers have changed, and some stops are slightly different. If you need any help navigating feel free to reach out to her and she will help you navigate the new change.

The Prevention of Blindness Society of Greater Washington is hosting an event at the Beatley Library on Friday at 1:00pm. There will be a demonstration of Ray Ban's Meta Glasses,

which have embedded cameras and audio functions and works through AI. Will email event flyer to Delante for distribution.

5. **Chair's Report**

Thank you to everyone who made it out the ACPD awards ceremony. Kudos to Alex Radt for putting forward a proclamation for Disability Pride Month. Proclamation was read in front of the City Council and received by members of the Commission.

6. **Guest Speaker(s)**

2040 Housing Master Plan Presentation

Eric Keller- Deputy Director, Office of Housing
Christopher Do- Housing Analyst, Office of Housing

A presentation was given by the Office of Housing on the City's 2040 Housing Master Plan. The housing master plan establishes a vision, goals, tools and policy recommendations to address community housing needs. The Housing 2040 principles will advance Alexandria's social, economic, cultural, racial and generational diversity by increasing access to housing options affordable at a variety of price points across its neighborhoods; support housing stability and create opportunities to grow generational wealth across its communities; ensure housing is built and maintained to support resident health, safety, and wellbeing; leverage City resources through creative public-private partnerships, collaboration with anchor institutions, innovative financing approaches, and inclusive stakeholder engagement; contribute to City land use, economic development, transportation, sustainability, climate action and public health goals; and prepare for City's current and future housing needs and changing demographics.

Guided by its principles, The Housing 2040 strategies should: expand housing options that are affordable and accessible to households at all income levels, life stages and abilities; preserve committed affordable and market-rate rental housing where habitability and affordability commitments can be secured; strengthen tenant protections and resources; create new committed affordable rental housing, with investment focused on housing affordable to households with incomes at 60% of the area median income and below; expand committed affordable homeownership opportunities; strengthen existing common interest/condominium communities; support more options for seniors and persons with disabilities to live within the city; enhance housing quality, safety, and livability to support resident health and wellbeing; empower residents with the resources to attain housing stability and economic mobility; improve energy efficiency in existing housing, and advance green building, climate action and other sustainability goals in new residential development.

7. **Committee Reports**

- **Executive Committee:** Reminder to the Commission, to not "Reply All" on emails because it counts as a meeting and could be subjected to FOIA. Going forward send any

emails that need to be sent to the Commission to Delante, and he will share with the Commission.

Will be reaching out to Department of Transportation/DASH, regarding some of the issues with their new chair system. Some individuals have to sit backwards on the bus. An issue was raised when DASH first introduced the new chair system, will follow up regarding new chair system and issues surrounding the chair system.

Delante will be drafting a disability laws pamphlet for local businesses. Will present to the Commission at the September meeting for review and will be distributed to the Commission after the meeting. Looking to table an event in October and get the word out about the pamphlets.

- **Legislative Committee:** None
- **Housing Committee:** None
- **Housing Affordability Committee:** None
- **Accessibility-Friendly Businesses Committee:** None
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- **Board of Architectural Review:** None
- **Disability Pride Month:** Old Town Books, the Barrett Library and the Beatley Library all have Disability Pride Month related displays of books in their facilities
- **Human Rights Commission:** Megan attended the Human Rights Commission annual Pride Fair and Tabeing event. It was a great event. Reached out to the community on behalf of the Human Rights Office and Human Rights Commission.
- **Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee:** Rachel Dixon will move forward with becoming the liaison to the AHAAC. Paperwork has been completed. Currently waiting for the City Council to sign off on her paperwork.

8. **Action Items**

- **Process to Become a Liaison:** Complete application and submit to the City Clerk's Office, get approved by the City Council. Current liaisons must be re-appointed to new Commission.
- **Temporary Relocation:** Starting in January 2026, ACPD monthly meetings will be held at the Lee Center in Gold Room 2. The Lee Center is located at 1108 Jefferson Street,

Alexandria, VA, 22314. Meeting will be held at the Lee Center until the renovation of City Hall is complete.

9. **Member Report**

- **Chair Prince:** Currently working on annual report and looking into events for ACPD to potentially table in October.

Jacob was supposed to have created a pamphlet and a blurb to give out for whenever ACPD did table events. If anyone would like to take over that project that would be great. Before we can do more community outreach when need to have outreach materials.

- **Commissioner Valluzzi:** Interested in knowing if any of the commissioners has an update on how things are coming along with the new Alexandria hospital.
- **Vice Chair Sprague:** Stepping up cause to put pressure on RFK Jr. in light of the uptick in the spread of measles. Noticed that medical professionals are forming a group that is dedicated to vaccine research, which RFK Jr. should be doing but isn't.
- **Commissioner Radt:** Finally ended up riding on one of the DASH buses with the new wheelchair restraint system. Was forced to ride backwards the entire trip and as a result became car sick.

There are a number of businesses, especially in the Old Town area that are historic buildings and aren't aware of how the disability laws apply to them. Yes, the laws apply differently than other businesses, but it does not mean that they are exempt. Based on this, we want to create a pamphlet that can be distributed to businesses that occupy historic properties.

- **Commissioner Loelius:** Wanted to know if Claire Mouledoux, Senior Vice President of Marketing & Communications at Visit Alexandria had reached out to the Commission and was notified that the Commission has been in contact with Ms. Mouledoux and she will be presenting to the Commission in the future.
- **Commissioner Forster:** None
- **Commissioner Ludke:** None
- **Commissioner Lewis:** None

10. **Adjournment**

Chair Prince motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Forster. All Commissioners present voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next meeting

is scheduled for September 10, 2025, and it will be held at 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000, Chet and Sabra Avery Room.