

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 | Virtual
7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Yvette Jiang; Annette Maldonado; Gina Wood; Hope Nelson; Neacola Yvonne Shaw; Krystle Bransky; Lexi White; Rev. Dr. Shelley Brown; Giovanna Rogow; Dr. Elisabeth Palmer Johnson; Dr. Vanita Datta; Caroline Schofield

Excused Absences: Kafi Joseph; T. Nicole Hutchinson; Eva Bastianon

Staff: Debra Evans; LaTanya Chinagorom

Guest: Ashley Johnson, Deputy Director of Adult and Aging Services

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

First Vice Chair Jiang called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed attendees. Introductions were made, including new Commissioner Gina Wood.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2026 MINUTES

Motion to approve by Commissioner Palmer Johnson; seconded by Commissioner Wood.
Motion passed unanimously.

WEBSITE BIO REMINDER

Commissioners were reminded to update their bios.

Action: Staff will post the bio link and upload Commissioner Wood's bio to the website.

PRESENTATION: ADULT AND AGING SERVICES

Ashley Johnson presented an overview of Adult and Aging Services and the Commission on Aging (meets monthly, 2nd Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.).

Key discussion points:

- Opportunities for collaboration between commissions, particularly around shared priorities (housing, health, transportation).
- Interest in revitalizing the liaison role between the two commissions.

Actions:

- Explore restructuring the Commission on Aging liaison role.
 - Submit nominations for the 2027 Aging Awards.
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ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS

- Annual nominations opened for Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair.
 - Elections will occur in May; new officers begin June 2026.
 - Roles and time commitments were reviewed.
 - Commissioner Rogow self-nominated for Second Vice Chair.
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STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT UPDATE

Commissioner Datta reported on progress toward the Status of Women Report:

- Focus areas include economic opportunity, access, safety, and health.
- Subcommittees are actively reviewing and validating data.

Actions:

- Continue research and data validation.
 - Review City budget allocations related to key pillars.
 - Health Subcommittee to meet biweekly (Mondays at 10 a.m.; next meeting April 20).
 - Commissioner Joseph to provide additional data at the next meeting.
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Commissioner Maldonado presented strategies to increase engagement:

- Open meetings to community organizations.
- Host networking events with service providers.

- Organize community coffee hours.

Actions:

- Limit participation to two Commissioners per event.
- Develop a proposal with defined goals, outcomes, and timeline.
- Update and maintain a shared contact database.

A motion was approved to:

- Move forward with Commissioner Maldonado’s proposal, which was modified by Commissioners Bransky and Wood.
- Define desired outcomes and create an action plan.
- Establish a timeline and identify women-owned organizations.

Action: Commissioners will further develop the plan and reconvene in May 2026.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Participate in ALIVE! Food Hub outreach.
 - Nonpartisan phone bank opportunity (contact Commissioner Palmer Johnson).
 - City Council election scheduled for April 21, 2026.
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FAIRFAX COUNTY WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH BREAKFAST

No Commissioners attended.

Action: Send a formal apology to Fairfax County.

CITY COUNCIL COMMISSION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Commission may self-nominate in a future year when key deliverables are achieved.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

- Ongoing efforts to increase visibility and engagement.

- Commissioners encouraged to contribute content.

Actions:

- Submit all posts for approval through Ms. Evans, who will send to the City Clerk’s Office before publishing.
 - Advocacy Subcommittee to develop content on reproductive freedom.
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SUBCOMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

- Human Rights Commission discussed Afghan immigrant support and submitted correspondence to City Council regarding ICE.
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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Charles Houston Recreation Center. 901 Wythe St

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.