

**ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
MINUTES
September 18, 2023
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Del Pepper Community Center – Room 1305**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mohammad Fayaz Naqshbandi, Nicole Hutchinson, Mitchell Kent, Christian Rodriguez, Carl Welliver, Shelbert Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Nabors

AHD STAFF: Nechelle Terrell

GUESTS: Thomas Villa - Impact LGBT; Gloria Sitton - Alexandria City Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Welliver, at 6:38 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the commission provided introductions. New member Mitchell Kent introduced himself to the commission. Gloria Sitton was introduced as the Alexandria City Clerk and Thomas Villa was introduced as the guest speaker.

III. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MAY MINUTES

The minutes of the July 2023 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Commissioner Shelbert Williams moved to accept the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell Kent. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

IV. ALEXANDRIA BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS Q&A

Gloria Sitton, the Executive Secretary for Boards and Commissions provided information on the structure of Alexandria City Boards and Commissions as well as how they function and operate. She explained the expectations of the commissioners as well as commissions. Attendance guidelines were reviewed as well as changing ACOHA status to Hybrid meetings vs. Virtual or "in person" meetings only. Commissioners asked questions pertaining to social media, funding and community engagement. Gloria stated that she is currently working on Community Engagement Guidelines for distribution. Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to her directly or through the staff liaison for any questions they may have later or to attend future meetings or events.

V. NATIONAL HIV AND AGING AWARENESS DAY

Thomas Villa shared his experience on "Aging with HIV/AIDS" from his standpoint as a person living with HIV for over 20 years. In working in the community and on several HIV related committees including the Virginia HIV Planning Group and with Ryan White clients, he noted the need for funding for services to those who are no longer eligible for Ryan White and now depend on Medicaid for health care. Although Virginia offers Ryan White Care funding and Virginia ADAP, funding for persons not qualified for these services is limited.

Tom thanked the commission for allowing him to speak and offered to be of assistance in any way he can.

VI. LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS

The Legislative Packet was received on August 25, 2023. Boards and commissions are asked to submit any legislative priorities, budget initiatives or a statement of principal to legislative staff by September 22, 2023. Carl recommended with the revamping of this commission and new leadership, that legislative concerns be addressed at the next meeting for submission in the future.

VII. UPCOMING AWARENESS DAYS

Gay Men's HIV Awareness Day

In recognition of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the commission will cosponsor a movie viewing and discussion with Alexandria Health Department to be held on Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. at Del Pepper Community Center. HIV testing and presentation by Gilead Sciences and free food for all attendees.

VIII. CLOSING REMARKS

Chair Carl Welliver stated there will be further discussions on commission issues at the next meeting due to time constraints.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.