

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-21 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION) of Article B (ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-4-21 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended by deleting the text shown in strikethrough and adding the text shown in underline as follows:

Sec. 2-4-21 - Creation, composition and organization.

(a) There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Economic Opportunities Commission of the City of Alexandria, Virginia," hereinafter referred to as the commission.

(b) (1) The commission shall consist of ~~18~~15 residents of Alexandria. Of the ~~18~~15 commissioners, at least one-third (1/3) (category I) shall be appointed by the city council and shall be elected public officials, currently holding office, or their representatives; at least one-third (1/3) (category II) shall be representatives of ~~the poor~~ residents living with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City certified by the commission; and the remainder (category III) shall be representatives of, business, industry, labor, religious, welfare or other private groups and interests certified by the commission.

a. Elected public officials (category I). Of the ~~six (6)~~ elected public officials, at least four (4) shall be members of the city council and ~~at least two (2)~~ (21) shall be from the following elected officials who represent residents of Alexandria: members of the United States Congress, Virginia state senators, Virginia state delegates, commonwealth's attorney or sheriff. In the event a specified public official elects to serve on the commission, such official may designate a permanent representative to serve in his or her place or select an alternate to represent the official when he or she is unable to attend a meeting. Such representative shall serve at the pleasure of the public official making the designation, but in no event shall such representative serve for a greater term than the official making the appointment. A representative or alternate must be a resident of the city. For the purposes of category I appointments, the requirements of [section 2-4-7\(b\)](#) and (c) are waived.

b. Representatives of ~~the poor~~ residents living with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City (category II). The commission shall determine and state in its by-laws the number of representatives of ~~the poor~~ residents living with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City who will serve on the commission. This determination shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that there is a representative from each target area of the commission and available organizations which represent ~~the poor~~ residents living with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City.

c. Representatives of the private sector (category III). The commission shall establish in its by-laws the exact number of representatives of private sector organizations or interests who will serve on the commission.

d. Alternates. The commission may authorize alternates to serve for representatives of ~~the poor~~ residents living with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the

1 City or for private organizations or interests (categories II and III). Alternates shall be selected at
2 the same time and in the same manner as the principal representatives of ~~the poor~~residents living
3 with low income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City, and private
4 groups or interests.

5 (2) City council shall adopt rules and procedures for the process whereby category I
6 commissioners will be appointed and may be removed.

7 (3) The commission shall adopt rules and procedures for the democratic process whereby
8 candidates for membership on the commission from categories II and III will be selected. Upon
9 such selection, the commission shall certify the names of the individuals so selected to the city
10 clerk and the mayor. Upon such certification and the attesting of such certification by the city
11 clerk, the individuals selected from category II and category III shall be deemed members of the
12 commission. Any member of the commission serving in categories II and III may be removed by
13 the commission if the person has failed to attend at least 50 percent of the regular meetings of the
14 commission or has been otherwise neglectful of duties or for misfeasance in office.

15 (4) The commissioners shall serve terms of two (2) years beginning with the first city council
16 legislative meeting after the adoption of this article. No category II or III commissioner may
17 serve more than two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms or serve more than a total of 10 years.
18 Intervals after consecutive terms must consist of at least one (1) full year during which the
19 individual may not serve on the commission in any capacity.

20 (5) Any group or community agency which is representative of ~~the poor~~residents living with low
21 income and/or from historically marginalized communities in the City and which believes that it
22 is inadequately represented on the commission may petition the commission for representation.
23 The petition shall state the grounds therefor and include at least 75 signatures of individuals who
24 belong to the group or agency. Following receipt of the petition, the commission shall hold a
25 public hearing and, if it determines that the petitioner is inadequately represented, it shall
26 notwithstanding [sec. 2-4-21\(b\)\(1\)](#) of this article and pursuant to [sec. 2-4-21 \(b\)\(3\)](#), certify the
27 individual who has been properly selected by the petitioner and such person shall be deemed a
28 member of the commission. In such instance where an additional seat is created, the commission
29 shall also, at the same time as it certifies the name of the additional representative, recommend
30 for city council adoption, an ordinance amendment which will maintain the ratio of public,
31 private and representative of ~~the poor sectors~~residents living with low income and/or from
32 historically marginalized communities in the City as provided elsewhere in this article.

33 (c) The commission shall elect from its membership a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, who shall
34 serve in the absence of the chairperson, and a secretary, who shall, be responsible for the keeping
35 and signing of minutes of meetings, A quorum, which shall be ~~at least~~greater than 50 percent of
36 the nonvacant seats on the commission, shall be required for the commission to transact business.

37 (d) The commission is authorized to establish an executive committee chosen from among its
38 members which may transact commission business as provided in the by-laws of the
39 commission, between regular meetings of the commission, provided that the composition of the
40 executive committee fairly reflects the composition of the commission as a whole and that the
41 executive committee reports to the full commission all of its actions at the next following regular
42 meeting.

43 (e) All meetings of the commission and its committees shall be open to the public to the full
44 extent required by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

1 (f) The commission shall submit all of its bylaws and procedures to the city council for its
2 approval. All such rules and regulations must conform to the applicable regulations prescribed by
3 federal law. Where a particular activity of the commission is not governed by federal laws or
4 regulations, such by-laws and procedures shall conform to city ordinances governing city boards
5 and commissions generally and the specific provisions of this section, as the case may be.
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7 Section 2. That Section 2-4-21 as amended pursuant to Section 1 of this ordinance,
8 be, and the same hereby is, reordained as part of the City of Alexandria City Code.
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10 Section 3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time
11 of its final passage.
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13 JUSTIN WILSON
14 Mayor
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17 Introduction: September 12, 2023
18 First Reading: September 12, 2023
19 Publication:
20 Public Hearing: September 23, 2023
21 Second Reading: September 23, 2023
22 Final Passage: September 23, 2023