**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)**

The **Arlington CSW** convened its meeting at **7:03 pm** on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

**PRESENT**  Chair Julia Tanner

Commissioner Jeanine Finch

Commissioner Caroline Gary Romano

Commissioner Rachel Johnston

Commissioner Kayli Nichols

Commissioner Jordan Stevenson

Commissioner Susan Strauss

**ABSENT** Commissioner Arbora Johnson

Commissioner Marguerete Luter

Commissioner Xenia Ruiz

Commissioner Sasha Whitney

**STAFF** Anna Maynard, Staff Coordinator

**Other** Parisa Tafti, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church

Candice Lopez, Program Manager, Project Peace

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

**Presentation by Parisa Tafti**

Parisa Tafti is the Commonwealth’s attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. She primarily focuses on severe violent crimes. She spoke with the Comission on concerns related to the Revenge Porn and Peeping Tom statutes, local initiatives that her office has with the community and local public schools, her stance on non-prosecution of abortion restrictions, and her plans for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church such as the creation of safe spaces for citizens to receive an array of public services. She also shared that her office has seen a decline in drug facilitated sexual assaults.

* Link shared: [Revenge porn statute](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter8/section18.2-386.2/) and [Peeping Statute](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter5/section18.2-130.1/) and [Norfolk Family Justice Center](https://www.ywca-shr.org/norfolk-family-justice-center/)

**Presentation by Candice Lopez**

Candice Lopez is a Program Manager for Arlington County’s Project PEACE (Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone). Project PEACE recently released their annual report that presents data, including on sexual violence. Lopez noted that they are reviewing the data against zip codes to better understand the demographics of the data they are capturing.

Lopez also shared two programs they are running that relate to domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Partner/SHIFT(Shaping Healthy Interactions for Tomorrow) is an 18-week program that can be court mandated for individuals who are sentenced for crimes relating to domestic violence. Project PEACE has recently launched another program, Fathers for Change (a pilot program from Yale), which provides one-on-one counseling for men, with children, who use harmful or coercive practices.

* Link shared: [Project Peace Annual Report](https://www.arlingtonva.us//files/sharedassets/public/departments/documents/dhs/project-peace/project-peace-2021-annual-report.pdf) and [Fathers for Change](https://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/education-and-training/professional-development/fathers-for-change/)

**Current and Old Business**

* Approval of November Minutes
  + Motion to approve November Minutes
    - Ayes: Unanimous
* Women of Vision
  + Commissioner Finch provided an update on the Women of Vision preparations. The event is scheduled for March 22, 2023. The event timeline is forthcoming and a link for nomination portal will be created with the help of Courtney, staff liaison from Arlington County.
* Economic Empowerment Event
  + Commissioner Strauss narrowed dates to June 5 and 6 for the event and updated that it will be held at the Central Library.
* Rack Cards
  + Commissioner Tanner will review the rack cards for printing.
* Biographies of Commissioners
  + The biographies of the Commissioners are now live on the CSW website. One biography remains outstanding.
* Revenge Porn Statute Update
  + Commissioner Stevenson will send a document to Commissioners for review prior to the next meeting. Upon discussion at the next meeting, an update will be shared with Parisa Tafti.

Meeting adjourned at **8:53 pm**.