**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Tuesday March 19, 2024

The **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION** convened its meeting at **7:10** on **March 19, 2024**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)** Commissioner Bryant Atkins

Commissioner Karen Audant

Commissioner Doris Ray

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)**  *N/A*

**ABSENT** Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx, chair

Commissioner Duncan Barron

Commissioner Justin Boatner

Commissioner Suzette Risacher

Commissioner Alexa Mavroidis

**STAFF** **Courtney Sales**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Public Comment- Bonnie O’Leary, Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons*

Bonnie expressed appreciation on behalf of Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Person (NVRC) to the commissioners for their continued support for the next grant cycle. NVRC was excited to see the purposed the budget increase, 12%.

*Housing Grants Study Results and Recommendations- Nicole Doula, Housing Assistance Bureau director and Caitlin Hutchison, Assistant to DHS Director*

Arlington County’s Housing Grant’s Program provides ongoing rental assistance to Arlington residents who meet income and asset requirements, 65 years of age or older, totally/permanently disabled, or active in a County operated/County-supported behavioral health program and working families with at least one child under age 18. Based on the study seventeen recommendations were provided in four categories: eligibility criteria, staffing, program requirements and program operations. The FY 2025 proposed budget includes $101,232 to fund 12 transition aged youth (TAY) programs and youth aging out of foster care for up to 36 months, replacement of work hour requirements with minimum earned income and two additional Housing Specialist FTEs ($233,517).

* [Presentation Link](https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:2c5caec4-2939-46b4-8179-4d328362c07d)
* [Housing Grant Website](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Housing-Grants-Study)
* Full [Housing Grant Study](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/housing/documents/housing-grants-study/arlington-housing-grants-program-study-feb-2024.pdf)
* [HGStudy@arlingtonva.us](mailto:HGStudy@arlingtonva.us)

*Proposed ART and STAR Fare Increase and Service Changes- Clinton Edwards, Transit Manager, Department Environmental Services*

Mr. Edwards presented recommendations (service cuts and fare increases) taken forward to the board on February 22nd from the Transit Bureau. Three service eliminations were proposed, eliminate the western part of route 53 (Glebe to North Sycamore), total elimination of route 61 (NS connection Rosslyn/Courthouse) and total elimination of rout 62. Proposal included extending the remaining portion of route 53 to capture the southern portion of route 61.

Mr. Edwards shared anytime changes are made, transit services conduct a Title VI equity and disparate impact analysis to see if/how the change may impact low income and minority communities.

The proposed FY 2025 county operating budget, was presented to the Board who will consider adopting a fare increase for ART and STAR commensurate with the WMATA increase (12.5%). The proposed increase for ART fare, base fare: $2.00 to $2.25, senior citizen and persons with disabilities: $1.00 to $ 1.15. The proposed STAR fare increases for zone 1, $4.00 to $4.50, zone 2 $ 5.50 to $ 6.20 and zone 3, $ 9.50 to $ 10.70.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

**No actions or votes**

Meeting adjourned at **9:00**.