



**COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Administrative Policy Committee met on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor’s Conference Room), Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Chair called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Edward H. McDowell | Chair | Present |
| Aditi Bussells | Member | Present |
| Peter M. Brown | Member | Present |

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Tenant’s Bill of Rights and Responsibilities - The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr. –

Councilor McDowell said the Mayor and I started this conversation after the events occurred at the Colony Apartments. We understand that there needs to be a deep dive into issues we have not discussed. This is not new. We need to discuss enforcement. This is about ensuring that we take care of residents.

Mr. Logan McVey, Policy and Programs Advisor to the Mayor said the general concept is to give tenants a document that outlines their rights. The Colony operates under project based vouchers that are tied to the unit, not the person. The incentive is to fill the unit. Tenants fear retaliation. Tenant based vouchers allow tenants to move. The ordinance requires a landlord to keep the Bill of Rights on file for every tenant. If there are 25 or more tenants, the Bill of Rights must be posted in a common area.

Ms. Dana Thye, Esq., Senior Assistant City Attorney explained that information is on the front and the back contains resources for tenants and a signature line. The tenant would not see the ordinance. You have to figure out what you want them to know. There could be a criminal penalty punishable with a fine up to \$500; a civil penalty; assessment of points under the rental permit; or a combination of the three. She suggested that it be a civil penalty and that the information focus on local government.

Concerns were raised about the potential implications of this ordinance on properties under federal regulations along with the need to proceed cautiously and explore all aspects of enforcement.



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

There was consensus of the committee to revise the ordinance to include a civil infraction and to create an educational document that landlords must provide to tenants to ensure they are aware of their rights and the available resources. The committee will continue with conversations about the Tenants' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and pro-tenant enforcement.

2. Columbia Race and Equity Assessment Project Proposal - Mr. Larry Salley, Executive Director / Greater Columbia Community Relations Council

Mr. Larry Salley, Executive Director / Greater Columbia Community Relations Council said we recognize that this is the type of thing the CRC was created to do. The data in Dr. Brady's report is solid. The report indicates that racial inequities exist in every community. We propose to partner with the city of Columbia to create the Midlands Race & Equity Initiative. This project would utilize data from the assessment to address health; income, wealth, and poverty; education; and housing. The CRC is planning sessions on each of these subject areas with subject matter experts between June and September 2023. We will solicit input from the community. Once we secure an agreement, we will move quickly to assemble a team, finalize the project design, and to refine the deliverables. The plan is to develop a comprehensive report with findings, actionable recommendations, resources and measures for success by December 2023. This could be a multi-year approach with a potential phase two.

There was discussion related to employment, graduation rates, families, engagement with the business community, and defining community.

There was consensus of the committee to seek a collaboration with Richland County; clarify definitions for the four areas of focus; and to endorse the proposed contract for City Council's consideration at the next City Council Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk
