

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE December 4, 2023 MEETING OF THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION**

Location: 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 232
Fairfax, VA 22035

Attending: **SBC Members**
Melvin Murphy (Providence), Tracey Wood (At-Large), Joseph Underwood (Braddock) remote, Prince Howard (Sully), Chris Vernon (Springfield), Alpha Woolen (Franconia), Theofilos Stamatis (At-Large), Vijay Vajja (Hunter Mill), Terri Fox (Mason)

Staff

Ron Shoram (DPMM)

Guests: Local Business Owners

Absent: **SBC Members:**
Shawnequa Albert (At-Large), Melody Thorson (Mt. Vernon)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. and was facilitated by Chairman Murphy. Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

- **Chairman Murphy called roll conducted the following actions relevant to remote participation**
 - A sound and video check was conducted to ensure that each member of the BAC may be adequately heard and that all members could hear each other.
- **Committee Updates:**
 - Legislative: No report
 - Education and Outreach: No report
 - Vendor Comments Board: N/A
 - Community Business Partnership: No report, but access to the CBP continues being investigated.
- **Staff updates:**
 - Thrive Grant: The Department of Economic Initiatives announced an application window for local businesses to receive services through the Thrive grant.
- **Old Business**
 - Criteria for Bea Malone award was discussed.
- **New Business**
 - Commissioner Underwood initiated a discussion of staff support by a different agency that speaks more directly to SBC goals. The Department of Economic Initiatives was discussed.
 - Local small businesses discussed difficulties they experience doing business in Fairfax County – Commissioners to address w/ their respective Board offices.
 - Commissioners Murphy and Stamatis were named nominating officers for CY24 officer positions.
 - The CY24 schedule was adopted to reflect CY23 – with the 4th Monday of each month being meeting dates, with no meetings in July or November, and December’s meeting occurring on the first Monday of the month.
- **Announcements**
 - Commissioner Underwood announced his retirement from the SBC.

Adjournment – Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:12.