

JOINT EDUCATION AND SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2022 | 1:00 PM  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

COUNCILOR J.T. MOORE, COMMITTEE CHAIR  
COUNCILORS DARRELL O'QUINN & CLINTON WOODS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilor(s) Present: Moore, O'Quinn, Woods

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Councilor J. T. Moore.

II. **INVOCATION**

Councilor Moore opened the Meeting with Prayer.

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES – June 27, 2022**

**Action Taken:**

**Councilor Woods Motioned to Approve.**

**Councilor Moore Seconded the Motion.**

**The June 27, 2022 Joint Education and Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes were approved as recorded.**

IV. **PRESENTATION**

**Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham (VLB), Graham Hewitt, Executive Director, Twala Grant Wallace: Managing Attorney**

**Ken Perry, Board Chair**

Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham is a 501c3 that provides free civil and domestic assistance to low-income individuals.

In order to qualify for the services, one must have a qualifying legal issue and within 125% of the poverty level (\$30K for a family of 4).

Since the pandemic began, VLB has seen approximately 3,000 clients/6,000 family members.

Approximately 72% of the overall client population is females, 75% of the overall client population is African American and 33% is single mothers.

VLB has been able to save the community approximately \$1.3 million in legal fees.

They help protect family finances, families who are facing foreclosure, credit-debt action, end-of-life planning documents, etc.

VBL has also incorporated a community education component in their services and in the process of sponsoring additional community clinics.

VLB has transitioned to VOB2.0 approach; a more proactive approach to educate clients, helping them prevent getting into legal dilemma they can find themselves in. They want to further assist with avoiding evictions, creditor/debtor actions, etc.

VBL hosts quarterly expungement and community education clinics.

They have engaged with several partners/organizations to hold community education and community projects; Salvation Army Center of Hope Work Development Center, i3 Academy, Magic City Bar, and the NAACP.

Commission Tyson has volunteered to fund all projects with her district.

The expungement clinics will alternate between the Birmingham Division of Jefferson County and the Bessemer Cutoff Division to make sure that everyone is able to take advantage of the services being offered.

The first clinic was held November 2, 2022 and the next clinic will be held February 24, 2023 in the cut-off area. A Wills Clinic will be held in District 4 on December 1, 2022.

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VLB is seeking a partnership with financial and community support for the clinics.  
The services are free.

For additional information, visit the website at [vlbham.org](http://vlbham.org)

**Action Taken:**

**No Action – Information Only.**

**LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are three (3) positions that will be available on the Birmingham Library Board.

Kimberly Richardson and Lynn Flowers-Martin terms expire on December 31, 2022.

Georgia Morgan-Blair term expired December 31, 2016.

To apply: [birminghamal.gov/boardsandagencies](http://birminghamal.gov/boardsandagencies).

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilor Woods Motioned to Adjourn.**

**Councilor Moore Seconded the Motion**

**Meeting Adjourned.**