

Commission on Women
September 22, 2025

A meeting of the Commission on Women was held on this date beginning at 4:21 p.m. at 2 George Street and over video conference call.

Notice of this meeting was sent to all local news media.

Present: Chair Trischia Khouri, Jennifer Brown, Louis Weinstein, Cynthia Bolt, Amy Castle-Rogers, Kate Wade, and Denise Fugo.

Staff: Patrick Carlson, recording.

1. Approval of Minutes

On a motion of Chair Khouri, seconded by Commissioner Weinstein, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the August 25, 2025, minutes.

2. Guest Presentations

Chair Khouri introduced Paige Feeser as a representative of Mamava so she could discuss lactation facilities.

Ms. Feeser said she was a Mamava Government Account Executive from Vermont and was excited to help support local efforts to figure out lactation spaces for the community. She said the first Mamava lactation pod was installed at Burlington International Airport in 2013, but today the company had over 5,000 pods installed around the world. She said earlier in the year Mamava partnered with Medela, an international breast pump company, to compile the results of a national breastfeeding survey after interviewing 3,000 breastfeeding parents. Of the people surveyed, she said that 55% did not feel supported in public places and 66% would be more likely to visit a public place that had a dedicated lactation space. To assist with these efforts, multiple federal and state-level protections were being put into place to support breastfeeding journeys. One significant recent update was the federal passing of the PUMP Act in 2022 which expanded workplace lactation accommodation protections to all breastfeeding employees. She said Mamava could use its resources and company app to aid in the creation of a consistent environment to access lactation spaces throughout Charleston. The different lactation pods and spaces built by the company can provide a variety of benefits depending on the location and anticipated needs. She said there were already several Mamava locations across the city and were always looking for new opportunities and other existing lactation spaces to add to the app for identification.

Commissioner Weinstein asked where the pods were manufactured.

Ms. Feeser said the company offices were in Burlington, VT, however the pods were all manufactured two hours south in Springfield, VT.

Commissioner Wade asked how an existing lactation site would become registered on the Mamava app.

Ms. Feeser said the public could use the app to alert the company to a potential location and the company would contact the location in question for vetting.

Commissioner Castle-Rogers asked if they had discussed sharing information with state websites.

Ms. Feeser said the company was unable to share their API information, however anyone was welcome to use whatever information they could access on the app itself.

Commissioner Bolt asked if there was any data about how frequently certain locations in Charleston were being used.

Ms. Feeser said she could consult with her team and give the commission data from the most recent quarter to get a sense of local usage. If the City were to use any of the Mamava service plans, it would include quarterly usage reports for consideration.

Commissioner Wade said the Charleston County Park system was extensive and suggested a partnership with that system to potentially utilize any available funding to develop more public lactation spaces.

Commissioner Fugo said she was working with several mall developers and served on the CARTA Advisory Committee. She suggested that Ms. Feeser could give that same presentation to those groups and was happy to help with additional partner identification.

Ms. Feeser said she was glad to see the emphasis on generating partnerships and suggested teaming up with the public health departments to use lactation spaces to help improve overall community health rates.

3. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Patrick Carlson
Clerk of Council's Office