



One City for All People

**Full Commission Meeting – Minutes  
Monday, March 4, 2024, 4:00pm - 5:30pm  
Lentz Public Health Center  
Centennial Rooms B and C  
2500 Charlotte Avenue Nashville, TN 37209**

*The mission of the Metro Human Relations Commission is to protect and promote the personal dignity, peace, safety, security, health, and general welfare of all people in Nashville and Davidson County.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm by Chair Abolfazli.

Commissioners in attendance:

Chair Maryam Abolfazli, Genma Stringer-Holmes, Marcus Buggs, Irwin Venick, Jeff Teague, Dr. Ben Tran, Charles Traugher, Alecia Wynn, Dakota Galban, Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Ariel Safdie, Kosar Kosar, Larea Kwakye

Commissioners absent:

Edubina Arce, Pratik Dash, Dr. Amy Charlton

Staff in attendance:

ED Davie Tucker, Ashley Bachelder, Cathy Carrillo, Crystal Cockrill, Mark Eatherly

Attorneys in attendance:

Matthew Garth, Mel Fowler-Green

**2. CONFIRM QUORUM**

Quorum was confirmed.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Molly Sakuras – Metro Arts Title (Time ceded to Tim Wise)

Michelle Flynn – Metro Arts (Time ceded to Tim Wise)

Tim Wise – Metro Arts

Alana Anderson – Metro Arts (Time ceded to Lydia Yusef)

Christine Hall – Metro Arts (Time ceded to Lydia Yusef)

Lydia Yusef – Metro Arts

Commissioner Tran made a motion to extend the public comments period for 10 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kywake. The motion passed.

Princella Smith – Metro Arts

Robert Jones – Metro Arts (Time ceded to Tim Wise)

Matt Shaw – Metro Arts

Craig Bardeaux – Metro Arts  
Jamil Campbell-Gooch – Metro Arts

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Teague. They were approved; no edits needed.

**5. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The financial report was reviewed. There were no changes in the budget.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- Presentation of Metro Arts complaint report findings
  - Ashley Bachelder, MHRC Director of Research presented the report citing attempts for conciliation, testimonials from Arts Commissioners, complainants and others, recommendations to the Commission and other data relevant to the complaint.
  - Independent legal counsel for the MHRC, Attorney Mel Fowler-Green presented a legal memorandum addressing questions and her legal opinion concerning Title VI violations and instances where Metro Legal could be found liable.
  - Executive Director Tucker asked the Commission to move to hold a public hearing as a result of the findings of the report. He presented the following requests to obtain “fair and just” resolutions of the complaint as well:
    1. Schedule a public hearing
    2. Ensure that the complainants are awarded the initial grant amounts voted on in July of 2023
    3. The Metro Council approve a funding model established by the Metro Arts Commission used to ensure that future funds are distributed equitably.
    4. Metro Legal produce a procedure guide to distribute to all Metro Boards and Commissions detailing the roles and authority that Metro Legal occupies in the operation of the city and Boards and Commissions with emphasis placed on potential conflicts and resolutions that arise between Metro Legal and the Boards and Commissions.
  - A motion to hold a public hearing for the Metro Arts Title VI complaint was made by Commissioner Kwakye and seconded by Commissioner Teague.

Roll call vote:  
Buggs – Aye  
Kwakye – Aye  
Teague – Aye  
Venick - Aye  
Traughber - Aye  
Abolfazli - Aye  
Tran - Aye  
Galban - Aye  
Wynn - Aye  
Burton - Aye  
Stringer-Holmes - Aye  
Safdie - Aye  
Kosar – Aye

The motion passed.

- Executive Tucker requested a moment of privilege where he made the Commission aware of a notification he received from Metro Human Resources stating that he was the subject of an investigation against 3 Metro Arts employees.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9. **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Venick and seconded by Commissioner Kosar. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

The meeting recording can be accessed [here](#).

**Appeal of Decisions from the Metro Human Relations Commission**

If you are not satisfied with a decision of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, you may appeal the decision by petitioning for a writ of certiorari with the Davidson County Chancery or Circuit Court. Your appeal must be filed within 60 days of the date of the entry of the Human Relations Commission's decision. We advise that you seek your own independent legal advice to ensure that your appeal is filed in a timely manner and that all procedural requirements have been met.



If any accommodations are needed for individuals with disabilities who wish to be present at the meeting, please contact MHRC at 615-880-3370 or [MHRC@nashville.gov](mailto:MHRC@nashville.gov). Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for the entity to provide such needed aid or service.