



One City for All People

## **Metro Human Relations Commission**

### **Full Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 7, 2018, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Lentz Public Health Center**

**2500 Charlotte Ave, 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.*

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Board Chair, Phyllis Hildreth  
The meeting was called to order at 4:08p.  
  
**Commissioners in Attendance:** *Samar Ali, Jeremy Davis, Dave Garrison, Jeff Gibson, Lethia Mann, Marcel Gomez, Phyllis Hildreth, Avi Poster, Marisa Richmond, Janice Rodriguez*  
  
**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** *Aisha Lbhalla, Oscar Miller, Erin Pryor*  
  
**Others in Attendance:** *Mel Fowler-Green, Barbara R. Gunn Lartey, Sarah Imran, Vanessa Lazón, Quan Poole*
- II. **CONFIRM QUOROM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)  
A quorum was achieved at meeting's inception.
- III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Comm. Richmond moved to approve the minutes. Comm. Davis seconded. Minutes were unanimously accepted and adopted.
- IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green  
E.D. Fowler-Green reported that the budget is on track. She expects to be in a position to honor the Finance Department's request for "cost savings."
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - Nominating Committee: MHRC Board Vice Chair Avi Poster  
-- Vice-Chair Poster reported that the Nominating Committee has met and approved a list of nominees for the Executive Board. He anticipates announcing the nominations before the June meeting and holding elections at the June or July meeting.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**  
There was no new business to report.

VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green

- **Budget Hearing:** Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:45p, Council Chambers. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- **Commissioner Reappointments/Appointments:** May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - **Reappointments:** Samar Ali, Marcela Gomez, Erin Pryor,\* Oscar Miller, Janice Rodriguez
  - **Appointments:** Kobie Pretorius, Linda Robinson, Rev. Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick
  - \* Erin Pryor's reappointment is complicated by her schedule; we are working through it.
- Update to **IncluCivics** Reports: Summer interns will assist
- **Language Access:** Looking at incorporating best practices. LEP and hard-of-hearing communities, including their reporters and media, are forced to receive news, i.e., Waffle House shooting or severe weather reports, from English-language sources.
- **MNHD:** Collaborating to create diversity and equity trainings to address implicit bias and systemic inequities. Specifically seeking to build an equity lens to address these issues.
- **Meharry:** Exploring options to create **Neighborhood Indicator Project**. They are also interested in analyzing the underlying factors that contributed to high incarceration rates in some Nashville neighborhoods. This initiative is inspired by a report by Brookings' Institute that concluded that incarceration rates in 37208 are highest in the country. There is slim discussion regarding causation.
- **Meeting with Mayor David Briley:** E.D. Fowler-Green and CBC Hildreth met with the Mayor. Meeting went well. Primarily discussed Commissioner reappointments/appointments; Language Access; and breach of trust re policing and law enforcement.
- **Ashford Hughes' Mayoral Appointment as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer.** Commissioners hope to establish a partnership to address MHRC's priorities. CBC Hildreth suggested inviting him to address MHRC.
- **Meet Your Commissioners Series:** Sarah Imran's idea about introducing Commissioners to the community. Photos and bios to be placed on website. CBC Hildreth asked Commissioner Ali to be the first.
- **Complaint:** Employee at restaurant endured anti-Semitic comments. Brought to management's attention and lost job. E.D. Fowler-Green filed joint complaint with the ADL (Anti-Defamation League). The employer issued acknowledgment of the event and an apology.
- MHRC will host a **Census Data Workshop Series** -- trainings for utilizing census data. Attendance and Eventbrite information can be found here:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/metro-nashville-census-data-workshop-series-tickets-45698411178>

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

IX. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Comm. Richmond: **Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2:00p, Legislative Plaza**, Poor People's Campaign
- Comm. Richmond: Supported employee/TSU student at local restaurant who was discriminated against by sitting at her station and leaving a sizeable tip
- Comm. Rodriguez: TFLI now incorporated into state. Can now amplify services through state.
- Comm. Poster: Tomorrow, **Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1:00p, Legislative Plaza**, gathering of clergy to address immigration.

X. **ADJOURN**

This meeting was adjourned at 5:40p.

**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 in order for the entity to provide such needed aid or service.