



One City for All People

## Metro Human Relations Commission

### Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, August 15, 2018, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**

**Offices of the Metro Human Relations Commission**

**404 James Robertson Parkway, First Floor**

*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 Chair, Janice Rodriguez

Meeting called to order at 2:06.

**Executive Board Commissioners In Attendance:** *Janice Rodriguez, Phyllis Hildreth, Marisa Richmond, Oscar Miller*

**Other Commissioners In Attendance:** *Rev. Davie Tucker*

**Others in Attendance:** *Mel Fowler-Green*

#### II. NEW BUSINESS

- Committee reviewed timeline and past recommendations by the Commission related to Title VI and policing and recommendations from the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice
  - Title VI concern raised and recommendation made nearly 2 years ago; not acted on
    - [Title VI... says that agencies that receive federal financial assistance cannot discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin in the provision of services]
  - After community members protested in council chambers, and expressed frustration over what they saw as a lack of opportunity to bring their concerns to Metro government, Vice-Mayor Briley asked the commission to explore options for greater community engagement on these issues
  - Commission asked for guidance from the Community Relations Service of the Dep of Justice; we got recommendations
  - Then-Mayor Barry suggested her office and the MNPd were working with the Policing Project. It is still unclear when that engagement started (no procurement process and the Commission was not involved in the discussions)

- The timing of this suggestion and the lack of transparency around the engagement has understandably made some advocates for police reform distrustful of the project.
- The Exec Board of the Commission believes that a civilian oversight board and the kind of analysis we understand the Policing Project to do can work in harmony – one does not preclude the other.
- The Exec Board generally supports the kind of comprehensive review that Mayor Briley is leading.
- However the Exec Board has remaining concerns and will be closely monitoring the progress. The concerns are:
  - Need to know more about the Policing Project’s approach and goals. Current understanding is that the kind of review that the Policing Project is proposing is a cost-benefit analysis coupled with community engagement, seeking to increase public participation in policy-making. The Commission wants to ensure that any analysis they do clearly addresses the Title VI concerns the Commission raised nearly two years ago.
  - Want to ensure that the Policing Project builds a team that appropriately understands and represents the issues in Nashville, and includes scholarship from HBCUs. Also want to make sure their work is transparent and includes robust and meaningful community guidance.
  - Whether the kind of public involvement in policy-making apparently contemplated by the Policing Project can be implemented with the current leadership. Recent experience suggests that this will be a significant challenge.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (none).

IV. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

**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.