



One City for All People

## **Metro Human Relations Commission**

### **Full Commission Meeting Agenda**

**Monday, November 6, 2017, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Downtown Library—Special Collections Center—Second Floor**

**615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219**

*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.*

**Commissioner Attendees:** Jeremy Davis, Dave Garrison, Marcela Gómez, Phyllis Hildreth, William Leavitt, Lethia Mann, Oscar Miller, Abdishakur Mohamed, Avi Poster, Erin Pryor, Marisa Richmond, Janice Rodriguez, Peter Woolfolk

**Commissioner Absentees:** Samar Ali, Jeff Gibson, Aisha Lbhalla

**Others:** Mel Fowler-Green (Ex. Dir., MHRC), Carly Elliott (Metro Legal)

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Board Chair, Phyllis Hildreth
  - II. **CONFIRM QUOROM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)
  - III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  

The Minutes reviewed and unanimously approved.
  - IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green  

E.D. Fowler-Green reviewed the Financial Report. She noted that there were not any significant changes or purchases out of the ordinary, and the account was well under budget due to being short-staffed.
  - V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
    - **Executive Committee:**
      - Discussed change in scheduling for this month's full commission meeting requested by District Attorney Glenn Funk. Educational meeting to learn about the purpose and use of money bail will be moved to December 4.
      - Requested ED Fowler-Green draft a form letter to be sent to all officials requested to participate in educational meetings, to ensure that they are aware of the goals of the meeting and fully informed about the Commission in general.
      - Discussed topics for upcoming educational meetings. Recommended Homelessness

and/or Housing for January and the budget process for February or March.

- **Due Process Committee**

- Reviewed information learned during the October 29 public meeting held by NOAH, particularly as it relates to issues the Commission has been monitoring: policing, affordable housing, and transit.
- Given the timing and the creation of the Transit and Affordability Task Force by the Mayor's Office, the committee recommended that the Commission not have a separate meeting or hearing regarding constituent concerns related to fair and affordable housing and displacement related to transit. The majority of the Commission agreed, but nonetheless expressed great concern and asked that the office and ED continue to monitor the situation. After much discussion, the Commission declined to create a working group to address concerns about the transit plan.
- Reported that ED Fowler-Green and Chair Hildreth will be meeting with Lonnell Matthews and Ashford Hughes to follow up on the Commission Title VI concern letter sent last November related to racial disparities in policing (following from the report issued by Gideon's Army), and to discuss how best keep communication between the Commission and the Mayor's Office clear and productive now that the Mayor's Office no longer employs a Chief Diversity Officer.

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

- Hiring Research and Policy Specialist: The office was humbled by the number of quality applications we received. There were in total 124 applicants, 87 of whom were qualified, and 22 who were highly qualified. 6 PhDs, 7 lawyers, several well-known local activists. Conducted 22 phone interviews, 9 in person interviews. An offer was made and accepted – first day next week. An announcement will be made once the onboarding documentation is completed.
- Report out on the 2017 Our Muslim Neighbor Conference, co-sponsored with the Faith and Culture Center, Humanities Tennessee, and others.
- Report out on the nearly full day in-service workshop CLE for the District Attorney's Office, Friday Oct 27. Conducted by ED Fowler-Green and Chair Hildreth. Covered: Implicit bias and Heuristics; Navigating Cultural Differences (including those shaped by systemic and structural inequalities); and Tools for Conflict Management. The training was well received.
- Report out on Celebrate Nashville (both World Music Night and the Festival). ED Fowler-Green announced that Celebrate Nashville was selected for an award from the Atlantic Institute (nonprofit based in Atlanta Georgia, with branches throughout the Southeast, including here in Nashville).
- Coming up:

- Bridges Town Hall (this Wednesday)
  - Human Rights Day Celebration (Dec 7)
  - Mobile Diversity Seminar with Police Academy (Dec 13)
- Review of suggestions from the Commission Board Retreat last year regarding ways in which Commissioners can stay involved and be engaged.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Several announcements from Commissioners about events and efforts of possible interest to other Commissioners.

**VIII. ADJOURN**

- Unanimous agreement to adjourn at 5:28pm.

**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.