



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 1, 4:00 PM, 2021

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.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Davie Tucker, MHRC First Vice-Chair

This meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: *Pratik Dash, Jeremy Davis, Lethia Mann, Oscar Miller, Kobie Pretorius, Erin Pryor, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Janice Rodriguez, Ben Tran, Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick, Chuck Yezbak*

Commissioners Not in Attendance: *Maryam Abolfazli, Samar Ali, Paula Martinez, Issa Y. Mohamed*

Others in Attendance: *Barbara R. Gunn Lartey (Metro Human Relations Commission); Mary Falls (Mayor's Office); Mel-Fowler-Green (Metro Human Relations Commission); Odessa Kelly (Stand Up! Nashville), Ethan Link (Central Labor Council); Dontrai Buchanan (Metro ITS), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal).*

II. CONFIRM QUOROM (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)

A quorum was achieved at the beginning of the meeting.

III. APPROVAL TO CONDUCT MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS (motion)

Comm. Venick moved that the items on the Meeting Agenda constitute essential business of this board. Meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak and any Rule that conflicts with the Governor's Executive Order permitting electronic meetings be suspended.

Comm. Dash seconded the motion to approve conducting the meeting by electronic means in compliance of the Governor's Executive Order. **Mel Fowler-Green** conducted a roll call vote to approve the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

In the interest of accommodating the time of our guests, Executive Director Mel Fowler-Green suggested that we skip to New Business to discuss the affordable housing crisis in Nashville.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. Venick offered revisions to the Minutes regarding the February 11, 2021, event – *Fighting White Supremacy: From Charlottesville to Capitol Hill*. With this revision **Commissioner Dash** moved to approve the Minutes as amended; **Commissioner Yezbak** seconded. **Mel Fowler-Green** conducted a roll-call vote by which the Minutes were reviewed and approved.

V. FINANCIAL UPDATE

- **Savings**
 - **E.D. Fowler**-reported that we are within budget.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- **Guest Presentation:** Recommendation from Stand Up! Nahville, Central Labor Council, and Nashville Building Trades Unions relate to Metro Procurement policies, worker justicen and policy. The presentation focused on how Nashville’s policies as a purchaser of construction services shapes the overall market, with significant consequences for worker safety, justice, and poverty.
 - Note: 10 minute presentation; 15 minutequestion period
 - Guest Presenters:** **Odessa Kelly** – Stand Up! Nashville
Ethan Link – Central Labor Council
 - The guest presenters discussed the safety inequities of Metro construction and subcontractors, particularly on-site injuries and fatalities.
 - They emphasized the need for transparency regarding risk-assessments for hazardous conditions, wage theft, and basic standards for Metro contractors – *e.g.*, composition of the Metro Procurement Board and safety protocols for youth workers, subcontractors, and temporary agencies. See more
 - The guest presenters fielded questions and concerns posed by Commissioners.
 - The presentation, which enumerates these issues in greater depth, are attached.
- Lessons from the Fines and Fees Report by Center for Justice and Safety Finances
 - **Comm. Tucker** reviewed and discussed the insufficiency of the findings. **E.D. Fowler-Green** will follow – up with **Comm. Tucker** to connect him with Former Public Defender Dawn Deaner and others to address these matters.

VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT: E.D. Mel Fowler-Green

- **E.D. Fowler-Green** offered an abbreviated version of her Director’s Report, noting:
 - Just Conversation – Dr. Ibram X. Kendi has shared this project on his social media
 - As a result of the Metro hiring freeze, there is no approval to hire Director of Policy and Research; may contract
 - The Mobile Diversity Seminar was conducted for 57 cadets at the MNPD Training Academy on January 27, 2021.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Comm. Venick** announced that on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. the Jewish

Community Relations Committee of the Nashville Jewish Federation and the Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable will sponsor a program titled *Fighting White Supremacy: from Charlottesville to the Capitol* featuring the Executive Director of Integrity for America which is supporting a legal challenge to the white supremacy and Nazi hate groups that, that spewed hate speech, killed a social justice protestor, and attacked in Charlottesville, VA.

- **Comm. Rodriguez** suggests and issues brief regarding license plate reader policy.

IX. **ADJOURN**

Comm. Dash motioned to adjourn. **Comm. Venick** seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42p.

A recording of this meeting link can be found here: <https://youtu.be/MKU0HnKUYO8>

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.

NEXT MEETING: March 1, 2021