



One City for All People

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 29, 2021, 3:00-4:00pm

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:** MHRC Chair, Davie Tucker, presided.

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: *Maryam Abolfazli, Pratik Dash, Marisa Richmond, Dr. Ben Tran, Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick.*

Others in Attendance: *Mel-Fowler-Green, Liz Orozco*

E.D. Fowler-Green welcomed the Executive Committee members and announced the agenda item.

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

A quorum was achieved.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion about recommendations for full board related to complaint filed by NAACP Nashville Branch

- Comm. Tucker raised the topic of public safety and the commission's previously discussed idea of having a series of hearings regarding public safety and the needs of the community. Affordable housing and evictions were raised as important parts of the topic of public safety.
- The Executive Committee discussed a lack of action from the Mayor's Office on the topic of evictions and how there is a state law preempting rent controls.

- The Executive Committee discussed the COVID-19 outbreak at the Rescue Mission and the relocating of individuals to the former jail run by the Davidson County Sheriff's Office.
 - o E.D. Fowler-Green is going to obtain clearer details about the situation for the commission.
- Comm. Richmond raised the question of what the commission's goals were in response to the three-pronged letter from the NAACP. The letter addressed the Metro Nashville Police Department, the District Attorney's office, and the city's budget.
- The Executive Committee discussed collaborating with the Community Oversight Board and the former Homelessness Commission (under the department of Social Services) to address public safety and housing issues.
- The Executive Committee discussed the forthcoming American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and how there hasn't been a plan released by the city for those funds.
- Comm. Venick raised the previously passed MHRC resolution, "Equity as a Metric in City Performance Management System." Applying this resolution to new issues and the funding from the city to the respective issues.
 - o The Executive Committee discussed hosting community events or hearings with this equity lens context and building upon the strengths and messages of the community and community leaders. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of having an event within a month. This series of events would address evictions and the impact on workforce housing as well.
 - o The Executive Committee also discussed applying the equity lens to the issue of homelessness and the dehumanization of individuals experiencing homelessness. There has been a problem with Council Members stating that individuals experiencing homelessness are "not their constituents." There is a need to apply ARP funds not only to those who are below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) but also those households who fall between 80-120% of the AMI. Homelessness is a public safety and a public health issue. There is a need to keep people in their homes and preserve workforce housing. This issue also disproportionately impacts black and brown communities.
 - o Comm. Dash raised the idea of creating a video series with our message and creating our own media with the help of community leaders. The Executive Committee discussed having the planned events in the short term and creating videos and an MHRC report as a more long term project.
- The Executive Committee raised the potential of using subpoena power though it might not be needed for the purpose of these events.
- The Executive Committee discussed the logistics of hosting monthly events and issuing a report as well.

- Discussed having a series of four events that focus an equity lens on evictions, housing, policing, and the city budget. There would be four events, one per month at the beginning of each month starting with September and ending in early December. Each month would be named, “Public Safety: __[topic]__”
 - Comm. Richmond raised the concern of addressing the NAACP’s concerns about the District Attorney’s Office before an upcoming election. The Executive Committee agrees to consult with Metro Legal about their options and perhaps facilitate a conversation between the D.A. and the NAACP.
- Having social distanced events, need to be in a Metro building. Would also want the event to be recorded and streamed through MNN with the option for people to call in and participate.
- The Commission would invite community leaders to present on each topic, what the needs are from the community, and how the city’s budget could help to address these needs. The Mayor’s Office and Council Members would be invited to listen and to respond to questions.
- MHRC would also issue a report with these points and a budget analysis.
- Comm. Venick and Comm. Dash volunteered to help lead the event planning and creating a final model with which to address each issue but also welcome additional members from the full Commission to join them. Ms. Orozco also raised having the MHRC interns help with the planning of the events as they are involved in evictions and equity lens research now.
- Executive Committee unanimously voted to recommend this plan for a series of events to the rest of the Commission at the full meeting on Monday, August 2, 2021.
- Public Comment from Julie T.
 - Works with Red Door Collective as well as Worker’s Dignity
 - Is going to help connect MHRC with community leaders from these organizations that would be interested in speaking at the Commission’s events.
 - Recommended MHRC reach out to the Neon Guard for the event around public safety and MNPD.

IV. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 4:35p.