



One City for All People

## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

### Monday, July 12, 2021, 4:00-5:30pm

*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.*

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER: MHRC Chair Marisa Richmond's presided over the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** *Maryam Abolfazli, Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Pratik Dash, Issa Y. Mohamed, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Ariel Safdie, Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick, Joshua Wood, Chuck Yezbak*

**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** *Lethia Mann, Paula Martinez, Nancy Youssef, Dr. Ben Tran*

**Others in Attendance:** *Barbara Gunn-Lartey, Mel-Fowler-Green, Liz Orozco, Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)*

E.D. Fowler-Green welcomed the new MHRC interns, Rachel Novak, and Gracie Rule. Liz Orozco will supervise their work.

#### 2. CONFIRM QUORUM (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)

A quorum was achieved at the meeting's inception. *Lethia Mann* **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of April 2021, Minutes: Motion to approve by **Comm. Tucker**, second by **Comm. Robinson**. **Comm. Burton** and **Comm. Safdie** offered corrections. Motion to approve and publish the Minutes was passed with corrections.

#### 3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

E.D. Fowler-Green noted that the MHRC financial statement is not available because Metro is at the end of the fiscal year 2021.

She noted that a new laptop was purchased for the internship and a co-sponsorship with community partners to address anti-eviction initiatives.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- **Open Range payroll adjustment for Executive Director**

**Comm. Yezbak** motioned for full 4% income increase for **E.D. Mel-Fowler-Green**. **Comm. Dash** seconded. The full Board approved.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- **Executive Board Elections**

**Chuck Yezbak** facilitated the Executive Board Nominating Committee in the absence of Lethia Mann.

- **Davie Tucker:** Nominated by to be Board Chair of the Executive Board. **Comm. Yezbak** motioned for him to be nominated. **Comm. Venick** seconded.  
> ***Davie Tucker** was nominated the Board Chair by the Full MHRC Board to the Executive Board.*

- **Maryam Abolfazli:** Nominated to be First Vice Chair of the Executive Board. **Comm. Yezbak** motioned for her to be nominated First Chair. **Comm. Venick** seconded.  
> ***Maryam Abolfazli** was nominated First Vice Chair by the Full MHRC Board to the Executive Board.*

- **Pratik Dash:** Nominated to be Second Vice Chair. **Comm. Yezbak** motioned for him to be nominated Second Chair. **Comm. Venick** seconded.  
> ***Pratik Dash** was nominated Second Vice Chair by the Full MHRC Board to the Executive Board.*

- **Irwin Venick:** Nominated to be Secretary. **Comm. Yezbak** motioned for him to be nominated Secretary. **Comm. Dash** seconded.  
> ***Irwin Venick** was nominated Secretary by the Full MHRC Board to the Executive Board.*

- **Ben Tran:** Nominated to be Treasurer. **Comm. Yezbak** motioned for him to be nominated Treasurer. **Comm. Venick** seconded.  
> ***Ben Tran** was nominated Treasurer by the Full MHRC Board to the Executive Board. Because of a prior commitment, **Comm. Tran** was voted Treasurer in abstention.*

- **Comm. Yezbak** noted that **Comm. Richmond** will remain an ex-officio voting member of the Executive Committee.

- **Community Impact of Delke plea deal and other public safety concerns**

- The Commissioners discussed the letter from NAACP in response to the plea.

- **Comm. Robinson** moved for the newly elected Executive Board to address equity issues regarding law enforcement and public safety. **Comm. Yezbak** seconded. The Full MHRC adopted this measure.

- **E.D. Fowler Green** referenced the meeting she and **Barbara Gunn Lartey** had with Chief Drake regarding his vision for MNPd generally, and MDS specifically

- **Policy Academy Mobile Diversity Seminar**
  - **Barbara Gunn Lartey** provided an update on MDS, announcing the next training will be Thursday, July 15, 2021, in person, at the Police Training Academy.
  - Noting that Chief John Drake will be addressing the cadets, Barbara will send the final schedule to the Commissioners.

## 6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **PATHE:** MHRC will collaborate this organization to address eviction-related issues including Eviction Court Watch, Neighborhood Canvassing Education, rent relief, and detainer warrants
- **MAC:** MHRC will collaborate with Metro Action Commission to address rent relief. Among several remedies, MAC and MHRC will assist residents, including those with no social security numbers, with 12 months back relief and an additional three months in the future.
- **Inclusive Health Benefits Package: E.D. Fowler-Green** announced that there will be a policy recommendation advocating for inclusive health benefits for transgender Metro employees.

## 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Comm. Richmond** expressed her honor to serve the MHRC as the Board Chair. Several Commissioners, including **Comm. Tucker**, noted his appreciation to serve with her.
- **Comm. Dash** announced an initiative called Food Truck Friday sponsored by Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC). Additional information will be available on their website.

## 8. ADJOURN

**Comm. Tucker** moved to adjourn. **Comm Robinson** seconded. This meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.

## MHRC Priorities

Racial/Social Inequity

Affordable and Fair Housing

Law Enforcement/Policing

Title VI

### 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.

- Metro Nashville Network Link from July 12, 2021 meeting:  
[https://youtu.be/eUiEFM\\_-So0](https://youtu.be/eUiEFM_-So0)