



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 7 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.

I. CALL TO ORDER: MHRC Chair, Dr. Marisa Richmond

This meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

Commissioners Not in Attendance: Samar Ali, Paula Martinez

Others in Attendance: Keenya Gilchrist (Metro ITS), Mel-Fowler-Green (Metro Human Relations Commission), Barbara Gunn Lartey (Metro Human Relations Commission), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal). Guests: Emma Crownover and Matthew Tolbert from Safer Schools Nashville.

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

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.

Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Comm. Tran introduced as new Commissioner.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve made by Comm. Pryor, with one typo correction. Seconded by Comm. Dash.

Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

V. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dir. Fowler-Green reported that agency is on budget as anticipated and will likely be able to secure some savings as requested by finance. Mid- year budget meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Guest Presentation – Safer Schools Initiative

Guests Emma Crownover and Matt Tolbert presented the goals of the Safer Schools Initiative. The full Commission participated in a robust conversation.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- Just Conversations – Community Book Reading

Barbara Gunn Lartey gave an update on the project. Filming of the panel discussions done this week, with a full launch on MLK Day.

- FIFA 2026 Human Rights Report Letter of Support

Dir. Fowler-Green updated Commission on the human rights report being prepared for the city's application to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup Games in 2026. The letter of support drafted by Dir. Fowler-Green received consensus approval.

- Consumer Financial Protection Initiative – Grant Funded Fellowship

Dir. Fowler-Green reported that she and Metro Legal are currently working on the contract terms to extend the grant and seek approval from Metro Council. No other update at this time.

- Year end open conversation and planning

Comm. Venick expressed his support for pressing the policy adoption of an “Equity Lens” in the Performance Management system (through the Mayor’s Office) and in budgeting. Other commissioners also expressed support. Dir. Fowler-Green agreed to extend an invitation to Council to attend a workshop or other effort to educate on the use of an Equity Lens. Other recommendation: providing a set of metrics that the commission recommends including.

Comm. Tucker updated the board on the cash bail lawsuit challenging the application of Rule 10(b). That rule hindered the Community Bail Fund. There is an agreement and a consent decree will issue soon. This also has implications for individuals who post cash bail and in other jurisdictions. Comm. Tucker also requested that the board discuss the fines and fees report and any advocacy that can be drawn from it.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dir. Fowler-Green reminded the commission about the Human Rights Day Celebration taking place on December 10, 2020.

Comm. Rodriguez pointed out the housing funding provided by Amazon.

Comm. Venick applauded Comm. Ali and her project Millions of Conversations. He also recommended the community effort – Braver Angels.

IX. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

A recording of the proceedings are posted at: <https://www.nashville.gov/Government/Boards-and-Committees/Committee-Information/ID/20/Human-Relations-Commission.aspx>

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.