



**Full Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 9, 2017, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**  
**Metro Office Building, 800 Second Avenue South**  
**2nd Floor, Davidson Room**

*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:** Samar Ali, Jeremy Davis, Jeff Gibson, Phyllis Hildreth, Aisha Lbhalla, Lethia Mann, Oscar Miller, Abdishakur Mohamed, Avi Poster, Erin Pryor, Marisa Richmond, Frank Trew, Peter Woolfolk

**Commissioner Absentees:** Marcela Gomez, Ellen Register, Janice Rodriguez

**Others:** Mel Fowler-Green (Ex. Dir., MHRC), Barbara R. Gunn Lartey (Dir. of Community Engagement, MHRC), Josh Lee (Metro Legal), Samantha Perez (Dir. of Policy and Research)

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Board Chair, Frank Trew  
Commissioner Board Chair Trew (“CBC Trew”) called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. He welcomed Vanessa Lazón, from the Office of the Mayor, who appeared on behalf of Chief Diversity Officer Michelle Hernandez.  
  
CBC Trew is looking into alternative meeting spaces. Executive Director Fowler-Green (E.D. Fowler-Green) will research.
  - II. **CONFIRM QUOROM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)  
Quorum was met.
  - III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Comm. Poster motioned to update the minutes. Comm. Miller seconded. Comm. Richmond requested that December Meeting minutes be revised. Motion passed to approve minutes with the caveat to revise.
  - IV. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green  
Budget Season has started. She and Director of Operations Mark Eatherly are being trained on new budget software. E.D. Fowler-Green said she’s requesting a new full time position—an administrative position that will work with all of the staff, manage staff complaints and responses thereto, and take over other administrative reporting functions – tasks that currently fall primarily on Director of Community Engagement Barbara Gunn Lartey. E. D. Fowler-Green will keep the Board apprised of the budget process. She said that it is important for Commissioners to attend the Mayor’s budget hearing to support.
    - Update on Current Projects/Programs/Upcoming Events
      - IncluCivics:
        - Chamber Report Card – IncluCivics MNPS cited in both the report and at the event releasing the report
      - Language Access Study and Report
        - Solid draft getting the final touches;
        - We will share it with some staff in the Mayor’s Office and work on crafting recommendations

- No response yet from the Mayor or Chief Anderson regarding the Executive Board's Title VI recommendation
  - Given the holidays, E.D. Fowler-Green suggests we do another push; she has sent another email re-engaging
  - E.D. Fowler-Green recommends that the Exec Board meet before next month to discuss, in the event that we don't
- Coalition re hate incident data collection and response
  - E.D. Fowler-Green continues to convene the coalition
  - Tentatively called "Respect Nashville"
  - Steering committee: TIIRC, ACLU, TEP, NAACP, AMAC, Jewish Federation, TN Disability Coalition. Others at the table now are NOAH, MNPD, and the Mayor's office.
  - As soon as we have the logistics for the data collection and website in place, we will get others joined in the coalition and launch it.  
Comm. Poster asked if we'll be working with Councilman Bob Mendez. E.D. Fowler-Green said yes. Comm. Hildreth inquired if we've considered partnering with an academic institution? E.D. Fowler-Green responded that Vanderbilt has expressed an interest.
- E.D. Fowler-Green discussed some of the community partners with whom we collaborate on an ongoing basis, including:
  - A VOICE
  - Campaign to End the New Jim Crow – Money Bail
  - Committee to review final report for the 21st Century Policing Task Force and to make recommendations to the Mayor's Office – currently organized by Nashville Unites
  - Advisory Board for the American Constitution Society
  - Advisory Council for FCC
  - Tennessee Fair Housing Council
    - TFHC asked and E.D. Fowler-Green accepted a position on the Board
    - Fred Cloud, her very esteemed predecessor, chaired the council for over 10 years
    - The rest of the Board was very happy to have the MHRC back at the table
  - Alignment Nashville -- Samantha Perez, Director of Policy and Research, gave a report. She said they are very intentional about including MNPS.
- Recent Events
  - World AIDS Day Commemoration—Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Human Rights Day—Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Well done. E.D. Fowler-Green—would like more attendance.
  - Mobile Diversity Seminar—Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Well done. Another scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Comm. Hildreth recommends Ava DuVernay's film 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - MLK Day—January 14<sup>th</sup> (youth events) 16<sup>th</sup> (march/program): Logistical and financial support.

## V. FINANCIAL REPORT

E.D. Fowler-Green reports that we're right on track. There were no questions. Now that we have on single business unit the financial report is much simpler.

## VI. COMMITTEES

- By-Laws  
Comm. Gibson reviewed recommendations to revise bylaws regarding gender identity and gender equity. Comm. Hildreth moved to accept bylaws as amended. Comm. Richmond seconded. Motion carried. Comm. Gibson requested that Barbara Gunn Lartey I accept changes and send "black lined copy" to Metro Clerk, re Josh Lee.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Sam Perez: Policy Discussion re REAL Dialogue Follow-Up  
Sam reviewed data process and analysis. Comm. Hildreth made a commitment to ensuring data accessibility and transparency. E.D. Fowler-Green asked Comm. Hildreth about intermediary action. Comm. Hildreth said that we should go back to the design because it's important for citizens to know they've been heard. She added there needs to be at stable URL. E.D. Fowler-Green requested clarification on who should be on task. Comm. Hildreth noted that she is in communication with Lonnell Matthews, Debbie Dale Mason, and Robyn Mace. Comm. Hildreth will facilitate this on behalf of MHRC.

VIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

Sam Perez will present MHRC Board Retreat at the February next meeting.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

X.

XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS :**

Comm. Pryor announced that she will email information about a candle light vigil and the International Black Film Festival—Service To The Man. Dr. Marla Frederick (Harvard) will be participating and Dr. Williamson will keynote.

Comm. Woolfolk has been elected Chairman Better Business Bureau –Middle TN. Everyone congratulated him.

Comm. Poster said that Plaza Mariachi, on Nolensville Road, is phenomenal and set to open in one month.

XII. **ADJOURN**

Comm. Richmond moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Comm. Davis seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

**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.