



Full Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 6, 2017, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Metro Office Building, 800 Second Avenue South
2nd Floor, Nashville 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, Avi Poster, Ellen Register, Marisa Richmond, Janice Rodriguez, Frank Trew, Peter Woolfolk

Commissioner Absentees: Dave Garrison, Marcela Gomez, Abdishakur Mohamed, Erin Pryor

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), Michelle Hernandez-Lane; Councilman Mendes.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 4:35p by Commission Board Chair Frank Trew (“CBC Trew”). Because the building closes at 4:00p, doors were automatically locked. Several Commissioners deterred by locked doors. CDC Trew said will make arrangements for future meetings if they are scheduled after 4:00p.

- II. CONFIRM QUORUM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)
Though not met at the meeting’s initiation, quorum was eventually achieved. CBC Trew sent his regrets for not being in attendance. Quorum was met.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Comm. Hildreth moved to approved minutes. Comm. Davis seconded. Motion passed to approve minutes with the caveat to revise.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green

- Budget Hearing scheduled for March 13th at 11:00am. Invited Commissioners to attend. Requesting Professional Specialist to provide compliance, administrative and Board support. Wants Barbara Gunn Lartey to take lead on training and more community engagement opportunities.
- Chief Diversity Officer Michelle Hernandez-Lane provided MHRC’s insights to Kaleidoscope Group—consultants hired to help design Metro’s diversity plan
- Body cameras will be included in Mayor’s budget. Productive conversations on YouTube. MHRC has been asked to provide advisory perspective, e.g., privacy issues and safety re roles cameras can play in open Will research Chattanooga as a model. Asked Commissioners to share concerns if they have any.

- Language Access: Very positive feedback from Metro Departments
- Respect Nashville: CBC Trew asked about data. E.D. Fowler Green said 30 reports—but that was two and half weeks ago. Still need to record reports from Steering Committee.

Events & Trainings

- **MNPD Post---Event Analysis.** Said two days would be ideal—more substantive. Considering mechanism to follow up with fist cadet class o measure their experience.

Comm. Ali asked if we initiated this training. E.D. Fowler-Green said no, the Academy. Comm. Ali offered that during this period of rebranding and transition, it may be helpful for people outside activist community may be enlightened by this type of training. Comm. Ali also asked about recruitment. Comm. Woolfolk said there have been conversations with Chief Anderson. Comm. Richmond noted that recruitment efforts are a little different from communities we're reaching out to. Comm. Ali said we need to document and expose the evidence-based work we're doing.

Discussion ensued about direction of MNPD Mobile Diversity Seminar.

- **Education Equality Summit:** IncluCivics: MNPL still being used. Comm. Ali asked about our relationship with the chamber. Referenced other cities, such as San Francisco, North Carolina and Denver—asked if we should focus on strengthening relationship with our Chamber. Doing so could broaden our sphere of Influence. Comm. Register said we could benefit by initiating a conversation to discover if there are things of mutual interest to bring things full circle.

Significant discussion ensued. Comm. Hildreth asked if we should consider a subcommittee structure to explore these ideas. CBC Trew asked what the committee would be called. Comm. Gibson suggested Business Outreach Committee. CBC Trew asked Comm. Ali if she'd like to chair. Comm. Ali said, yes. Commissioners Mann, Register and Richmond offered to be members. Comm. made a motion to create Business Outreach Subcommittee. Comm. Ali seconded. CBC Trew asked if all were in favor, if there were any objections. Motion carried.

- **Cultural Competency Training:** Offered to Metro Social Services, and has invited us to return.
- **International Women's Day Event:** Wednesday, March 8th, biggest one in Nashville, driven by art community, bridging arts and politics. E.D. Fowler-Green will be facilitating panel discussion which includes Comm. Lbhalla and former Comm. Segovia-Paz.
- **Fair Housing Conference:** April 19th, MHRC co-sponsor
- **Fair Housing Conferencing, MHRC co-sponsor:** April 19th
- **Standing Against Racism:** April 27th

- **Music City Iftar:** Late May, Early June. Like last year, venue is a concern. 350 people last year at Oz.

Significant discussion ensued. McGavock High School among suggested venues. E.D. Fowler-Green will review options.

- **Justice For Jocques:** Addressed Metro Council at February 21st Council meeting. Commissioners Hildreth and Richmond happened to be there for the Day of Remembrance. No formal mechanism for Public Comment. Comm. Hildreth noted that Vice Mayor David Briley handled the moment very well, particularly regarding civic participation and management.

Significant discussion ensued regarding mechanism to address these issues. Comm. Ali moved to create a committee to review options. Comm. Register motioned to move. Comm. Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried, committee, named Due Process Committee formed. Commissioners Rodriguez and Davis volunteered to join committee. Comm. Hildreth will chair. E.D. Fowler-Green will publicly notice meeting tomorrow so that subcommittee can meet as soon as possible.

V. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

For this meeting, was discussed before Director's Report as Item IV.

E.D. Fowler-Green referenced report in meeting packets and said we're on task and using the budget efficiently.

VI. **New Business**

Comm. Hildreth assumed the role to chair the meeting because CBC Trew and Comm. Poster had to leave for previously scheduled engagements. They both greeted Councilperson Bob Mendes before leaving.

Introduction and Discussion with Councilperson Bob Mendes

Councilman Mendes distributed handed the outlined, among other items, distinction between civil and criminal violations. Discussed process of addressing immigration violations in Metro. Fielded questions from Commissioners.

Comm. Hildreth: Do you have a question for us? Councilperson Mendes asked how MHRC measures "unacceptability" in Nashville that's unacceptable? What would demands be? How might we respond? Comm. Hildreth said, "Essentially, what's the tipping point—by volume or person? One way to measure is to email E.D. Fowler-Green to get a sense of whether there is a critical mass.

VII. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Samantha Perez will revisit Board Retreat follow-up at next meeting.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

IX. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Hildreth asked if there were any urgent announcements.

- Comm. Poster: This Thursday, March 9th, West End Synagogue hosts a conversation re refugees.
- Comm. Richmond: Thursday, March 9th, She will be a panelists in a Diversity and Inclusion Panel at Waller & Waller Law Firm, 6:30
- Comm. Poster: March 14th, Event on Syria at Vanderbilt
- Comm. Poster: March 14th, Community Seder, Gordon Community Center

X. **ADJOURN**

Comm. Ali moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Comm. Mann seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm.

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.