



**Full Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 5 2017, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**  
**Music City Center, 201 5th Ave S., Board Room B**

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

**Commissioner Absentees:** Samar Ali, Jeremy Davis, Dave Garrison, Marcela Gomez, Ellen Register

**Others:** Mel Fowler-Green (Ex. Dir., MHRC), Barbara R. Gunn Lartey (Dir. of Community Engagement, MHRC), Josh Lee (Metro Legal), Lisa Sherman-Nikolaus (TIRRC)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Board Chair, Frank Trew  
The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm.
- II. **CONFIRM QUOROM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)  
The meeting was delayed until a quorum was met—which was at 4:08pm.
- III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the Minutes. Commissioner Gibson seconded. Minutes were adopted—with a caveat to revise.
- IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT**  
E.D. Fowler Green reported that the budget is on track and that because of judicious spending in the previous months we were able to provide parking for tonight’s Music City Iftar. Commissioner Poster asked if we can receive a refund for guests unable to attend. E.D. Fowler-Green said she will follow up but does not believe so. Commissioner Poster asked if there are remaining funds to purchase items. E.D. Fowler-Green responded that there are not.  
  
There were no additional questions.
- V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - **Nominating Committee:** Elect Officers for Executive Board  
Committee **Chair** Peter Woolfolk initiated the process for Commissioners to elect members to the Executive Board.  
  
The following were unanimously elected:
    - Commission Board Chair -- Phyllis Hildreth
    - First Vice Chair – Janice Rodriguez

- Second Vice Chair – Avi Poster
- Secretary – Aisha Lbhalla
- Treasurer-- Jeremy Davis

Upon concluding the elections, Immediate Past Board Chair Frank Trew yielded governing the meeting to newly-elected Commission Board Chair Phyllis Hildreth. (Essentially, Frank gave the gavel.)

Phyllis expressed sincere appreciation to Frank Trew, particularly regarding the way he led during trying transition when there was no permanent Executive Director. Commissioner Poster agreed, noting that he is a delight. Commissioner Woolfolk thanked Trew for a job well done.

E.D. Fowler-Green concurred with the aforementioned sentiments, thanking him for his leadership and support. She also explained that under normal circumstances Trew would be able to serve as an *ex officio*, but that he is unable to because he is joining the Mayor's Greenways Commission.

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

E.D. requested permission to proceed to New Business for the policy discussion. CBC Hildreth moved to New Business.

After the New Business, E.D. Fowler-Green proceeded with a truncated report in light of iftar:

- Conciliation Effort with Walter Atkinson, Senior Conciliation Specialist, U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, Southeast Regional Office

E.D. Fowler-Green explained the two, full day visit. She, Commissioner Richmond and Mr. Atkinson met with several elected officials and community partners @ NAACP. Mr. Atkinson will submit written recommendations to MHRC and the City.

- CBC Hildreth opened the floor to Commissioner's to discuss feedback to the ordinances. E.D. Fowler-Green said she thinks it's well within our purview for MHRC to take a public stand.

CBC Hildreth said that Ordinance #1 (BL2017-739), regarding immigration, resonates with our Title VI mandate, particularly regarding access to services. She thinks we should publicly support. Former CBC Trew agreed, noting that MHRC should publicly and vibrantly take a stand on BL 739.

On the other hand, Ordinance #2 (BL2017-743) is primarily an administrative measure and, subsequently, we should remain silent. It also assists with coalition-building.

Commissioner Gibson agreed with CBC Hildreth's analysis, offering that we should publicly support BL 739 and remain silent on BL743.

Commissioner Poster inquired why we shouldn't publicly support both.

**Significant discussion ensued.**

The consensus is that we should take CBC Hildreth's recommendation.

E.D. Board Chair made several suggestions on what supporting these measures should look like,

including a newsletter via Emma, personal conversations with Council members, and a Public Comment during the Public Comment on June 20<sup>th</sup>—the second reading at Metro Council.

Commissioner Poster asked if we can publicize at the June 12<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting event? E.D. Fowler-Green responded that doing so is aligned with our mission to publicize events in which we are involved.

## VII. **New Business**

- Policy Discussion re ORDINANCE NO. BL2017-739:  
*An Ordinance to amend Title 11 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws regarding federal civil immigration laws.*

E.D. Fowler-Green introduced Lisa Sherman-Nikolaus, Policy Director at TIRRC.

Sherman-Nikolaus Lisa discussed the impact of increased ICE detentions of families and whether Metro will assist ICE with mass deportations. Her remarks were contextualized by two proposed ordinances:

1. BL2017-739: Addresses on restricting local laws regarding voluntary requests from ICE to detain Nashvillians. It is compliant with state and federal law; has some of the strongest language in country for constitutional protections; and has 14 Metro Council sponsors, including Councilmen Menes and Pridemore.
2. BL2017-743: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinance: Addresses the goal to terminate the contract between Metro and Sheriff, particularly regarding holding detainees for ICE.

Commissioners Richmond, Gibson and Poster asked clarifying questions. Commissioner Poster inquired if we need 21 or 27 Metro Council votes to support these measures. Sherman-Nikolaus said 21 but wants to get 30.

Finally, Sherman-Nikolaus announced that there will be a Community Meeting from 6:30p-8:00p on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Glendale Baptist Church.

CBC Hildreth thanked her for her presentation. CBC Hildreth requested E.D. Fowler-Green to roll responses into her Executive Report.

There was no additional New Business.

## VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

## IX. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- CBC Hildreth invited Commissioner Richmond to consider joining Due Process Committee. Commissioner Richmond accepted. This Committee will sit co-term with the Executive Committee.
- E.D. Fowler-Green reminded Commissioners about the Restorative Justice panel at tonight's Iftar which includes, Judge Sheila Calloway, Rasheedat Fetuga, Sarah Imran, and Sheikh Bahloul.

- Commissioner Richmond asked about the July meeting, noting that it is Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. After significant discussion, Commissioners agreed to move the meeting to Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Pryor requested to update the Minutes to reflect that she was in attendance at the May meeting. CBC Hildreth opened the Minutes to accept the revision.

X. **ADJOURN**

CBC Hildreth adjourned the meeting at 5:13p.

**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.