



One City for All People

Metro Human Relations Commission

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 5, 2018, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Lentz Public Health Center

2500 Charlotte Ave, Nashville, TN 37209

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 Board Chair, Phyllis Hildreth

The meeting was called to order at 4:10p. CBC Hildreth welcomed guests and viewing constituents.

Commissioners In Attendance: Samar Ali, Jeremy Davis, , Marcela Gómez, Phyllis Hildreth, Aisha Lbhalla, Lethia Mann, Oscar Miller, Avi Poster, Erin Pryor, Marisa Richmond, Janice Rodriguez, Peter Woolfolk

Commissioners Not In Attendance: *Jeremy Davis, Dave Garrison, Jeff Gibson*

Others in Attendance: *Mel Fowler-Green, Barbara Gunn Lartey, Sarah Imran, Vanessa Lazón, Tony Neumaier, Gene Nolan, Dustin Owens, Hershell Warren, Members of the Public*

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

Quorum was confirmed at meeting's inception.

III. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. Miller moved to adopt the Minutes. Comm. Mann approved. Minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

IV. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Executive Director, Mel Fowler-Green

E.D. reported that spending remains under budget. She noted that distributed budget does not reflect second pay period.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- CBC announced that the Executive Committee has initiated E.D.'s performance review. Primary deliverables included crafting an action plan that includes measurable goals from 2016 Board Retreat,
- Due Process: Comm. Richmond wants to follow up regarding Comm. Ali's interest in cyber bullying.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business Report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion: **We Serve the City - Charting our Course for Education and Advocacy**
 - Panel Discussion: **The Metro Budget Process**
 - **Tony Neumaier**, Assistant Director of Finance
 - **Gene Nolan**, Deputy Director of Finance
 - CBC Hildreth introduced Comm. Rodriguez, host of today's **We Serve the City** segment. Comm. Rodriguez explained the process, including the 30 minute presentation and signing the sign-in sheet for members of the public who may have questions. She requested E.D. Fowler-Green to introduce guests.
 - Gene Nolan expressed that citizenship-centric approach is a very effective way of governing. Introduced Tony Neumaier to navigate the budget process PowerPoint presentation. He incorporated in his presentation questions submitted by the Commission in advance. Presented example of MHRC's budget. He also emphasized that Metro's budget is a balanced budget.
 - Tony Neumaier introduced Dustin Owens to discuss the balanced budget. Introduced a civic-minded budget tool. San Antonio, TX, has used for some time with success.

Comm. Gómez asked if the tool is in Spanish. If not, she suggested engaging the Spanish-language community before translating.

Tony and Gene emphasized major timelines, including fiscal year (July 1st-June 30th) and requirement for Council to adopt the budget by June 30th. Failure to do so results in adoption of the Mayor's budget. (Governed by Section 6 of Metro Charter)

- Upon concluding the presentation, CBC Hildreth requested Comm. Rodriguez to facilitate the Q&A segment.

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

- Highlights Include:

- Because of requirement to fund General Hospital, MHRC has been given savings expectations. Last week my staff and I reviewed our planned programming and commitments for the remainder of the year, and we believe we can save around \$23,000. We've communicated that to our budget analyst and expect to discuss it at a meeting on March 16.
- Affordable Housing Educational Series: Second phase will focus on Evictions and Displacement. Discussion comes when we've just learned that enrollment in MNPS is down (and will therefore lose significant federal funding). Many speculate that this is a result of gentrification that has pushed many families with children out of Davidson County)

As we craft the final two, we will include Adriane Harris, the head of the Mayor's Office of Housing, in the conversations.

We have launched website: [www. Housing101.us](http://www.Housing101.us)

Welcome Home, the movement for affordable housing, is now comprised over 40 organizational supporters, and we expect many more on the next couple of weeks. E.D. Fowler-Green will send the link.

- **Stand Against Racism:** This year is a two-day event—Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th.

Barbara Gunn Lartey has been working with developing Saturday's Youth Program. Comm. Gómez wants more information. Barbara will send,

- Comm. Richmond inquired about iftar date. E.D. Fowler-Green said it is still being determined and she will disseminate the minute it is confirmed.
- MNPD MDS: Wednesday, March 28th and Wednesday June 13th.

IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40p.

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. 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.