



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2021, 4:00-5:30pm

Howard Office Building

Sonny West Auditorium

700 2nd Ave S, Nashville, TN 37210

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.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Chair, Rev. Davie Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 4:04p.

Commissioners in Attendance: Pratik Dash, Lethia Mann, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Ariel Safdie, Jorge Salles Diaz, Dr. Ben Tran, Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick, Joshua Wood, Chuck Yezbak, Nancy Youssef

Commissioners Not in Attendance: Maryam Abolfazli, Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Paula Martinez, Issa Y. Mohamed

Others in Attendance: Barbara Gunn-Lartey, Liz Orozco, Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)

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

- A quorum was achieved at the meeting's inception.
- Our newest Commissioners, **Jorge Salles Diaz** and **Nancy Youssef**, were welcomed to the Commission.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. Venick moved to approve the minutes. **Comm. Yezbak** seconded. **Comm. Robinson** noted that the August Minutes should be revised to reflect her attendance. The revised minutes were approved and will be published on the MHRC website.

4. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

- **The budget for Metro FY 22 has just begun.**
- **E.D. Mel Fowler-Green**, explained that we are on budget and will continue to conservatively expend it.
- **Comm. Venick** inquired if there's a way to project how we utilize our funds. Mel will follow up with **Mark Eatherly** (Director of Operations).

5. OLD BUSINESS

- **Debrief September 8, 2021, Public Hearing: Evictions**
 - **E.D. Fowler-Green** acknowledged **Commissioners Burton, Robinson, Tran, Tucker, Venick** for their leadership for organizing the forum.
 - **Chair Tucker** thanked MHRC staff and the presenters.
 - **Comm. Dash** endorsed **Comm. Robinson's logistical** suggestion to be more conscious of time. **Comm. Venick** recommended allocating three hours for the hearing.
 - He also noted that undocumented persons should be more engaged and considered.
 - **Comm. Tran** added that MHRC should intentionally engage financially marginalized communities as an aspect of the Policing / Public Hearing forum.
 - He also acknowledged the lack of communication between nonprofits and Metro Departments.
 - **Commissioners** discussed need for more updated data collection processes, including demographic information.
 - **Chair Tucker** observed that the cumbersome distribution process of Metro Action Commissioner. **Chair Tucker** responded that funds are restricted to eviction – but noted that there may be funds in Cares Act. **Legal Counsel Derrick Smith** weighed in and said funds are restricted to housing and utilities. **E.D. Fowler-Green** suggested reviewing the tenets of the American Recovery Act.
 - **Comm. Salles Diaz** inquired if eviction funds could be used to expand affordable housing, e.g., Section 8 vouchers.
 - **Comm. Venick** inquired about, and **Chair Tucker** agreed that, MHRC Board should review final report.
- **Planning and goals for October 6, 2021, Public Hearing: Policing & Public Safety**
 - Doodle Poll revealed September 20, 2021, as the date for the planning meeting. **Chair Tucker** recommends an earlier date to allow for sufficient planning, including Metro.
 - **Barbara Gunn Lartey** will confirm whether October 6th, the same day as MDS, may be available by re coordinating with General Services and MNN.
 - **Chair Tucker** inquired about ideas for this forum.
 - **Comm. Venick** suggested reaching out to alternatives to traditional policing, e.g., Violence Interrupters
 - **Comm. Dash** requested MNPD participation. **Comm. Tucker** requested that a draft be circulated among the Commissioners.
 - **Comm. Safdie** requested status on written response to NAACP.
 - **Comm. Venick** noted issues addressed in the letter:
 - **Officer-involved killings**
 - **Hiring Practices**
 - **Discretion of District Attorney General**
 - **Allocation of Metro Budget to Policing and Public Safety**

- **Comm. Dash** wants to discuss trust between communities and MNP.
- **Comm. Robinson** suggested the role of MNP in Metro Nashville Public Schools
- **E.D. Fowler-Green** noted that some of these topics should be addressed by the Community Oversight Board (COB). **Comm. Salles Diaz** agrees. **Comm. Tucker** expects the COB and MNP to participate in this forum.
 - **Chair Tucker** clarified that the COB does not function as a civilian oversight board because the Chief of Police must approve their ultimate findings
- **Comm. Tran** wants to address the decriminalization of poverty.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no Director's Report is included in the meeting packet and will be appended to the published minutes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Procurement Standards Board election – process and expectations
 - **E.D. Fowler-Green** suggested that the Executive Committee recommends someone. A call for nominations was also recommended.
 - **Comm. Salles Diaz** suggested whoever is recommended should be a construction worker.
 - **Chair Fowler-Green** noted that any Commissioner can attend Executive Board and planning meetings.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Barbara Gunn Lartey** reminded that the next MDS is Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

9. ADJOURN

Comm. Dash moved to adjourn the meeting. **Comm. Robinson** seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38pm.

10. RECORDING OF THIS MEETING:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ-Jt7Mo8M4>

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.



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