



One City for All People

## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

**Monday, March 1, 2021, 4:00-5:30pm**

*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.*

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**CALL TO ORDER:** MHRC Chair, Dr. Marisa Richmond

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

This meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chair Marisa Richmond.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** *Maryam Abolfazli, Samar Ali, Pratik Dash, Jeremy Davis, Lethia Mann, Oscar Miller, Kobie Pretorius, Erin Pryor, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Janice Rodriguez, Ben Tran, Davie Tucker, Irwin Venick, Chuck Yezbak*

**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** *Paula Martinez, Issa Y. Mohamed*

**Others in Attendance:** *Barbara R. Gunn Lartey (Metro Human Relations Commission); Clemmie Greenlee (Nashville Peacemakers); Mary Falls (Mayor's Office); Mel-Fowler-Green (Metro Human Relations Commission); Michelle Hernandez-Lane (Procurement); Zak Kelley (Procurement); Cindy Montano (Nashville Peacemakers); Wesley Smith (Metro ITS); Derrick Smith (Metro Legal).*

**II. APPROVAL TO CONDUCT MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS** (motion)

**Comm. Venick** moved that the items on the Meeting Agenda constitute essential business of this board. Meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak and any Rule that conflicts with the Governor's Executive Order permitting electronic meetings be suspended.

**Comm. Janice Rodriguez** seconded the motion to approve conducting the meeting by electronic means in compliance of the Governor's Executive Order. **Mel Fowler-Green** conducted a roll call vote to approve the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

### III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Comm. Rodriguez** offered revisions to the Minutes regarding the February 1, 2021: to correct Mobile Diversity Seminar date to January 27, 2021. With these revisions **Comm. Venick** moved to approve the Minutes as amended; **Comm. Robinson** seconded. **Mel Fowler-Green** conducted a roll-call vote by which the Minutes were reviewed and approved.

### IV. FINANCIAL UPDATE

E.D. Fowler-Green and Comm. Venick, MHRC Board Treasurer, noted that the budget is on track. The Report will be attached and published with the Minutes.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

- **Review support of legislation by Stand Up Nashville and CLC**

Representatives from Procurement, Michelle Hernandez Lane, and Zak Kelley, discussed that Procurement practices and protocols regarding discriminatory practices regarding contracts are being monitored and reviewed.

**Comm. Dash** inquired about the role MHRC has regarding contracts and subcontracts with Metro Procurement. **E.D. Fowler-Green** responded that MHRC has the power and duty to investigate complaints regarding discriminatory practices by contractors working under agreements with Metro Government. She also added that MHRC has the jurisdiction to hold hearings regarding complaints and alleged misconduct.

Michelle Hernandez Lane, Chief Procurement Officer and Purchasing Agent for Metro Government, and Zac Kelley, addressed the steps Procurement is taking to ensure the equitable enforcement and processing of contractors.

Commissioners **Dash, Tucker, Venick, Abolfazli,** and **Pryor** posed questions regarding safety, security, and timely payment of contracts and subcontracts. **Comm. Dash** suggested that the Commission make a motion regarding safety protocols and principles and contract.

**Comm. Tran** made the following Motion:

- *With the support of Metro administrators, in order to support the working conditions, the work payments, and the work safety for all workers involved in Metro contracting, at all levels from Metro contractors to all subcontractors.*
- **Comm. Ali** seconded. **E.D. Fowler-Green** conducted roll-call vote by which the motion was adopted.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Guest Presentation: **Clemmie Greenlee**  
*Executive Director, Nashville Peacemakers*  
**Cindy Montano**  
*Treasurer, Nashville Peacemakers*
  - Discussion of programs improving the lives of youth impacted by violence
  - Note: 10 minute presentation
  - 15 minute question period
- Clemmie Greenlee and Cindy Montano discussed the mission and vision of Nashville Peacemakers.

- Greenlee explained the genesis of Nashville Peacemakers as the result of the murder of her 18 year old son – her only child, her 18 year old grandson, and her 18 year nephew.
- The primary focus of their initiative is to work with distressed communities by equipping young residents with basic life skills and self-worth as an alternative to violence.
- Clemmie and Cindy reviewed the primary programming offered by Nashville Peacemakers:
  - Two youth mentoring programs:
    - Back to Basics (for young men)
    - Straight Talk (for young women), and
  - Mothers Over Murder – a support group and healing space for families who are navigating the realities of young family murdered primarily by gunfire. Mothers Over Murder is also a social justice initiative.
- Greenlee and Montano noted that throughout COVID they sustained outreach and support for their families, including grief; rent, utility, and prescriptions assistance; food boxes and resources for young mothers. These services were briefly interrupted by significant losses sustained during the Spring 2020 tornadoes.
- Guests requested guidance and assistance with:
  - Securing a building to continue offering service
  - Volunteers, networking, and assistance with social media
- Commissioners Tucker, Ali, Abolfazli, Pryor, Miller, Richmond, Yezbak, and Rodriguez, among others, committed to assisting Nashville Peacemakers with the issues they have presented.

## VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report will be appended to April Meeting Minutes.

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

## IX. ADJOURN

**Comm. Rodriguez** made a motion to adjourn. **Comm. Miller seconded.** This meeting was adjourned at 5:47p.

### **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 615-880-3374 or [MHRC@nashville.gov](mailto: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.