



One City for All People

**Full Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022, 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.*

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1. **1.CALL TO ORDER:** Maryam Abolfazli, MHRC Board Chair  
The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.  
  
**Commissioners in Attendance:** *Maryam Abolfazli, Pratik Dash, Jorge Diaz, Lethia Mann, Ariel Safdie, Dr. Ben Tran, Chuck Yezbak, Nancy Youssef*  
  
**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** *Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Paula Martinez, Issa Mohammed, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Irwin Venick, Joshua Wood*  
  
**Others in Attendance:** *Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Rachel Novak (MHRC Intern)*
2. **CONFIRM QUOROM** (Share regrets from Commissioners not in attendance; introduce guests)  
A quorum was obtained at meeting's inception.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
The Minutes from two previous meetings were reviewed and approved with the caveat that they be revised to reflect the Commissioner Lethia Mann attended the January meeting.
4. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**
  - Commissioner Abolfazli has been working closely with Barbara and Mark
    - A lot of the budget is not currently up to date however, the Commission does not have much say in the majority of budget
  - The Commission is in a July fiscal year- The budget should be reaching its marks however, there has been some underspending as of now
  - There will be updates on the budget if needed
  - Commissioner Safdie mentioned the importance of finding out if the budget will carry over past this fiscal year
    - If it does not then there should be an additional meeting on where to spend money that has not been spent before the fiscal year is over.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - **Update on Executive Director Selection**
    - There are currently 12 applicants for Executive Director position
  - Wanda Hadley (Metro Human Resources) will email everyone tomorrow outlining next steps for the application process

- Commissioners will be asked to rank the candidates
- Aiming for a one week turn-around time
  - This is dependent on consensus on rankings. If ranked similarly it will move forward in process.
- If the rankings are not similar there will have to be a public meeting to come to consensus on the rankings
  - Legal said it would need to be announced 7 days in advance for that meeting as it is public.
- Commissioner Tran emphasizes the need to schedule a public meeting in case it is needed to reach consensus on the rankings however, if it is not needed it can be cancelled
  - Meeting to be scheduled ideally for Wednesday next week (2/16/2022)
- Once rankings are determined, the candidates will be interviewed for 45 minute each
  - Ideally the number of candidates will be narrowed down to three maximum to ensure there is enough time for interviews
- If all goes according to plan, Tuesday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> the background checks will begin
- Commissioner Abolfazli has been informed the candidates are all strong
- March 7 meeting will be aimed at deciding regarding the Executive Director position.
- **Status of Appointee to the Procurement Standards Board**
  - Commissioner Dash has heard there are strong candidates with a total of 4 thus far
  - Likely it will end up being a total of 5 or 6 candidates at most
  - May need to schedule another meeting so that March 7 is not overloaded perhaps, a push to April meeting to not interfere with Executive Director position.
  - Commissioner Abolfazli mentioned the need to inform the candidates they are under review
  - Legal informed it is best to have a sub-committee handling the Appointee to the Procurement Standards Board
  - Commissioner Dash, Commissioner Salles Díaz, and Commissioner Mann confirmed as subcommittee
  - They will be scheduling a meeting to review applicants
- The Summary Report for the Budget Equity Public Hearings should be posted within the next two weeks
  - Commissioners would like the Budget Equity Summary Report distributed to them to make edits before it is uploaded.

## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm

7. **The link for this recording:** <https://youtu.be/hWdRUDdgC4c>

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### **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 for the entity to provide such needed aid or service.