



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 5, 2021, 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.

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, Dr. Marisa Richmond

This meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

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

Commissioners Not in Attendance: *Oscar Miller*

Others in Attendance: *Barbara R. Gunn Lartey (Metro Human Relations Commission); Mary Falls (Mayor's Office); Mel-Fowler-Green (Metro Human Relations Commission); Dontrai Buchanan (Metro ITS), 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.

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

Comm. Robinson 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. Dash 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.

4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Comm. Tucker moved to approve the Minutes. **Comm. Rodriguez** requested that the word "appended" be removed from the March Minutes regarding the Director's Report. With revisions **Comm. Tucker** 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.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

E.D. Fowler-Green reported that MHRC is within budget. The proposed budget for next fiscal year is not yet published. **E.D. Fowler-Green** anticipates it will be next month.

Comm. Tucker inquired if MHRC could qualify for COVID funds. **E.D. Fowler-Green** will follow-up with Mary Falls and report back to the Commission.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on the Consumer Protection Initiative Grant**

E.D. Fowler-Green announced that she is in the process of selecting a consultant for this initiative. She will re-send the project summary to Commissioners. **Comm. Abolfazli** offered to assist with this project.

- **Equity Lens Advocacy – Policy Recommendation Update and Further Action**

Following the policy recommendation adopted by Commission to use an Equity lens to measure metrics, Diego Eguiarte, Director of Performance Management in the Mayor's Office, will communicate with stakeholders within Metro and the community to implement. **E.D. Fowler-Green** noted that this is an opportunity to operationalize equity goals. She suggested that a Commissioner be a liaison to this initiative. **Commissioners Tucker** volunteered to be the liaison for the Commission. **Commissioners Abolfazli, Pryor, and Robinson** offered to support **Comm. Tucker**. **E.D. Fowler-Green** suggested that **Comm. Venick** also participate; **Comm. Pryor** will volunteer, as well.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **E.D. Fowler-Green** announced that we will be hiring a Director of Policy and Research in the coming months.
- **Barbara Gunn Lartey**: DEI trainings for LEAD Public Schools and other area communities
- **E.D. Fowler-Green**: Fair Housing Council Training with former MHRC intern Patricia Bell

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Remarks of Gratitude for Commissioners Who Have Served Their Full Terms**

Comm. Richmond acknowledged Commissioners who are rolling off the Commission because of term limits. **Comm. Richmond** noted their expertise and insights as a reflection of the diversity and strength of Nashville.

E.D. Fowler-Green acknowledged the relationships she's built with the following Commissioners:

Samar Ali Oscar Miller
Kobie Pretorius Erin Pryor
Janice Rodriguez

Each Commissioner expressed their appreciation to serve Metro Human Relations Commission.

- **Barbara Gunn Lartey** shared a harrowing experience with law enforcement that impacted her family. This encounter reinforces the essentiality of equitable policing.
- **Comm. Rodriguez** announced the TN Language Institute has \$10k through the Frist foundation for nonprofits who need translation or other intercultural communication. **Comm. Dash** will follow up.
- **E.D. Fowler-Green** announced that **Comm. Dash** has been reappointed and that new Commissioners are in the process of joining us.

9. ADJOURN

Comm. Pryor moved to adjourn; **Comm. Pretorius** seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.

A recording of these proceedings can be found here: <https://www.nashville.gov/Government/Boards-and-Committees/Committee-Information/ID/20/Human-Relations-Commission.aspx>

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. 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.