



One City for All People

## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

**Monday, April 4, 2022, 4:00-5:30p.m.**

**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:** Board Chair, Maryam Abolfazli

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** *Maryam Abolfazli, Pratik Dash, Lethia Mann, Issa Mohammed, Marisa Richmond, Linda Robinson, Jorge Salles-Diaz, Ariel Safdie, Ben Tran, Irwin Venick, Chuck Yezbak, Nancy Youssef*

**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** *Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Paula Martinez, Joshua Wood*

**Others in Attendance:** *Barbara Gunn Lartey (MHRC), Phyllis Hildreth, Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Davie Tucker, Member of the Public*

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

A quorum was met at the meeting's inception.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed, approved, and adopted for public record.

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chair Abolfazli reviewed the financial report that was included in the meeting packet. She noted that the budget reflects the final salary/vacation/leave adjustments for Mel Fowler-Green.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Commission Decides on Executive Director**

Commissioner Dash clarified that the candidate with the highest number of votes from Commissioners in attendance will be selected as Executive Director.

**Candidate Paulette Coleman:** Strengths: Deep Metro, community relationships. Affordable housing expertise. Opportunities: No strong LGBTQ+ or Immigrant/Refugee advocacy.

**Candidate Charles Bryson:** Strengths: Substantial municipal expertise, particularly regarding Title VI and working with marginalized communities. Opportunities: No Nashville relationships; career primarily based on government work; little community advocacy experience.

**Candidate Davie Tucker:** Strengths: Go Big or Go Home. Strong Metro and community relationships. Adept with a broad spectrum of advocacy, including policing and public safety, LGBTQ+, housing, and immigrant/refugee. Opportunities: Will require substantial administrative guidance and support.

Commissioners discussed strengths and opportunities of each candidate. Commissioner Robinson noted that she is concerned about the need for administrative support if Candidate Tucker is chosen.

Derrick Smith informed that each Commissioner would “voice vote” *once* for their Executive Director candidate. Chair Abolfazli conducted the vote. After each Commissioner voted, Chair Abolfazli announced that Davie Tucker received the most votes.

Davie Tucker was selected as the Executive Director of Metro Human Relations Commission.

Commissioner Tran made a motion for a salary of \$121,000. Commissioner Dash seconded. Executive Director-Elect Davie Tucker will earn a salary of \$121,000. A start date has not been determined.

- **Update on Commissioner Appointments**

Chair Abolfazli noted that Commissioners Mann and Richmond will be termed out on April 18, 2022.

- **Update on Procurement Board Candidate** – Commissioner Dash

Commissioner Dash will confer with Barbara Gunn Lartey regarding the two candidates for the Procurement Board. He intends to interview the candidate at the May Commission meeting.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Phyllis Hildreth noted that she applauds the Commission for its intentionality and due diligence with selecting a new Executive Director and continuing the work of the Commission.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Abolfazli and Barbara Gunn Lartey presented thank you acknowledgements to Commissioners Mann and Richmond for serving two full terms with MHRC.

8. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Dash moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tran seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m.

9. **The link for this recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmrXMC5KVZQ>

**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](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.