



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 6, 2022, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Southeast Community Center

5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy, Unit 202, Antioch, TN 37013

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

Although meeting discussion began at 4:12pm without a quorum, it was officially called to order at 4:46pm when quorum was briefly achieved upon the arrival of Commissioner Ariel Safdie. Shortly thereafter quorum was lost by the departure of Commissioner Linda Robinson.

Commissioners in Attendance: *Maryam Abolfazli, Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Issa Mohammed, Linda Robinson, Ariel Safdie, Irwin Venick, Chuck Yezbak*

Commissioners Not in Attendance, *Pratik Dash, Jorge Salles-Diaz, Paula Martinez, Ben Tran, Joshua Wood, Nancy Youssef*

Others in Attendance: *Barbara Gunn Lartey (MHRC), Davie Tucker, Jr. (ED, MHRC), Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Timothy O. Hughes (Member of the Public)*

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

Chair Abolfazli noted that a quorum was not met at the meeting's inception. For this reason, no official business, including approving the Minutes, deliberation, or voting, could be conducted.

She will confer with Executive Director Davie Tucker regarding the quorum issue and inactive, unengaged Commissioners.

There was significant discussion about the rotation of Commissioners and their terms. Derrick Smith (Metro Legal) will clarify and confirm. He noted that there are several scenarios that would explain the gap in Commissioner tenure.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon the arrival of Commissioner Ariel Safdie, a quorum was subsequently and briefly achieved, and the May Minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Burton moved to approved them; Commissioner Robinson seconded. The Minutes were approved and adopted.

The April Minutes will be reviewed at the July meeting.

4. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Chair Abolfazli reviewed the financial report, noting there was little activity because there was no Executive Director. Chair Abolfazli confirmed that the new budget will be effective July 1, 2022.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- **Meeting Locales: *How Can MHRC Commissioners Assist with Innovatively Engaging the Community by Hosting Board Meetings?***

- Commissioner Burton inquired if the first Monday of the month is the mandated meeting day. Commissioner Venick suggested Doodle polling the Commissioners for an ideal date.

Executive Director Tucker confirmed through the MHRC Code that Commissioners can select any date they prefer.

He also confirmed the accuracy of the Commissioner list. Discussion ensued regarding why Commissioners' terms are ending simultaneously, i.e., in April. Derrick Smith will research and confirm whether and/or when the terms got "off track."

- Executive Director Davie Tucker reiterated his interest in (1) engaging Commissioners more actively in MHRC work, and (2) becoming more present in the community – including hosting Commission meetings in the community.

Commissioner Venick suggested that the Council person representing a particular community be invited. He added that community organizations which represent specific neighborhoods be invited. Executive Director Tucker endorsed the suggestions – re-emphasizing that he seeks more participation from Commissioners to enhance community engagement and the need to hold meetings on Metro property.

Significant discussion ensued about viable Metro locations, including schools, public housing/MDHA, and other locations. Derrick Smith responded that he will explore appropriate properties and follow up.

Commissioner Burton acknowledged that she would like more clarity for her role with engaging constituents. Commissioner Safdie complemented this discussion with the idea of hosting meetings by mirroring human rights tours.

Commissioner Venick moved to hold the meetings in the community. Commissioner Mohamed seconded. Derrick Smith clarified and confirmed that meeting locales do not have to be Metro-owned, but Metro-occupied; that is to say, on properties where Metro conducts business.

- **Title VI: *MHRC's Role re Compliance, Accountability, Training, and Reporting***

- Executive Director Tucker expressed his concern that MHRC appears to be responsible for Title VI compliance, but, in fact, is not legislatively empowered to do so. Derrick Smith said MHRC is the "de facto" Title VI compliance entity – and he informed that there is provision for hearing and subpoena authority.

Executive Director Tucker seeks clarity regarding the annual Title VI report that is compiled and produced by Human Resources but endorsed by MHRC as a signatory. He is reluctant to sign onto a document over which he nor MHRC has a role compiling.

Commissioner Venick suggested Executive Director Tucker confer with previous Interim Executive Director Tom Negri because he was involved with Title VI enforcement. Commissioner Yezbak requested clarification on MHRC's authority to review and adjudicate Title VI complaints.

- Executive Director Tucker raised concerns about MHRC's role to address equity-related matters regarding from Metro employees. He referenced a matter at the Metro Public Health Department. He will disseminate the formal complaint when received.

Executive Director Tucker asked about the role of and process for situations when a Metro employee is in conflict with Metro. Derrick Smith said that Metro Legal would not

have a conflict of interest because is maintains a position of neutrality. He added that at the Executive Director's direction and discretion, additional counsel can be secured.

Commissioner Venick advised that MHRC proceed with caution, particularly since there is no formal complaint filed. Derrick Smith added that there are established processes through Human Resource and other recourses.

- **Director of Policy and Research: *Next Steps re Hiring Plans***

Executive Director reviewed his plans to review the original pool of candidates to explore whether they are still interested and available. Barbara Gunn Lartey confirmed that there were at least 40 applicants but no interviews.

Executive Director Tucker will proceed with the eligible pool of candidates.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- Recommendation for Procurement Board Appointment
 - This matter was tabled until the July meeting because there was no quorum.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Abolfazli asked acknowledged a member of the public to introduce himself and share his interests. The gentleman introduced himself as Timothy Hughes, a resident of Madison, TN, looking forward to amplifying the equity work of the Metro Human Relations Commission, particularly regarding Title VI. He noted that he's a former Board Member of the Community Oversight Board, the current Community Coordination Chair of the NAACP-Nashville Branch. He is inspired to address the intersectionality of equity and public policy.

8. **ANOUNCEMENTS**

- MHRC will participating in PRIDE Month as a sponsor
- Barbara Gunn Lartey will facilitate a Title VI training for the staff of Juvenile Court and Clerk.

9. **ADJOURN**

Commission Irwin moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Yezbak seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

10. **The link for this meeting: <https://youtu.be/haNEC-dTaL8>**

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. 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.