



**Full Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, August 15, 2022, 4:00pm-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.*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Board Chair, Maryam Abolfazli

This meeting was called to order at 4:06p.m.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Alecia Wynn; Amy Charlton; Ariel Safdie; Charles Traugber; Dakota Galban; Dan Cadenas; Garlinda Burton; Genma Stringer Holmes; Kosar Kosar; Larea Kwakye; Marcus Buggs; Maryam Abolfazli; Pratik Dash

**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** Edubina Arce, Jorge Salles Diaz

**Others in Attendance:** Ashley Bachelder, Barbara Gunn Lartey; Davie Tucker, Jr., Derrick Smith, Irwin Venick

2. **CONFIRM QUOROM**

A quorum was achieved at the meeting's inception.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 4, 2022, and June 6, 2022
  - The minutes were reviewed, moved, approved, seconded, and adopted.

4. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

- MHRC Budget Update
  - Because we're beginning a new fiscal year there was no financial report. E.D. Tucker noted that we have:
    - Been approved for a full-time employee (FTE) Title VI Compliance Officer and a part-time admin employee (PTE). We are working with HR to assess if the PTE can work at least 30 hours
    - Received additional funding for the MNPD Mobile Diversity Seminars
    - Initiated the process of finding a new office space since our lease expires at the end of the year.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- **New Commissioner Presentation: Orientation**
  - E.D. Tucker introduced his team, including
    - Ashley Bachelder – Director of Policy and Research (it's her first day!)
    - Derrick Smith – Metro Legal Liaison
    - Mark Eatherly – Director of Operations and Special Projects
    - Barbara Gunn Lartey – Director of Community Engagement

- Executive Director Davie Tucker Welcomes New Commissioners & Facilitates Orientation
  - o [E.D. Tucker reviewed the scope, responsibilities, and duties of an MHRC Commissioner](#)
  - o He introduced the Metro Code, Ordinance and bylaws that govern MHRC
  - o He noted that our work centers equity, including Title VI, investigations, trainings, etc.
  - o He acknowledged that MHRC Commissioners assist us with balancing priorities as they relate to Metro constituents, Metro Council, and the Mayor’s Office
  - o He enumerated some of the equity issues and disparities we address, including:
    - language access
    - racial inequality
    - LGBTQIA+ discrimination
    - immigrant and refugee inclusion
    - disability rights
    - religious freedom
    - public safety
    - many, many other issues
  - o E.D. Tucker emphasized that the effectiveness of our work is heavily influenced by the direction, engagement, and support of the Commissioners.
- Board Chair Abolfazli accentuated E.D. Tucker’s point that the impact of MHRC is predicated upon the Commissioners’ passion and participation.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- Procurement Board Appointment: **Action Needed** – Commissioner Vote  
 A motion was made and seconded to discuss and vote on this issue. However, since this was the first board meeting with newly appointed Commissioners, this matter was tabled until the next meeting on September 12, 2022, when they can have more information about this candidate. The initial motion was withdrawn. A motion for a date certain was made, seconded, and approved.  
  
 The Commission requested the candidate, Larry Turley, return to be interviewed. Remarks regarding his candidacy, captured as public comments, can be found [here](#).
- Director of Policy and Research: *Next Steps re Hiring Plans*  
 E.D. Tucker introduced Ashley Bachelder as the new Director of Policy and Research. He noted that updating IncluCivics and compiling a report for the Community Forums are prioritized as her initial assignments.
- Update: Title VI Complaint  
 This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Irwin Venick, a member of the public, shared concerns regarding increased instances of antisemitic mailers in late July early August in Nashville. Venick read a statement and requested it to be disseminated to Commissioners before the next meeting (attached below). A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to distribute publish Venick’s statement.

E.D. Tucker expressed his appreciation for this motion because it will allow the Commission to timely respond to urgent matters.

## 8. ANOUNCEMENTS

- **September 12, 2022:** Barbara Gunn Lartey noted that the while Commission meetings are typically on the first Monday of the month, because of Labor Day, the next meeting will be September 12, 2022
- **September 24, 2022:** Commissioner Dash announced InterNASHional Night Market, Saturday, Sep 24, 2022, 5 – 9 PM, Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, 3310 Ezell Road

## 9. ADJOURN

A motion to This meeting was adjourned at 5:42p.m.

10. The link for this meeting: [https://youtu.be/yvYNhQ\\_n-LM](https://youtu.be/yvYNhQ_n-LM)

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

**Statement by Irwin Venick Regarding Antisemitic Events in Nashville, TN  
Moved, Approved, and Adopted by Metro Human Relations Commission  
August 15, 2022 (MHRC Board Meeting)**

Nashville has suffered another round of Antisemitic attacks. Nashville residents both Jewish and non-Jewish have been confronted by antisemitic messages not only on social media but also showing up at their homes. The most recent episode occurred between July 29, 2022, and August 1, 2022, in areas of West Nashville.

The MHRC applauds the timely response by local officials and a number of community partners. The Metropolitan Police Department responded quickly to the reports and has initiated an investigation. The Mayor's Office, the Vice-Mayor and several members of the Metropolitan Council issued public statements condemning the antisemitic messages.

As important, a number of community partners expressed their concern to and solidarity with the Nashville Jewish Community. We join with them and encourage other religious and community organizations to express their messages of support for, in this instance, the Jewish community and condemnation of the messages of hate.

Th disturbing antisemitic propoganda that was distributed is similar in tone and style to that used by the Nazi regime, and for the same reasons. This propoganda, accusing Jews of controlling the world and blaming Jews for all social ills, targets Jews as the enemy. Once Jews are defined and identified as the enemy, anything done against Jews can be justified.

We cannot surrender to these dangerous and damaging efforts intended to divide and distort. We cannot stand idle in the face of treacherous and threatening attempts to sow chaos and fear. We must continue to call out this alarming rhetoric and pushback to promote civility, inclusion, and respect for all our friends and neighbors in Nashville and Tennessee. Please join us this effort.