



One City for All People

**Full Commission Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, October 3, 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:** Amy Charlton; Ariel Safdie; Ben Tran; Dan Cadenas; Charles Traugher; Genma Stringer Holmes; Irwin Venick, Jorge Salles Diaz; Kosar Kosar; Larea Kwakye; Marcus Buggs; Maryam Abolfazli; Pratik Dash

**Commissioners Not in Attendance:** Alecia Wynn; Edubina Arce; Garlinda Burton

**Others in Attendance:** Ashley Bachelder; Barbara Gunn Lartey; Dakota Galban; Davie Tucker, Jr.; Derrick Smith (Metro Legal)

**2. CONFIRM QUOROM**

A quorum was confirmed at the meeting's inception.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- September 12, 2022
  - Commissioner Cardenas noted that he has not been receiving MHRC emails. Barbara Gunn Lartey noted that she will confirm and/or revise his contact information.
  - A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to approve the Minutes.

**4. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

- MHRC Budget Update  
Executive Director Davie Tucker ("E.D. Tucker") noted that our budget, approved for approximately \$740,000, includes two additional staff – a Title VI Compliance Officer (FTE) and an Administrative Assistant (PTE). Though we were advised that the PFTE would be converted to an FTE, today we learned that our budget may be cut by \$10,000. The Mayor's decision to make this adjustment has forced us to cut back on sponsorships and expenses.

Commissioner Cardenas inquired if there is a way to advocate for us. E.D. Tucker advised that Commissioners contact their Councilperson – and others.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- Title VI Update: Outside Counsel  
E.D. Tucker noted that we are exploring how to manage this expense. Derrick Smith said his role as our Metro Legal liaison will not change. E.D. Tucker said that he is seeking outside

counsel to avoid conflict of interest with Metro in the event Metro's advised course of action is dissimilar from the one he seeks.

- Commissioner Traugher: How often do we find ourselves going in a different position than Metro Legal? Are attorney's fees considered a part of our budget?

E.D. Tucker said that typically we conciliate, but that the two cases we are considering are, for MHRC, "new" for us. Regarding the second question, he referenced the green budget sheet, included in the packet, and said there is no such line item.

- Commissioner Venick said he is not aware of a discrimination complaint coming before the Commission and wants further explanation about how to handle such matters, particularly regarding counsel.

E.D. reiterated that MHRC typically mediates and conciliates complaints before they escalate to the level of litigation. He referenced several successful matters resolved with the assistance of Barbara Gunn Lartey.

- Board Chair Abolfazli said that if this
- Eastbank Discussion
  - Board Chair Abolfazli facilitated this "equitable development" item after a PowerPoint presentation. She has agreed to send it to the Commission. Click "[here](#)" to access the link.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- Procurement Board Appointment: Update re Metro Council Process
  - Larry Turnley's nomination will go before Metro Council tomorrow, October 4, 2022.
- Strategic Plan: Initial Planning Discussion
  - The Executive Committee will convene three meetings within the coming weeks.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Abolfazli noted the events in Iran, especially violence against women.
- E.D. Tucker noted that MHRC participated in Celebrate Nashville's Cultural Festival this past weekend on October 1, 2022.
- Comm. Kosar: Noted that Nashville be ready and welcoming for trafficked migrant workers and their families. Also, October 11, 2022, is the beginning of early voting in Nashville, TN.
- E.D. Tucker: Requests Commissioners to complete Metro's race and gender survey.
- E.D. Tucker: Announced that the next MNPD Mobile Diversity Seminar will be Wednesday, October 19, 2022. It will be mobile! Cadets will travel to the Islamic Center of Nashville (Muslim Community); Casa Azafrán (Immigrant/Refugee Community); Play Dance Bar (LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY); Tennessee State University (African American/Black Community). Barbara Gunn Lartey will send the schedule to Commissioners.
- E.D. Tucker: Barbara Gunn Lartey facilitated a training for Metro Social Services last week about enhancing service-delivery to the LGBTQIA+ Community.
- Barbara Gunn Lartey: MHRC co-facilitated a DEI Through the Arts experience with Metro Arts.

## 9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m.

### 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.