



One City for All People

Full Commission Meeting – Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024, 4:00pm-5:30pm
Nashville Main Library
615 Church Street Nashville, TN 37219

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

Commissioners in attendance: Maryam Abolfazli, Dr. Ben Tran, Dakota Galban, Charles Traugher, Dr. Amy Charlton, Jeff Teague, Pratik Dash, Irwin Venick, Larea Kwayke, Ariel Safdie
Commissioners absent: Marcus Buggs, Edubina Arce, Garlinda Burton, Genma Stringer Holmes, Kosar Kosar, Alecia Wynn
Attorney present: Matthew Garth
Staff in attendance: Davie Tucker, Ashley Bachelder, Cathy Carrillo

2. CONFIRM QUORUM

Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved with no edits.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Director Tucker reported that the staff is working on completing the budget proposal for the Commission's review.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Introduction of new commissioner
Jeff Teague was introduced as the newest member of the Commission.
- Staff update
RJ Robles' ended his employment with the MHRC. We will work to fill his position as soon as possible.
- Executive Director evaluation
Chair Abolfazli explained the evaluation process. Commissioners were emailed an evaluation form to complete and return to Crystal Cockerill. The Executive Committee will meet on 02/19/2024 to discuss and tally the results. Paper copies of the evaluation form were distributed to the Commissioners as well.

- MHRC office move and change of address
The new office is located at 150 2nd Avenue North.
- Bylaws and Rules *Ad hoc* Committee update
The committee met in December. Commissioner Traughber explained that the committee met to discuss the amending of the bylaws. They noticed potential gaps with the MHRC's involvement with Title VI investigations. The code also lacked clarity around the Commission's decision making and/or recommendations with complaints. To determine when the rules and procedures were adopted, Commissioner Venick contacted three previous executive directors Carolyn Blackwell, Tom Negri and Mel Fowler-Green. They were adopted in 2012. The committee will meet again to discuss the rules and procedures. Commissioner Traughber explained that the code allows the Commission to revise and adopt rules and procedures as long as they do not exceed the authority given to the MHRC. Attorney Garth agreed and will review the document if amendments are made.

Discussion was made about amending the charter. Attorney Garth stated that the Metro Code contains a general provision for boards and commissions to summon individuals to appear. He will research further to provide clarity to that provision and how it affects the MHRC.

- Community engagement
 - Community Banner Day - Wednesday, January 10th 5:00 pm @ Hadley Park Community Center
 - MLK Black Tie Gala - Thursday, January 11th @ Cal Turner
 - Labor and Human Rights Breakfast – Friday, January 12th 7:30 am @ Scarritt Bennett Center
 - MLK Day Youth Symposium – Saturday, January 13th 9:00 am @ MLK Magnet School
 - Power and Promise of Equitable Education - Sunday, January 14th @ Scarritt Bennett Center
 - MLK Day March and Convocation – Monday, January 15th @ Jefferson Street Baptist Church and TSU Gentry Center
 - Press Round for the 15th Anniversary of the English Only defeat - January 22nd @ 9:00 am/Just Episodes Screening and Community Group project 6:00 pm @ Southeast Community Center
 - ED Tucker recognized Chair Abolfazli as one of the Nashville Scene's People of the Year for the work that she does in the community.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Complaints update
ED Tucker reported that the staff plans to present a report tentatively by 02/19/2024 pending a response to questions presented to Metro Legal. Ashley Bachelder explained the components of the report. It will include, but not be limited to relevant data from the Metro Arts Commission, notes from more than 25 MHRC conducted interviews, commissioner applications and confirmation interviews, planning documents for community engagement, and outcomes of the grants process.

Attorney Garth stated that Metro Legal will send a response soon. Director Tucker acknowledged that a response was received from Metro Legal that did not address the questions in the letter.

Chair Abolfazli stated that the Commission will vote on adopting the complaints report in February.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

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.