



One City for All People

**Full Commission Meeting – Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2024, 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

Commissioners in attendance: Maryam Abolfazli, Dr. Ben Tran, Charles Traughber, Ariel Safdie, Genma Holmes, Pratik Dash, Kosar Kosar, Larea Kwakye, Irwin Venick, Jeff Teague, Dakota Galban

Commissioners absent: Dr. Amy Charlton, Marcus Buggs, Garlinda Burton, Edubina Arce, Alicia Wynn

Attorney in attendance: Matthew Garth

Staff in attendance: Davie Tucker, Ashley Bachelder, Crystal Cockrill

2. CONFIRM QUOROM

Quorum was confirmed at 4:17 pm.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved with no edits.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

ED Tucker reported that we are still within budget.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- Budget request
ED Tucker stated that we are requesting 3 new staff positions. Commissioners were asked to review the proposed budget and send questions and concerns to the staff within the next two weeks.
- Executive Director evaluation
The evaluation process is complete and was approved.
- RS2024-158 -- A resolution approving Amendment Number 2 to a sole source contract between the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County and Fusus, Inc. to increase the value of the contract.

The resolution to extend the contract has been withdrawn from the Council agenda. MHRC will continue to be involved in and aware of the work around surveillance technology.

- Commissioners Kosar and Venick will draft resolutions concerning the discriminatory actions in the workplace related to the Gaza War and similar antisemitic conduct in schools. The drafts will be submitted to staff for consolidation and presentation to the Commission.
- Community engagement
No announcements.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- Complaints update

A preview of the Metro Arts and Metro Legal Title VI report was distributed to the commissioners. Two artists have been added to the complaint and interviewed by MHRC staff. MHRC has retained Mel Fowler-Green as outside counsel due to conflict of interest with Metro Legal being a potential party to the complaint and legal counsel to the complaint. Her scope of work includes a draft opinion about confidentially in Title VI complaints and investigations, a draft opinion as to whether Metro Legal can be a party to the complaint, a review of related statutes and case law, and assistance with the final compilation of the report, and attend meetings related to the complaint. Attorney Fowler-Green stated that alleged violations of Title VI cannot be addressed through a court filing.

Fowler-Green took questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Venick expressed concern over the notion that a party can object to legal advice provided by Metro Legal, and whether that constitutes grounds for a Title VI allegation. Fowler-Green and ED Tucker explained that the fact-finding report will include details about what happened, the role of specific parties, and how specific actions contributed to what the complainants are alleging as discriminatory actions.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals provided public comments:

AB Batrol – Metro Arts Commission allegations
Christine Hall – Expression of appreciation to MHRC
Craig Bardeaux – Expression of appreciation to MHRC
Angel Stansbury - Fusus

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nominees for new commissioners are needed for the MHRC.
- Councilmembers Evans-Segall and Horton filed several bills concerning zoning reform and affordable housing. The MHRC will monitor and follow the progress of the bills.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 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.