



One City for All People

**Full Commission Meeting – Minutes**  
**Monday, September 11, 2023, 4:00pm-5:30pm**  
**Nashville Public Library - Main**  
**Conference Room 1A**  
**615 Church St., 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:** Board Chair, Maryam Abolfazli

Commissioners in attendance: Maryam Abolfazli, Irwin Venick, Amy Charlton, Garlinda Burton, Dakota Galban, Marcus Buggs, Larea Kwakye, Ben Tran, Genma Stringer Holmes

Commissioners absent: Kosar Kosar, Pratik Dash, Ariel Safdie, Jorge Salles Diaz, Charles Traugher, Alecia Wynn, Dan Cadenas, Arce Edubina

Staff in attendance: Davie Tucker, Ashley Bachelder, Crystal Cockrill, RJ Robles, Cathy Carrillo

Attorney: Matthew Garth

2. **CONFIRM QUOROM**

Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were approved with three edits.

4. **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The financial update was presented with no questions or comments.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- New Administration engagement plan – Commissioners were asked to email a biography and picture of themselves to the staff to update the MHRC website. Priority work area Title VI was discussed. A tentative date, November 16, 2023, was mentioned as the date for the annual training for Metro Title VI coordinators. The final draft of the 2023 – 2024 Priority Work Areas was reviewed and approved.
- Language Access – Richard Ponce de Leon, Director of the Tennessee Language Center agreed to partner with MHRC to discuss and create a workplan to assist Metro departments with language access tools and resources. The staff distributed a survey to each Metro

department to access and identify their needs concerning language access. The survey results will help determine the utilization of the grant funds.

- Executive Board election – The election process was led by Nominations Chair Genma Stringer Holmes. The slate of nominees was presented as follows: Chair – Maryam Abolfazli, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair -Charles Traughber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – Ben Tran, Secretary – Larea Kwakye, Treasurer – Ariel Safdie. There were no additional nominees. A motion was moved and passed to accept the presented slate of new Executive Board Committee officers.

#### 6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- License plate readers – The Executive Committee will continue to look for updates concerning the initiative.

#### 7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

An individual raised questions about how to contact the MHRC staff to file a complaint. The staff email address and phone number were confirmed. Staff offered assistance outside the meeting as requested by ED Tucker.

#### 8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Executive Board meeting 09/22/2023 @ 10:00 am
- Staff discussed community engagement events scheduled through the remainder of the year.

#### 9. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 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](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.