



One City for All People

**Special Called Commission Meeting
Monday, July 08, 2024, 4:00pm – 5:30pm
Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Way 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.

“Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, please take notice that decisions of the Metro Human Relations Commission may be appealed to the Chancery Court of Davidson County for review under a common law writ of certiorari. Any appeal must be filed within sixty days after entry of a final decision by the Commission. Any person or other entity considering an appeal should consult with an attorney to ensure that time and procedural requirements are met.”

AGENDA

Commissioners in Attendance: Garlinda Burton, Charles Traugher, Whitney Pastorek, Jeff Teague, Todd McKinney, Erin Coleman, Dakota Galban, Marcus Buggs, Ben Tran, Maryam Abolfazli, Alecia Wynn, Marcus Buggs, Genma Stringer-Holmes, Kosar Kosar, Dahron Johnson

Commissioners not in Attendance: Edubina Arce, Larea Kwayke, Dr. Amy Charlton

Metro Legal Attorney: Matthew Garth

MHRC Attorney: Mel Fowler-Green

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Maryam Albofazli
2. CONFIRM QUORUM
 - Quorum was confirmed at 4:03pm.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - Robert Jones speaking on behalf of Alisha Burt (NNAC) – Metro Arts
 - Lisa Valerie – Metro Arts
 - Mark Schlicher (read by Chair Abolfazli) – Metro Arts
 - Shakira Bally – Metro Arts
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - The minutes were approved with no edits.
5. FINANCIAL UPDATE
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6. OLD BUSINESS
 - New commissioner orientation
 - i. 08/20/2024 10:00am – 12:00pm at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

- **Conciliation agreement**
 - i. **Staff report**
 1. Ashley Bachelder presented a report containing a brief review of the Title VI complaint, MHRC findings of probable cause, and a proposed conciliation agreement.
 2. Attorney Mel Fowler-Green explained the details and conditions of the agreement:
 - a. “Make whole” payment to public art muralists and micro and small organizations, not included in the allocation of supplemental payments in March of 2024. Approximately a \$564k additional payment to organizations and artists. Adding this to the payments authorized in March, payments total approximately \$2.28M.
 - b. Commitment by Metro Legal to extend spending recording requirements to the last day of March 2025 for any artists who received supplemental payment since the 03/22/2024 allocation. An extension until 06/30/2025 for those artists and organizations who will receive supplemental funding as a result of the agreement. Metro Legal will work with MHRC staff to communicate and disseminate communication regarding the extensions.
 - c. An agreement to share with MHRC staff a real time ongoing list of individuals who receive supplemental funding pursuant to the 03/22/2024 allocation and subsequent conciliation agreements.
 - d. Metro Legal and Metro Finance will commit to work with MHRC, Metro Arts, and Council, and any other necessary stakeholders to find a legal route to protect the Thrive program or something identical that allows for payment to individual and independent artists.
 - e. Metro Legal will commit to create clearer guidance to boards and commissions specifically about their role in operations and allow MHRC to provide feedback on a draft prior to its dissemination.
 - f. The Metro Arts Commission will commit to community engagement about new grant policies and procedures and consider feedback.
 - g. Metro Arts will agree to an additional hour-long conciliation meeting with MHRC staff and counsel, and two complainant representatives with the purpose of understanding past grant policies and procedures.
 - h. A signed agreement by 07/31/2024 that will include all material terms, benchmark dates for future obligations, no admission of liability by any parties or participants, a full and final release of legal claims by the complainants, and a dismissal of the complaint with prejudice by MHRC.
 - ii. **Complainant response**
 1. Christine Hall, Robert Jones, Lydia Yousief provided a complainant response. Complainants expressed frustrations about elements not included in the proposed agreement.
 - iii. **Director’s response** – ED Tucker gave a summary from MHRC and suggested that the Commission voted to approve the agreement.
 - iv. **Commission discussion (action)**

1. Chair Abolfazli asked for clarity concerning the number of muralists who will be paid. ED Tucker confirmed that 26 muralists will receive funds. 13 organizations will also receive funding under the agreement.
2. Commissioner Burton asked if the agreement would affect future issues that may arise concerning potential overreach from Metro Legal and/or Finance. Mel Fowler-Green stated that it will not set a particular precedent for complaints in the future. It would not hinder further advocacy from MHRC, the complainants, or any other interested parties.
3. Commissioner Tran asked to clarify the number of votes needed to pass a motion in the meeting. Chair Abolfazli requested clarity from Attorney Garth who stated that a majority vote is required to pass the motion.
4. Commissioner Dakota Galban made a motion to accept the conciliation agreement in principle as full resolution of the Title VI complaint. A second was made by Commissioner Kosar.

Roll call vote:

- a. Dakota
- b. Kosar - yes
- c. Tran - yes
- d. Abolfazli - yes
- e. Pastorek – yes
- f. Teague – yes
- g. Buggs - yes
- h. Galban - yes
- i. Burton - no
- j. Wynn - yes
- k. McKinney - yes
- l. Coleman -yes
- m. Johnson - yes
- n. Traughber - yes
- o. Stringer-Holmes – yes

7. NEW BUSINESS – deferred to next meeting

- One City University
- Community engagement
- “No Hate on My Plate” campaign

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.



If any accommodations are needed for individuals with disabilities who wish to be present at this meeting, please request the accommodation through hubNashville at <https://nashville.gov/hub-ADA-boards> or by calling (615) 862-5000. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is recommended.