



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Quality Services for a Quality Community

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Daniel Baum, Chair
Patrick Cannon
Karen Hoene
Carla McWherter
Liz Miller
Talyce Murray
Sean Perry

City Council Liaison
Aaron Stephens

Staff Liaison
Shelli Neumann
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City of East Lansing
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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July 2, 2019–7:00 P.M.

Court/City Council Conference Room

East Lansing, MI 48823

1) **Opening**

A) Roll Call

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Baum, Cannon, Hoene, McWherter and Miller. Also present were Aaron Stephens, City Council Liaison, and Shelli Neumann, Staff Liaison.

B) Review of Agenda

The Commission approved the agenda for July 2, 2019. Motion by Cannon; second by Miller. All yeas; motion carried.

C) Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes for June 5, 2019 with the addition of noting that Commissioner Murray Skyped in to the meeting and was on an approved Leave of Absence. Motion by McWherter; second by Cannon. All yeas; motion carried.

2) **Public Comment**

The following members of the public spoke on the topic of the Public Safety Review Ordinance:

Alice Dreger
Alex (last name unknown)
Nell Kuhnmuensch
Ralph Monsma

3) **Written Correspondence**

None

4) **Council Liaison Comments**

Councilmember Stephens stated that he would be introducing an Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors to City Council at their 7/16/19 meeting. The ordinance is modeled after the Huntington Woods ordinance that was recently passed, with one difference being that complaints would be sent to the HRC, rather than the City Manager's Office.

Councilmember Stephens spoke about the possibility of a Public Safety Review ad hoc committee and potential appropriate appointees to the committee outside of the HRC.

Councilmember Stephens noted that we received more HRC applicants and would, hopefully, be appointing another commissioner at the July City Council meeting.

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- 5) **Staff Liaison Report**
None

- 6) **Commissioner Concerns/Items**

Commissioner McWherter asked Neumann about the status of union negotiations, specifically public safety. Neumann stated that negotiations are ongoing.

Commissioner McWherter noted that it would be helpful to have more detailed meeting minutes. Councilmember Stephens suggested that an audio recording may be an option. Mayor Mark Meadows, who was in attendance as a member of the public, noted that it may be beneficial to investigate broadcasting various commission meetings on a rotational basis.

- 7) **Old Business**

A) **Public Safety Review Board**

Commissioner McWherter stated that she reached out to an Ann Arbor HRC commissioner, who was involved in their communities' oversight committee. She is hoping to get valuable input from him on the formation of the ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Hoene stated that she had recent contact with an Ann Arbor City Council member who offered her input on this process.

Commissioner Miller stated that she recently met leaders from Boulder, CO who are going through the same process as East Lansing in this regard. They will connect her with the appropriate people to share information on this topic.

Commissioners discussed the timeline for creating a committee to make recommendations to City Council on the topic of a Public Safety Review Board. Commissioner McWherter noted that MSU student input is very important, and they will not return to the community until the end of August. Commissioner Miller noted that she personally feels it is important to get more diverse input. Mayor Meadows agreed that it was important to get this process right and that there is no reason to hurry.

Commissioner Baum shared written comments from Commissioner Murray, who is on a leave of absence from the commission. Murray volunteered to reach out to other City commissions and made a recommendation on some parameters/inclusions for the ad hoc committee (HRC: 1, USC: 1, diverse community resident: 2; 25 year+ City resident: 1).

Miller, with support from other commissioners, stated that she believes that it would be a good idea to allow nominations from the public for consideration to serve on the ad hoc committee, as well as targeting/nominating specific individuals who are known to be interested/active in this topic. The HRC could receive applications from those who are interested in serving on the ad hoc committee.

Baum stated that he recommends establishing an HRC subcommittee that will research the topic and contact resources to make a recommendation to the HRC regarding an ad hoc committee. Stephens and the Commissioner discussed how creating a subcommittee should not and will not derail the forward motion of this issue.

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Commissioners discussed a new, tentative timeline:

1. HRC creates a subcommittee at July meeting
2. Subcommittee makes recommendation to HRC regarding ad hoc committee at September HRC meeting
3. HRC makes recommendation to City Council (September meeting)
4. Receive public applicants to ad hoc committee through November
5. City Council appoints ad hoc committee (with HRC input)
6. Ad hoc committee begins their work

It was moved by Miller supported by Cannon:

The HRC will form a subcommittee that will report back to the HRC at the September meeting with recommendations on the configuration and purview of establishing an ad hoc committee tasked with forming the Public Safety Review Board.

The motion was discussed.

Roll Call Vote: Baum: Aye
 Cannon: Aye
 Hoene: Aye
 McWherter: Aye
 Miller: Aye

The following HRC members will serve on the subcommittee: McWherter, Murray and Perry.

B) *Coffee & Conversation*—HRC Monthly Event

Commissioners discussed the upcoming dates and locations of *Coffee & Conversations* and made some edits to the drafted press release. McWherter will facilitate the first session on Sunday, July 21, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, at Blue Owl Coffee, topic: What is a Protected Class? Baum and Cannon will facilitate the second session on Sunday, August 18, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, at Espresso Royale (1500 W. Lake Lansing Rd), topic: Religion Edition (with discussion of Hate Crimes).

Commissioner Sean Perry arrived and introduced himself to the HRC.

Councilmember Stephens noted that the August meeting will be Commissioner Baum's last meeting, as he is heading to Michigan for law school.

8) **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. Motion by Baum; second by Cannon. All yeas; motion carried.