

## Human Relations Commission Zoom Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

- I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called at 6:34 by Cheryl Ragland
- II. Roll Call  
Members Present: Miriam Dorsey, Robert VanSumeren, James Johnson, Maurice Imhoff, Cheryl Ragland, Shalanda Hunt, Karyl Baker.  
Ex Officio Present:  
Ex Officio Absent:  
Staff: John Willis  
City Council Liaison: Arlene Robinson
- III. Adoption of the Agenda: Motion by Maurice I. 2nd by Shalanda H. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: Motion by Miriam D to provide missing data from December minutes to Shalanda H. Motion by Miriam to have the November recording sent to Shalanda H and all information be brought to February meeting. Motion 2nd by Shalanda H. Motion carried.
- V. Citizen Comments: None
- VI. Guest Speakers: Maurice I. asked when will the recruiting begin. Cheryl R. stated that guest can begin coming as soon as next month February. Each guest is allowed 15 minutes to speak. All suggestions should be sent to Cheryl R. Cheryl R. will forward names to John W. and he will add them to the agenda.
- VII. Community Liaison Police Officer:  
Officer Garcia provided updates on Training
  - i. -A couple officers are completing de-escalation training, a few employees are currently attending Anti-Racism training facilitated by ERACCE, the 2021-year end crime stats are being finalized and posted by the end of the month,
  - ii. -Crimes rates: we are seeing an increase in gun violence; recent shootings on Biddle Street, last year 60 guns were seized off the streets; the most ever seen
  - iii. -Recruiting is still going on, we are doing what we can, two females were recently hired and currently attending the police academy
  - iv. -The budget process for the next fiscal year has begun, not sure what it will look like due to COVID.
  - v. -Maurice I. asked if there are specific areas where we are seeing gun violence. Garcia responded: no specific areas, just happening when they (the youth) see each other.
  - vi. -Maurice I. inquired about the Citizens Academy being held virtually this year since it was canceled last year. At this time, it is still on the agenda but when and what the platform will be, is still pending.
  - vii. -James J. asked if there is anything that the HRC can do to help. Garcia expressed the importance of reporting what you see and what you know. James asked if a returning citizen could play a part in the police force. Garcia indicated that he was unable to provide a response as it was above his pay grade, but he would be willing to defer to the City Manager and Elmer Hitt.

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- viii. -Maurice I. asked if there are any suggestions for law enforcement to connect with younger kids. Officers are in the schools, but the at-risk kids do not attend school regularly.
  - ix. -Karyl B asked what ages law enforcement are looking to recruit: Anyone 21 years and older can attend the 16-week academy. Once they complete the academy they are sworn in as an officer immediately and guaranteed a job!
- VIII. Committee Reports: None- went through each committee during the Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday.
- IX. Old Business
- A. MEI Project Update
    - i. Karyl B: Reported currently have the Hate Crime Stats, currently have a LGBT Liaison, still need to call BCBS regarding Transgender health care benefits and protection from Conversion Therapy. Other priority areas (Bullying, support for HIV/AIDS).
    - ii. John W. will contact Doria via email regarding City partner benefits. Karyl B will be looped into the dialogue.
    - iii. Karyl B will call Equality Michigan to see if they can provide training now that the elections are over.
    - iv. Does the City provide services to support the following areas (LGBT, LGBT Homeless, LGBT Elders, HIV/AIDS)?
    - v. Cheryl R inquired, can we create an amendment for the existing NDO, or do we need to craft an ordinance? John W indicated that if it is an amendment or a new ordinance, they both will need approval. John W. suggested that we look at other surrounding cities (i.e.: Ann Arbor Grand Rapids) to see what they have done and make sure there is not an existing ordinance.
    - vi. What is the time frame to have new ordinances done? Karyl B will send and email to all commissioners outlining what needs to be done by next Wednesday. An updated status letter with deadlines and assigned time frames will be done by July and ready for October.
  - B. Housing and Accommodations Committee Status Update
    - i. As previously discussed, waiting for spreadsheet updates from commissioners. Cheryl R will send out a reminder email by Wednesday January 27th. All spreadsheet data will be sent to John W by January 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - C. Youth Council Update
    - i. Interviews are done. The powers above have placed a hold on the process. Students have not been seated yet. Plans to have students seated in February, during the next City Council meeting.
    - ii. Students have been notified via email that the City Manager has postponed the process and that the decision to be seated will take longer than expected.
    - iii. John W will send Arlene R. a preliminary copy
    - iv. Letters were sent out to all Wards that still needed representation.
- X. New Business

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- A. Strategic Planning Summary:
  - i. Cheryl R and John W met to finalize the spreadsheet information, assigning task and outlining objectives
  - ii. John W will provide a preliminary copy at the next meeting to confirm everything is as intended. Once approved, copy will be sent to City Council
  - iii. Annual Report: Cheryl R. will summarize and send to John W. (what was accomplished and why we did not have actual events).
- B. Budget – What is the timeline to hear back? Budget discussion begins in March but must be confirmed in May by the City Council.
  - i. Estimated Annual Budget- \$5000.00 (Total)
    - a) Training & Development (\$2000)
    - b) Marketing (\$2000)
    - c) Harold White Breakfast (\$1000)
- C. Virtual Meetings- Education Outreach
  - i. Vaccine Rollout (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
  - ii. Emotional & Mental Health (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
  - iii. Housing & Accommodations (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
  - iv. Poverty Education (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)
- D. Sub-committee for City Contracts (members: Robert, James, and Cheryl). Cheryl will gather data then contact all committee members.
- E. Committee Appointments that were determined during Strategic Planning Meeting
  - i. Harold White Breakfast (Maurice – Lead)
  - ii. Juneteenth (Miriam – Lead)
  - iii. Nominating (James- Lead, Shalanda, Miriam)
  - iv. Policy and Complaint (Robert- Lead, Karyl, Miriam, Maurice)
  - v. Project Development (Cheryl-Lead, Karyl, James)
  - vi. Public Relations/Communications (Maurice -Lead, James, Cheryl)
- XI. City Councilmember Liaison Comments: Arlene expressed that she was glad we got through the strategic planning process. She is looking forward to reviewing the spreadsheet to see where we are headed for the year. “We are off to a good start”.
- XII. Commissioner’s Comments: Maurice I. and Karyl B. have not been sworn in for this year. They have been approved by City Council. It is their responsibility to contact Andrea Murray to get sworn in. Some things are being done virtually. Maurice will drop off his Ethics Disclosure form at City Hall instead of mailing it out.
- XIII. Adjournment
  - Motion to adjourn the meeting made by James J. Motion 2nd by Karyl B.
  - Motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shalanda Hunt