



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, March 23, 2022

**Place:** King Center  
1107 Adrian Street, Jackson, MI 49203

I. Call to Order. 6:00, by Cheryl Ragland, Chair.

II. Roll Call by Ragland.

Commissioners present: Cheryl Ragland, Miriam Brown Dorsey, James Johnson, Jr., Robert W. VanSumeren.

Commissioners not present: Maurice Imhoff and Shalanda Hunt.

Also present: Chief Equity Officer John Willis. Councilmember Arlene Robinson.

III. Adoption of the Agenda. Motion, Ragland; Second, Johnson, Jr. Unanimously passed as amended.

IV. Citizen Comments (3-Minute Limit).

Peter Bormuth. Offers comment about Police Oversight Commission (POC). Recommends a residency requirement for POC.

Renee Brown. Recommends that Tamar Cain be added to a mural project for Bright Walls or for some other recognition.

Martasia Walker. Speaks on behalf of recognition for Tamar Cain, her grandmother. John Willis indicates the mayor at the time did issue a proclamation.

Dena Morgan. Has submitted an application to sit on Affordable Housing Committee.

Rosemarie White. Been calling DPW, needs a tree cut down, or trimmed on property. John Willis indicates he'll follow up with Ms. White.

Anonymous Citizen. City removed tree, 145 E. Robinson. Left stump.

Anonymous Citizen. Problems with trees on street, Cypress St.

Anonymous Citizen. Thankful for having the Fire Department back on Milwaukee Street.

V. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes.

December 2021 Minutes. Motion to approve, Dorsey; second, James, Jr. Motion carried.

February 2022 Minutes. Motion to approve, as amended, Dorsey; second, James, Jr. Motion carried.

Amendments to February 2022 minutes shall include the following changes: remove italics; clarify all abbreviations; correct James, to James, Jr.; clarify outline structure, simplify language, remove redundancy in "New Business;" include meeting location; include name of minutes recorder.

VI. Community Liaison Police Officer Report. Sgt. Garcia reports City of Jackson Police Department conducting in-person training as part of twice yearly training program. De-escalation training was completed. Conducting interviews for new position. Preparing for police cadet position, a program whereby the City Police send a candidate for training at Jackson College and then guarantee employment. Planning to move two officers into the Jackson Public Schools. Recently ran Gun Violence Intervention program at Parkside.

VII. Committee Reports.

- Nominating Committee. One candidate coming through.
- Project Development Committee. Nothing to report.
- Policy and Complaint Committee. One report that may be coming through the channels. VanSumeren provided update on DEI Statement Drafting Subcommittee; the sub-committee will provide draft at next meeting.
- Public Relations/Communications Committee. Nothing to report.
- Public Events. Nothing to report.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Update on New Commissioner Applications. Willis indicates that several applications are working their way through the preliminary approval process.

IX. New Business

- a. Review City of Jackson Boards & Commissions' Assignments.

Ragland updates audience about the work HRC has done, surveying the boards. Ragland reviews list, and updates on which boards have been surveyed.

- X. City Councilmember Liaison Comments. Councilperson Robinson, thanks to all for coming to the meeting. Explains that she is liaison to the Human Relations Commission and that Willis is the assigned Staff. Encourages input from community members.
  
- XI. Commissioner's Comments. Following the comments the meeting adjourned at 6:51p.

Respectfully submitted from my notes,

Robert W. VanSumeren  
HRC Commissioner