

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2019

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, April 1, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 8 – Commissioners David Allgood, Reginald Glass, Angelica Matos (*phone*), Gad Niyiragira, Dr. Arthur Patterson, Gwendolyn Pearce (*phone*), Heather Williams, and Dawn Wilson (*phone*).

ABSENT: 1 – Commissioner Victor Eddie.

MINUTES

Commissioner David Allgood moved to accept the March minutes as presented, Commissioner Dr. Arthur Patterson seconded. Motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

USA TODAY NEWS ARTICLE

“NYC Commission Forbids Bias Against Braids, Afros” by Charisse Jones and Zlati Meyer

Chair Reginald Glass stated that about Wednesday, February 20th an article was sent out regarding the Commission in New York City is adding to their Ordinance in bringing it up to date in terms of the way they deal with black people who are being discriminated against because of braids and afros.

Chair Glass suggested that the Board look at where we are in terms of issues of this nature. The Commission’s Ordinance was passed several decades ago and we may need to consider doing some updating to bring the Ordinance up to the 21st century. He asked the Board to look at the Ordinance to see where it needs updating, identifying areas that need updating or new things that need to be added in which the updates can be included in a resolution to Metro Council to update those things as well as the Commission’s operating procedures.

Kendall Boyd commented that he is aware that the City of New York passed a dreadlock ban as a local ordinance. He is open to having the Commission’s Ordinance reviewed to add those protections. At the Federal level, the hairstyle issue is an unsettled law, some courts have said that hairstyle is not necessarily a basis for discrimination. Kendall suggested that we have our County Attorney look at the Ordinance to see what the status of the law is to ensure that the Ordinance is drafted according to the law.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (*by Kendall Boyd*)

- Budget – Kendall Boyd communicated that the Mayor’s proposed tax increase did not pass Metro Council. There will be drastic cuts across the board for Metro Government. Kendall informed the Board that Martha Lawfer has retired, and we lost an investigator, both positions will not be back filled due to the budget constraints. The two positions are roughly \$110,000.00 in salary and benefits.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (*continuation*)

➤ Budget (*continuation*)

Kendall also noted that the Commission will be moving to a location downtown next to the Science Museum. The new space will be on the second floor at 745 W. Main Street. The building is Metro owned and currently houses Office of Performance and Improvement on the fourth floor and Facilities. The move will take place the end of June, early July. The current lease for this agency is \$60,000.00 a year. The total cuts to this department are \$170,000.00 out of a \$900,000.00 budget, which is a little more than 10% of our agency budget.

Kendall communicated that the Budget Address will be April 25th and will include where the budget cuts will be.

➤ Lean into Louisville Initiative – Kendall noted that due to budget cuts, he is not sure of the status at this time regarding the Lean into Louisville Initiative.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- Girls of Color Academy – Commissioner Wilson communicated that there have been a couple of meetings for the proposed Girls' school.
- Chief Conrad's LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting – The next Advisory committee meeting is tomorrow. Commissioner Wilson noted that she will attend the meeting for the follow-up on the survey.
- JCPS and Education Committee Quarterly Meeting – We are looking at April dates for the next quarterly meeting. Chair Glass communicated that JCPS did provide some dates and times for the meeting. However, he did instruct Diniah to request for a revised time due to some constraints.
- WFPL's "In Conversation with Rick Howlett" Talk Show – Commissioner Wilson encouraged the Board to listen to the talk show.
- Trans Day of Visibility – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she attended the event as a Commissioner. The event had a great turn-out and she did have an opportunity to speak to numerous parents and kids. Commissioner Wilson commented that she will send Diniah an Email.
- The Equality Federation – Chris Hartman and the Federation has asked that we do a workshop at the National Leadership Conference. Commissioner Wilson communicated that she has submitted the workshop information but has not heard anything.

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Commissioner David Allgood reported:

- State level:
 - State Sub-minimum Wage Trying to do away with the sub-minimum wage in Kentucky, possibly do a five-year phase out plan.
 - Tax Credit – We are proposing for home modification.
- Locally – Until the thirty-five million-dollar (\$35,000,000) Budget shortfall, Commissioner Allgood believes there will be a Commission created for people with disabilities. Councilman Brandon Coan has submitted the verbiage/language to the County Attorney.

DISABILITY COMMITTEE (*continuation*)

- *Age Friendly Louisville Meeting* – There are four different committees that Age Friendly Louisville is trying to look at aspects in making Louisville a community that will have things in place that will help the aging Louisvillians have a better quality of life. Commissioner Allgood noted that he will Email Dinisha the schedule to send out to the Board members.
- *Mayor's ADA Round Table* – The Mayor has one in the fall and one in the spring. The upcoming Round Table will be Wednesday, April 10th at 11:00a.m, and usually are held at Metro Hall. Commissioner Allgood noted that he will be in DC and unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dr. Arthur Patterson moved to adjourn, Commissioner Gad Niyiragira seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:09a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dinisha Calhoun
Executive Assistant