

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY BOARD MEETING

OFFICIAL CALL AND AGENDA

Monday, August 3, 2020

9:00 A.M.

- **ROLL CALL**
- **MINUTES**
 - ◇ **June 2020**
- **STATUS REPORT – Kendall Boyd**
 - ◇ **Suggested Actions for the Administration to Take**
(Advocacy Board provided 07.15.2020)
- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- **BOARD RESIGNATION**
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
- **ADJOURNMENT**

MISSION

of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission is to promote unity, understanding and equal opportunity among all people of Metro Louisville and to eliminate all forms of bigotry, bias and hatred from the community.

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2020

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, June 9, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission's WebEx Tele-video.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Chair Reginald Glass called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 7 – Commissioners David Allgood, Reginald Glass, Angelica Matos, Dr. Arthur Patterson (*phone*), Gwendolyn Pearce, Heather Williams, and Dawn Wilson.

ABSENT: 3 – Commissioners Victor Eddie, Gad Niyiragira (*excused*) and Olivia Kleitz.

MINUTES

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Kendall Boyd*

- *LGBT Vendor Certification* – The Commission will begin to certify LGBT businesses sometime later this summer, July or August. We continue to work with B2GNow to get the software updated to add the LGBT certification.
- *Build Back Better Together Initiative* – The Initiative has been announced by the Mayor and by Metro. If any board member is interested in becoming a part of the initiative, a link will be sent to your email by Diniah.
- *Civilian Review Board Workgroup* – The Civilian Review Board workgroup met two weeks ago. Kendall communicated that he along with Chair Glass are on the workgroup. The intent of the workgroup is to develop new policies and rules that address the issues of police discipline and termination when there is an officer involved shooting or other allegations of misconduct.

Chair Reginald Glass noted that the research appears to be very old.

Commissioner Arthur Patterson asked, “That the Mayor can terminate the officers that shot Ms. Breonna Taylor?” Kendall Boyd stated “No.”

Commissioner Patterson asked, “Why not and what is the law, and does it still prohibit the Mayor from suspending during an investigation?”

Mr. Boyd communicated the statute is KRS 67C, it is the statute of law that created Louisville Metro Government. “Yes, Metro is trying to negotiate changes under a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (“CBA”). The current CBA will remain in effect.”

STATEMENT

Chair Reginald Glass read the drafted statement that was sent earlier via Email to the Board and asked if there are any comment(s) and/or revision(s).

Commissioner Arthur Patterson communicated agreement and suggested the inclusion of “*Police Best Practices*” in the statement.

Commissioner Dawn Wilson commented that she appreciated the entering of information she forwarded earlier.

Commissioner David Allgood commented that he agrees with the statement and the inclusion of the ability to fire police officers.

Chair Glass noted that he has inserted “will be a 21st century leader with a focus on community policing and Best Practices.”

Black Lives Matter in Louisville, Kentucky The United States of America and Around the World

Louisville (June 11, 2020) – Black Lives Matter in Louisville, Kentucky, the United States of America and around the world. People of color should not have to wait more than four hundred years or eight minutes and 46 seconds to be respected as human beings by all others, especially police officers across our country. For that reason, we fully support peaceful protests for real, and lasting, equality and inclusion here and around the world. We, too, are sick and tired of being sick and tired, but not sick enough to destroy property and businesses sorely needed by our city’s residents.

We, the Commissioners of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission Advocacy Board, are committed to erasing racism from our community. We start by demanding justice for our own, Breonna Taylor and David McAtee, along with George Floyd, who the world saw on video, lose his life under the knee of a Minneapolis uniformed public servant. These lost souls are just three of far too many people of color murdered by police in this country.

Over the years, we have worked with LMPD command staff and many excellent police officers who understand they work for, and with, the citizens of Louisville. Unfortunately, that has not been enough. The pervasive control of the F.O.P. over the attitudes and behavior of some officers has stymied any efforts to end police misconduct toward citizens of color in our community. We had one meeting with a former F.O.P. president in an effort to work together on solving the divide between the public and police. After that meeting, he never returned our overtures to work together. Since then, we have seen an increase in questionable “*driving while Black*” police traffic stops, an unannounced no-knock police raid on an innocent couple’s apartment with an ill acquired warrant resulting in the death of Breonna Taylor, faulty attempted murder charges against her fiancé for defending their home from intruders and more. The F.O.P. is always on the case to defend involved officers. Then the public waits for months for the results of internal investigations that yield no justice.

STATEMENT (*continuation*)

Enough is enough. It is time for sweeping systemic changes in policing here. Our mayor has already ordered a top to bottom review of LMPD and has launched a search for a new police chief who, we hope, will be a 21st century leader with a focus on community policing and best practices. We highly recommend a more thorough review of the bottom of LMPD that interacts with the public daily. We seriously recommend the city only agree to a police contract that puts respect of the public first. We strongly recommend the contract not provide protection for officers who continually show themselves as bad actors. It should prohibit outside involvement of police personnel in any sort of militia, 3% organizations, racial or cultural supremacy groups, or any hate group targeting immigrants or religious groups. We also strongly recommend more thorough vetting of police officers for PTSD, any prior record of violence or misbehavior in other locales. Any new agreement should give the Chief authority to immediately terminate any officer who willfully violates department policy and procedures in interactions with civilians.

Going forward, we, the Advocacy Board, pledge to work more diligently to break down divides between citizens and foster understanding and a sense of community among all segments of our community.

Chair Glass asked for a motion to release the statement to the public as amended. Commissioner Arthur Patterson moved to release the statement as corrected, Commissioner Dawn Wilson seconded. Motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

Commissioner Arthur Patterson asked Director Kendal Boyd if there is any reason why Louisville cannot do what Minneapolis is doing in terms of redeveloping the whole Police Department?

Kendall communicated that that is a major overhaul. There are some fair labor standards and federal laws that we would have to examine before we can promote that. Kentucky is a right-to-work state, that is one thing that would give us the leverage to do so. Also, it would take specific legislation and a total revamp of the existing collective bargaining agreements that would have to be retooled to permit it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Commissioner David Allgood reported:

- *Voting and Mail in Ballots* – Making sure it is accessible to all individuals through the *Helping Americans Vote Act* particularly the blind and visually impaired communities who may have a difficult time when they receive the mail-in absentee ballots. We are trying to work with the Secretary of State but have not had a reply from them to see what we are doing, we continue to work with those issues.
- *TARC 3* – We have been working with TARC 3. In the beginning riders were required to wear a mask, but some of the drivers were not required to wear a mask. We had questions about that and how often they were cleaning the vehicles. They were cleaning the vehicles once a day, so we are trying to get the vehicles cleaned two to three times a day. They went from two to three people to one person riding and went to two people on the paratransit vehicles with the ramps. We have been working with TARC on a more cohesive and comprehensive safety plan for the riders and the drivers.
- *Sub-minimum Wage Bill* – During the interim legislation in Frankfort, we still have not been able to meet about the Bill due to none are meeting. We will try to get a plan of how we will get some virtual calls to discuss the issues we are concerned about and for the Kentuckians with disabilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continuation)

DISABILITY COMMITTEE (continuation)

- COVID19 Funds Allocation – The Center for Accessible Living received \$700,000.00 to help individuals with disabilities who were directly impacted by COVID19. We are still in the process of working out the parameters of disbursing the funds in our region. We are looking at partnering with Dare to Care for providing food as well as looking at rental assistance.

Chair Glass asked, “Will you have the absentee ballot situation worked out by the general election?”

Commissioner Allgood communicated that he is hoping that it will be worked out and will continue to push the issue.

CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE – Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce reported:

- Black Lives Matter Protests – Commissioner Pearce communicated that she has been out six to seven nights of the protests.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

EDUCATION REPORT

Commissioner Wilson communicated that she spoke with Diane Porter about some issues.

- Student Assignment Plan – Commissioner Wilson noted the Student Assignment Plan is coming up and we should keep an eye on and review it, there may be some issues with how the allocations were put out.
- Grace M. James STEAM Academy or Advisory Findings – The Academy and the Advisory were not able to present its findings; however, both did go forth, advertising on Twitter.
- Videos of Police and National Guard – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she did get some videos of questionable actions taken by police and the National Guard which she shared with Chair Glass and Kendall Boyd.
- LGBT Community – The Fairness Campaign repudiated its endorsement of Mayor Greg Fischer at the beginning of his three terms. The Campaign is currently re-evaluating its endorsements and endorsement process.
- Global Pride – There will be a Global Pride.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Months – No meeting in July. However, a tentative date will be Tuesday, July 7th at 9:00a.m. if needed. The next official meeting will resume in August on Monday, August 3, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Dawn Wilson moved to adjourn; Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:07a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Administrative Assistant