

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2019

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, February 4, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Reginald Glass called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: 1 – Commissioner Dr. Arthur Patterson (*excused*).

MINUTES

Commissioner David Allgood moved to accept the January minutes as presented, Commissioner Dawn Wilson seconded. Motion passed with no opposed or abstain.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- JCPS Meeting: Racial Equity Policy – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she and Chair Glass was present at the meeting to show the Commission's support of the Policy.
- Kentucky Alliance: JCPS Closing Schools Issue – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she was contacted by Tia Edison who asked her about filing an injunction because JCPS were closing schools in certain areas that affected African American children in those areas. The Alliance was making it very clear that they thought it would be a disadvantage to the students. She noted that she and Chair Glass both concur that the Alliance has not contacted any school Board member directly to voice their concerns. Commissioner Wilson called on Stella Dorsey to report on the Alliance's meeting Kendall Boyd had asked her to attend to report on the Alliance's main issues. Martha Lawfer noted that Stella was not present to provide a report today. Commissioner Wilson communicated that once she obtains the information, it will be forwarded. She also noted that the Alliance's concerns are outside of the Commission's mission statement.

Chair Reginald Glass suggested getting back in touch with Ms. Edison regarding the school situation and discuss some ways they can voice their opinions, suggesting that they talk to their school board representative in the affected area. He noted that Diane Porter is concerned about an issue that is relevant to this situation because you are taking two schools in west louisville that are not performing well and you put them in the same building that could be a negative or it could be a positive. The administration is saying that this is an opportunity to bring more resources in one site to help the students.

Kendall Boyd communicated that he received an Email from Ms. Tia Edison, who is with Standup Sunday, and will forward the Email to the Board. In the Email are the concerns that they have talked about:

- The overcrowding of schools – If two schools are merged, you are looking at a minimum of 30-35 students in a classroom.
- The problem of students being in one school.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (continuation)

- Chief Conrad's LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting – The next Advisory committee meeting is tomorrow. Commissioner Wilson commented, hopefully, she will be able to attend the meeting for the follow-up on the survey.
- Calendar:
 - February 27th – JCTC Criminal Justice Class – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she has been invited to speak at Dr. Jim Martin's class on Community Policing. Commissioner Wilson noted that she will ask Stella to accompany her at the meeting.
 - February 28th – JCPS Proposal Meeting – The meeting will take place at Shawnee; the topic will focus on the proposal/opening of a Girls of Color Academy. This will be a new academy. Commissioner Wilson noted that she will forward the Email to Diniah to forward to the Board.
- Louisville Free Public Library Exhibit: Fairness Law – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she was honored to participate in the 20th Anniversary of the Fairness law being passed. At the Main Downtown Library, there is an exhibit which includes a quote by her as well as photos. Commissioner Wilson noted that this city has changed which started with, she like to think, the Fairness Community and the sexuality work they did in bringing people together.
- WFPL's "In Conversation with Rick Howlett" Talk Show – In Conversation is a radio call-in show by Rick Howlett that airs weekly with discussions on different issues. Commissioner Wilson communicated that Mr. Howlett's next show will be with Chris Hartman. She also asked if the Commission has had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Howlett then commented that someone from the Commission should be present with Chris Hartman at WFPL's talk show, whether it is her, Chair Reginald Glass or someone from the Commission there along with Chris for input on the questions: "How much has it change the city?" and "What education has been done in the city to help that along?"

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chair Reginald Glass asked recently appointed Commissioner Gad Niyiragira to introduce himself at which each member present followed with introducing him/herself to Commissioner Niyiragira.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (by Kendall Boyd)

- Staffing – Kendall Boyd communicated that Martha Lawfer will retire effective March 1st. Her position was posted Friday to backfill.
- Budget – There is going to be budget cuts for FY 2020, each department is required to cut 10% of its budget for FY 2020. The proposed suggestion for our agency is that outside of Martha Lawfer's position, we have a vacant Compliance Officer position that we will have to relinquish. Kendall asked each Board member to contact his/her Metro Council member that represents their district and explain to them the importance of funding this agency and to not cut our budget.
- Hindu Temple – Kendall communicated that he was present Saturday at the Temple and participated in the clean-up. He also noted that he was amazed at the outpouring of participants from the community who helped with cleaning the graffiti off the Temple.
- LMPD and Chief Equity Meeting – Kendall communicated that he will be meeting this Friday with Chief Equity Kellie Watson and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Schroeder on addressing crimes in Louisville Metro and what the Commonwealth can do to pass significant hate crime legislation moving forward. Kendall noted as the information comes in that he will address the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *(continuation)*

- JCPS School Mergers – Kendall communicated that he had a conversation last week with Mr. Delquan Dorsey who is with the Diversity and Inclusion group. Delquan has asked that whatever concerns that are brought to our attention to please forward the concerns to him.
- Lean into Louisville Initiative – Kendall encouraged the Board to “like” the Lean into Louisville Facebook page to keep abreast of the upcoming initiatives.

Chair Reginald Glass asked what are some of the expectations for the Board as a Commission?

Kendall communicated to get the word out and encourage those who need to hear these conversations to attend the different events. Also, if anyone has an idea or facility/venue you would like to see utilized to contact Erin Smith, who is our Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, to get the idea in motion.

- Homelessness Issues – Kendall communicated that he is looking for ideas to address the homelessness in Louisville. There was a census count last week, the count was roughly 110 to 123 people who were out in the streets when it was 20 below zero. He asks that if anyone has any ideas to please let him know, that he would like to do an initiative to address the homelessness issue with the Office of Resiliency and the Mayor's Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS *(continuation)*

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Commissioner David Allgood reported:

- ADA Task Force – ADA Mayor's Task Force continues to meet. We have met with Louisville Metro Office of Resilience and Metro Parks. We have also formed a committee structure. We have formed a Visitability Committee Infrastructure or Access.
- Minimum Wage: State Level – Currently, we are working with the Commonwealth Council Development on Disability and other disability organizations to do away with sub-minimum wage that companies can pay in Kentucky. If someone has a disability, that person can be paid \$.25/hr.; \$1.00/hr.; or \$1.25/hr. to do comparable work to a non-disabled peer. A State Senator has introduced a Bill which we will be supporting.
- Age Friendly Louisville Meeting – This is a partnership between AARP, Metro Government, and University of Louisville. The meetings are held monthly for the next five to six months.
- Other Committees – Mobility and Housing Committees which also meets monthly to discuss various issues. Chair Reginald Glass asked Commissioner Allgood to forward the information to the Board.

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMITTEE

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Reginald Glass requested for the minutes to be sent out a week before.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner David Allgood moved to adjourn, Commissioners Victor Eddie and Angelica Matos seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:48a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Executive Assistant