

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2018

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, January 8, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 6 – Commissioners David Allgood, Victor Eddie, Reginald Glass, Angelica Matos, Dr. Arthur Patterson, Sr., Gwendolyn Pearce, and Dawn Wilson.

ABSENT: 4 – Commissioners Aukram Burton (*excused*), Kennedy Lockett (*excused*), and Heather Williams.

MINUTES

Commissioner Wilson moved to accept the December minutes as presented, Commissioner Matos seconded. Motion passed with no discussion or objection.

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

- Letter to JCPS – Kendall communicated to the Board that he still has not received a response from JCPS or the Jeffersontown Police regarding the Jeffersontown High School incident. The Board agreed for a follow-up letter to Dr. Martin Pollio and Jeffersontown Police Chief Hatmaker, and cc Jeffersontown Mayor.

Stella Dorsey brought to the Boards attention:

- The People's Agenda discussed in its meeting yesterday about the new Jeffersontown principal not being removed. They are going to be advocating that the Jeffersontown principal and the SRO's be removed at tomorrow's board meeting. If the SRO's are not removed, the People's Agenda have issues that they want to address with them about specialized training.
- She received a letter of complaint this morning via Email from one of the teachers who is also an advocate that comes to the People's Agenda meetings. She feels that she is being disciplined based upon her being out spoken.
- The People's Agenda also want the Manual High School's principal to be removed.

Chair Glass communicated to Commissioner Wilson to move on setting up a special meeting with JCPS dealing with these issues. Commissioner Wilson asked Diniah to send an Email request to JCPS for a special meeting date.

Chair Glass updated that the Board that Chris Brady did not resign from the JCPS Board, he only resigned as Chair.

- Mayor's State of the City Address –The Mayor will be putting together events that deal with race in Metro. The original banner title was Louisville Talks or Louisville Truths, but he has not come up with a slogan yet. The events are going to be aimed at looking at specific instances of race and discrimination in Louisville and how Metro can overcome those practices. The first event will be at the Muhammad Ali Center, Thursday, February 1st from 6:00-9:00p.m. It will be a panel discussion titled "*Take A Knee, Raise A Fist, Refuse To Fight*". The panel discussion will be free to the public.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT *(continuation)*

- Race Relations Conference – The Commission will have a half-day conference in April. We are looking to have the event at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage Center. Kendall Boyd open the floor for any suggestions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Wilson reported:

- She will work on getting the special meeting set up with JCPS.
- Superintendent Search – JCPS is looking at the candidates they have there, no forums have been announced. Chair Glass suggested that a letter be sent to the JCPS board requesting information on its plan for the superintendent search.
- School Board Meeting – The meeting is tomorrow and will be the election of the new board chair. One of the persons nominated is Diane Porter. Chair Glass asked if anyone can attend the meeting, please do.

DISABILITY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Allgood reported:

- Visitability Ordinance – He is continually working with Councilman Cohen on this ordinance as well as the ADA Task Force.
- Inspections Licenses and Permits (IPL) – It was agreed that Diniah will send out a meeting request to Robert Kirchdorfer and Donald Roberson inviting them to the February 5th meeting to discuss visitability and ADA ordinance.

CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- Board Meet and Greet – Commissioner Matos met with Commissioner Wilson and concluded to utilize the facility Commissioner Wilson suggested. The facility is Douglas Boulevard Christian Church, 2005 Douglas Boulevard. The date and time remains the same, Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 3:00p.m. The menu will be potluck. The Enforcement Board is also invited to participate in the get together.
Chair Glass asked Diniah to send out a meeting invite to both Boards to RSVP.

NEW BUSINESS

- Articles previously sent via Email:
 - Why Race in America is Now More Relevant than Ever
 - Readers’ Forum: Don’t disrespect my beliefs or vandalize my yard sign

NEW BUSINESS (continuation)

Chair Glass asked if the Board had a chance to read the articles that were sent out and commented that he would like the Board's reflection on the articles, on how we can use this information going forward in our work.

Commissioner Wilson commented on an incident she experienced last month of a young lady commenting on her World Championship Fencing Competition trip inquiring if she was afraid leave the country saying, "because they hate black people in this country, you know they hate us across the world." Commissioner Wilson said she explained to the girl that when she was in Germany, she interacted with all kinds of people of different races who spoke both English, German, French, and some Spanish. They were the most helpful people, and that they don't have the issues we have. Commissioner Wilson said that the girl was in shock because that was so foreign to her. We must realize that a lot of these kids in our community have never been outside any further than may be Cincinnati or Columbus.

Kendall Boyd commented in reflection to the article, this past Saturday an incident occurred at the Altitude Trampoline Park in Shively. The owner was on the news promoting "teen night", then the next thing he knows, the whole thing gets out of control. There is a three second video of a Metro officer choking one of the participants. Whenever there is a gathering of a large group of kids of color, there always seems to be an incident whether it is warranted or not. Mr. Boyd commented that he thinks part of the collective conversation can also be that "why is it that when kids of color get together there is always an incident, but when white kids or kids more fluent get together, the same incident happens and is either not reported or they are just glossed over? Because of this weekend's incident, they may not have those events anymore and asks what is there constructive to do for our kids in this community?"

Chair Glass asks, "Which police department was involved?" Mr. Boyd stated, "Shively and Metro, and that he has contacted the Chief to see what he has found out about the incident." Chair Glass agreed with Mr. Boyd's comment on "why is a gathering of our children and a gathering with other's children treated differently?"

Commissioner Matos commented that on the news Metro police is going to cut down its training for police officers which means less hours of training. They were doing a comparison of statistics nationally, and Metro has 16 weeks and nationally it is 15.

Commissioner Matos suggested sending a letter to Metro Police, asking with the cutting down of training time, can they add something dealing with *Cultural Competence Training* in dealing with children and teenagers or see what is the content of their training.

Mr. Boyd commented that LMPD does have its own diversity training, however, he does not know how detail it is.

Chair Glass agreed and noted that there is another piece of that in their training, there is a front-page article of a Louisville mother who is advocating for training for first responders dealing with children with autism. He also agreed on requesting the information from them and further added if they are going to cut back on the training, what training is going to be cut out and emphasize that cultural competency not be cut.

Mr. Boyd stated that he will have to set up a meeting with the Chief to discuss the training cuts in more detail.

NEW BUSINESS (continuation)

Commissioner Patterson commented that we need to find solutions and a piece of it is parental training, and that we need to commit ourselves to resources to train our African American children and their parents. Commissioner Matos commented that you have to consider that it is not just African American children or Hispanics or Whites, we have a rainbow of children who do not value their own lives.

Commissioner Eddie commented that his background is in mental health, and agrees with part of Commissioner Patterson statement. He believes there is some responsibility for the parent and some for the leadership, and there are resources. He is hearing all black children, and said not every black child is behaving in a bad way. If you believe that when they come to you, you have already made an assessment. As a mental health professional, I believe each individual is unique. You cannot put an umbrella over the whole community and that is the problem which you are having when you see all black people, they are thieves and they are criminals. That is something that we have to look at, what is happening in the white house, what policy are we putting in place, this is humanity, how can we change, there is no color blind.

Commissioner Patterson asked the Board what plan are we going to come up with, what is our immediate action plan right now, and then communicates to the Board there needs to be one. Commissioner Wilson communicated there will be a special meeting scheduled to discuss these issues.

Chair Glass commented that the Board has gone over time. His purpose in having the Board read the articles is that we have come around the table and not accomplished a whole lot and these issues continue to grow. It was his plan to generate a conversation like this where each could speak to the overall issue and bring up specific issue(s). What he would like to do is go over the tape today and come up with the issues that have been identified and then set up a process where the Board can address and take action.

In ending, Chair Glass stated that the Board failed to discuss with its potluck on the 21st whether the gathering will be commissioners only or commissioners' spouses and significant others. Commissioner Matos noted that since Sunday is a family day, she does not see any reasons why they cannot attend. The Board agreed that spouses and significant others are welcome to attend the gathering.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:12a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Executive Assistant