

# LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

## ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2019

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, June 10, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

### CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Chair Reginald Glass called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

### ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** 7 – Commissioners David Allgood, Victor Eddie (*phone*), Reginald Glass, Olivia Kleitz, Gwendolyn Pearce (*phone*), Heather Williams (*phone*), and Dawn Wilson.

**ABSENT:** 3 – Commissioners Angelica Matos (*excused*), Gad Niyiragira (*excused*), and Dr. Arthur Patterson.

### MINUTES

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

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

#### ➤ Event / Outreach Calendar

- **3:30p.m., Today** – The Mayor will make the Pride Week announcement at Metro Hall. Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will be speaking on behalf of the Commission.
- **5:30p.m., Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** – Kentuckiana Pride Parade – Metro staff will line up at Campbell and Market streets to walk in the Kentuckiana Pride Parade. The official start time is 7:00p.m. There are no T-shirts this year, however, the Louisville Visitors Center at 301 S 4th Street (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson) has shirts for those who would like to purchase a shirt for the parade.
- **11:45a.m., Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** – Louisville Defender Luncheon – Will be held at the St. Stephen Family Life Center, 1508 W. Kentucky Street. Kendall Boyd communicated that he will check on the tickets and encouraged Commissioners to attend.
- **Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** – The Commission will begin moving to the Alexander Building, 745 W. Main Street. Kendall communicated that the Commission will have an Open House in the fall.

➤ Agency Move – Kendall Boyd communicated the scheduled move date is June 24<sup>th</sup>. Once we are settled at the new location at 745 W. Main Street, we hope to have a small Open House in the fall to allow people to come and see the new space.

➤ Courier Journal Article – African American are stopped four to five times more than their white counterpart. Kendall suggested this is a discussion point for the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with Chief Conrad. Kendall encouraged everyone to submit their questions beforehand by Email to Diniah Calhoun.

➤ Lean into Louisville – Despite this year's budget short-cut, we are continuing this initiative. Jud Hendrix at the Mayor's office and Erin Smith who is our Education and Outreach Coordinator have come up with several program ideas.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** *(continuation)*

Kendall commented that the Commission is trying to put something together by the end of June for Racism and Pride: The Untold Secrets of Racism in the Pride Community and how it has gone largely undiscussed. He encouraged the Board to submit any ideas they have to him, Erin Smith or Diniyah Calhoun.

### **FUTURE POTENTIAL BOARD CANDIDATE** – Youth Activist

Chair Glass communicated that he met a student at The Phoenix School who is Trans and is interested in being an activist. The student graduated on Friday night and will be attending Sullivan University. Chair Glass communicated that he provided his and Commissioner Wilson’s contact information and have asked Commissioner Wilson if she would mentor him until there is an opening on the Board in the of Fall 2020.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

- ◇ **Reverend Clay Calloway**, *West Louisville Forum*  
*Founder, West Louisville Ministers Coalition*
- ◇ **Michael Hicks**, *Professor, Political Science, Simmons College of Kentucky*

Chair Reginald Glass introduced Reverend Clay Calloway who is joining us today to discuss the R.A.C.E. Report Card which was recently released at the West Louisville Forum in May 2019. (handout)

Reverend Calloway thanked Chair Glass for the opportunity to share with the Board and communicated that he brings with him today Michael Hicks, who is the current Professor of Political Science at Simmons College of Kentucky. Mr. Hicks is part of a coalition known as the EmpowerWest. EmpowerWest is a group of pastors and churches in west Louisville and the eastern part of the city who have come together over the last four years to address issues of concerns to advance the issues affecting west Louisville.

For the last two or three years, we have been having West Louisville Forums by members of various segments of the community nationwide that have knowledge and information, perhaps benefits the concerns facing west Louisville. Every year during Derby week, we have a poetic twist called “West Louisville Forum - “The State for the R.A.C.E” Real Estate”, is a forum to discuss the state of the race of west Louisville, specifically the black community. This year, we used R.A.C.E. in an acrostic in the four areas we feel are vital affecting the progress or lack thereof in west Louisville.

This year we invited several esteem presenters that has direct impact on issues facing west Louisville. We invited Joshua Poe, who has worked with redlining (*author of “Redlining Louisville”*) and the exhaustive study concerning the historic redlining throughout Louisville. Joshua was on the panel discussing the area of real estate. We had Councilwoman Jessica Green who represents a large segment of west Louisville. She was there to speak to the issues of Cops and Corps. Dr. Raymond Burse, former President of Kentucky State University, spoke on the area of academics. We had Ms. Nikki Robinson Jackson, Vice President and Regional Executive of the Federal Reserve-Louisville. Ms. Jackson spoke on the issue of economics.

A brief discussion took place on each topic:

- R Real Estate
- A Academics
- C Cops and Corps
- E Economics

Each presenter made a brief presentation. At the close of the forum and the presentations, we asked the presenters to give a grade in each of the four areas. We listed those grades; these were honest grades recorded without filter and their comments on the report card. A very simple summation of their assessment of where things stand with respect to the four areas as it affects west Louisville and the residents of west Louisville. West Louisville represents about sixty thousand residents, roughly the size of Owensboro, Kentucky.

**Real Estate** – Joshua Poe address the effects of redlining – historical fact. The redlining issue goes back to 1930's. On city maps, lines were deliberately drawn around certain areas of this city that excluded African Americans in terms of the ability to buy property but excluded them from other areas of real estate that kept them from accumulating wealth. The effects are real and continues today. It affects issues in affordable housing and availability. Joshua gave a grade F for historic, the effects of it, and the lack of a remedy moving forward to reverse the effects of it.

**Academics** – Dr. Raymond Burse had concerns about the achievement gaps and attendance concerns within JCPS, parent participation in west Louisville, and how the disparity in the ratio of teacher relationships, majority minority systems. There is not a parity in employment of teachers. Dr. Burse gave a F in this area.

**Cops and Corps** – Councilwoman Jessica Green spoke on the issue of policing. Policing has been in the news the past year for a variety of reasons, most recently, an announcement about the change in the police stop policy as it relates to members of west Louisville. A recent article in the courier journal supported the fact that the police stopped blacks and searched them at a disproportionate number than the majority community. Councilwoman Green gave a D- in this area.

**Economics** – Ms. Nikki Robinson Jackson said because she is not from Louisville, she is able to look at things from the perspective of an outsider has immigrated to the city. Typically, when you have others come into the city, specifically professionals, they rarely stay past five years. They do not have roots here and do not see a future past a five-year period. The economic disparity is placing back to the real estate issue is very much alive. The disparity of contracting within major agencies and the state, African Americans do not get a proportionate number of contracts commensurate with their population. Ms. Jackson gave a C- in this area.

The overall grade is an F in those areas ( $3/4 = 0.75$  – F, but an opportunity for a curve and a course-correct).

Reverend Calloway then quoted Dr. Kevin Cosby's solution by saying the problem is in the area of the three Cs:

- 1) Cash – Do not have the cash, huge wealth gap.
- 2) Connections – We do not have the connections that allow us the opportunities and the like that many other segments of the communities have. We lack the connection.
- 3) Considerations – We are not considered.

The solution is also the same three Cs that will get you out.

- We need more cash.
- We need more connections.
- We need more considerations.

Reverend Calloway encourage the Board to take the report card into consideration as they deliberate on issues affecting the community moving forward. He noted that there is room for improvement and encourage the Board to be a part of the West Louisville Forums. Reverend Calloway communicated that formerly, he will extend an invitation to the Board so they will be included in the Forums moving forward. The West Louisville Forum will resume sometime in August.

Reverend Calloway also extended an invitation to the Board to:

- Connect with EmpowerWest. The meetings are every Monday at 12:00 p.m. at Simmons College of Kentucky. He asked that the Board consider coming to a future meeting, and also think about making a presentation to EmpowerWest to let them know who the Advocacy Board is.
- He Formerly invited the Board to attend on a recurring basis at the West Louisville Forum that takes place on the first Wednesday of the month.
- He also extended an invitation to the Board as a guest on the *West Louisville Forum has a Solution Radio Broadcast* show from 11:00a.m to 12:00 noon every Saturday at the WLOU Radio Studio at 20<sup>th</sup> and Broadway.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**DISABILITY COMMITTEE** – Commissioner David Allgood reported:

- Commission on People with Disability – This commission is in the formation process on transitioning on ADA Task Force.
- Age Friendly Louisville Meeting – Will resend the Email. The group might be a good connection on getting some traction with the Visitability aspect of accessible housing.
- AARP – We are currently trying to tie-in with AARP to discuss issues on housing.
- Public Access – Will meet next Friday with Marty Stewart from Metro to view public events to make sure they are inclusive with everyone.
- New venue at the Fair Grounds – Will look at the venue to make sure it will be accessible.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- Work Session – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she and Chair Glass went to a good work session. We heard a report on the WEB Dubois expansion. We were able to see the interworking of the Girls of Color Academy.
- Girls of Color Academy – Commissioner Wilson and Chair Glass wrote a Letter of Support for the Academy. The Academy will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M) curriculum.
- Chief Conrad's LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting – Discussed at the meeting was that FTOs are leaving; 17 SROs are being pulled from schools; and the Traffic Stop with 50% reduction.
- Corporate Training for Compu-Share – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will be at the training Wednesday representing the Commission and will need some Commission brochures.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** *(continuation)*

**CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE** – Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce reported:

▪ Event Calendar

- Hosting Poetry Festival in August. It will be a 3-day event with different places around the community.
- Community Poetry Writing Workshop – Take place June 30<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the workshop is to identify personal or community-based need or goal and write about it through poetry.

Commissioner Pearce communicated that she has submitted workshop to Lean into Louisville and wanted to make sure that there is not conflict in doing the submission.

Kendall asked Commissioner Pearce to forward it to him so that he could share with Kellie Watson and Erin Smith.

Chair Glass requested for the time and place be sent to Dinish so the Board can be aware of the workshop.

Commissioner Pearce communicated that the workshop will be held at the South Central Library and she will forward the information.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:24a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dinish Calhoun  
Executive Assistant