

**LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES**

**March 4, 2019**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT:** 1 – Commissioner Dr. Arthur Patterson.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Dawn Wilson moved to accept the February minutes as presented, Commissioners Gad Niyiragira and David Allgood. seconded. Motion passed with no opposed or abstain.

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

- Staffing – Kendall Boyd communicated that Martha Lawfer retired this past Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, and that her position was posted Friday to backfill.
- Lean into Louisville Initiative – Kendall noted that the Initiative continues to do very well and communicated to the Board that if they have any ideas for Lean into Louisville, to submit them to him or Kellie Watson.

Chair Reginald Glass communicated that he talked to Reverend Corrie Shull, Senior Pastor at Burnett Avenue Baptist Church on South Hurstbourne Parkway about being a discussion site for Lean into Louisville. Reverend Shull was excited about offering his facility as a site for Lean into Louisville. Kendall communicated to Chair Glass to have Reverend Shull to call or Email him and he will connect him with the right people.

- Budget – Kendall stated that as it stands now, there are holds on all hires that come into Louisville Metro Government. He also noted that he was told last week that he cannot backfill Martha Lawfer's Assistant Director position at this time. He communicated that he is down two (2) people which includes an investigator and Assistant Director. He noted that we are roughly at eleven staff people. The eleven people are responsible for investigations, compliance analysts, police liaison, education and outreach coordinator, and the Lean into Louisville initiative. He communicated to the Board that tonight is the last public hearing for the Budget regarding the new taxes that are going to pass and asked the Board to show up at tonight's budget hearing.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

◇ **Lisa Osanka**, *Executive Director, Louisville Metro Housing Authority*

Chair Reginald Glass introduced Ms. Lisa Osanka, and communicated that some questions were submitted ahead of time for Ms. Lisa Osanka to address. Ms. Osanka provided a little background about herself and a printed copy of the presentation and proceeded to speak on the Hope VI Beecher Terrace Revitalization project.

## USA TODAY NEWS ARTICLE

*"NYC Commission Forbids Bias Against Braids, Afros"* by Charisse Jones and Zlati Meyer

Chair Reginald Glass asked if anyone read the article sent out Friday, then asked the Board to give the article some thought for the next meeting.

Stella Dorsey communicated that a basketball player from St. Stephen's Simmons College inquired to her regarding an experience he is facing regarding his dreadlock hair style. However, she dismissed the inquiry due to this type of inquiry is not something that she or this agency handles.

## OLD BUSINESS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- JCPS Closing Schools Issue – Commissioner Wilson reported the JCPS schools that are being torn down.

Chair Reginald Glass commented that he has been advising people that this is not within the mission of the Commission, and that they should reach out their school board representative. He also noted that he spoke with Chair Diane Porter who said that she will vote for the building of new schools, emphasizing that West Louisville has not had a new school since the late 70's or early 80's. Getting a new building is something that is significant to Chair Porter.

- JCTC Criminal Justice Class – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she and Stella Dorsey presented at Dr. Jim Martin's class on Community Policing. Commissioner Wilson thanked Stella for accompanying her in the presentation to speak about the role of Community Policing, Stella described her role as Police Ombudsman and Citizens Advocate. The presentation was well received, the students were engaged, and she is still receiving positive feedback on the presentation.
- Discrimination Case Submitted – Commissioner Wilson reported that a case was submitted regarding transgendered housing issues, and it is currently being handled by Intake Officer Erin Marshall.
- New JCPS School: Girls of Color Academy – Commissioner Wilson communicated that due to a schedule conflict with her job, she will not be able to attend this Thursday's meeting, but will attend the next meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- WFPL's "In Conversation with Rick Howlett" Talk Show – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she was fortunate to take part in the radio talk show last Friday. The discussion topic covered the Fairness Ordinance and hoped that she represented the Commission well.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dawn Wilson moved to adjourn, Commissioner Gad Niyiragira seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:08a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun  
Executive Assistant