

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2019

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, May 13, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Dawn Wilson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: 3 – Commissioners David Allgood, Angelica Matos, and Dr. Arthur Patterson.

MINUTES

Chair Reginald Glass moved to accept the April minutes as presented, Commissioner Victor Eddie seconded. Motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

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

- LMPD Traffic Stop SOP Policy Update Revised – Kendall Boyd communicated that Chief Conrad's assistant, Lt. Schroeder, informed him that LMPD personnel will be trained on the new Traffic Stop SOP Policy over the next few weeks, and is not sure if the new policy will be fully implemented by June for the Chief to speak and answer questions. Kendall suggested to the Board to invite Chief Conrad later in the summer to see what impact the new stop policy has on the stop and investigations.
- Office Move – On June 17, 2019, the Commission will be moving to the second floor at 745 W. Main Street.
Commissioner Wilson asked Kendall for further clarification regarding the parking at the new location. Kendall communicated that the employees will have free parking at the PARC garage behind the Louisville Slugger Museum. He is still working with PARC on getting Commissioners free parking for when there are meetings at the Commission.
- Budget – The Commission's budget cuts are narrowed down to the loss of two positions which were the Compliance Officer position that was vacant and the Assistant Director's position from Martha Lawfer's retirement, plus the move into a Metro owned building.
- Dreadlock Policy – Kendall communicated that he has someone from the County Attorney's office researching the Board's inquiry to review the Commission's Ordinance to see what the status of the law is to ensure that the Ordinance is drafted according to the law in adding the protections.

Commissioner Wilson asked the Board to accept the Executive Director's report. Chair Reginald Glass moved to accept, Commissioner Gad Niyiragira seconded.

LMPD TRAFFIC STOP SOP POLICY UPDATE REVISED

The Board discussed the policy bringing up various concerns.

Commissioner Dawn Wilson suggested that the Commission reach out to colleagues (i.e., Kentucky Alliance, University of Louisville, student groups, etc.) and have conversations, possibly holding a “town hall” in these areas and allow the community to voice their concern(s). The suggested locations to hold the town hall meetings were: Central High School auditorium or church auditorium in the west end, and Douglas Community Center. Chair Reginald Glass suggested for the second location to be the Newburg area. Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce communicated that she could help with contacting a church in the Newburg area. Commissioner Wilson suggested the south end for a third location. She also suggested drawing up a list of places and submit it to Kendall Boyd and work together on some dates to set-up the town hall meetings.

Kendall asked the Board if they were uninterested in doing a Lean into Louisville event surrounding this issue, that he would reach out to Jud Hendrix to set-up community conversations on police activity and low income and minority communities? The Board agreed.

Commissioner Victor Eddie suggested the Americana Community and Dixie Highway for the south area, that there are a lot of immigrant and refugees who are probably going to face the same kind of issues.

Commissioner Wilson noted that we will follow-up with everyone on their suggestions, especially with the town hall in the next couple of weeks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Not present.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- *JCPS and Education Committee Quarterly Meeting*
 - **State Board and Teacher Sickout** – The discussion was about how the State Board of Education's actions will affect recruitment and retention of minority candidates for teachers and staff and what opportunity they will face. This was before the Labor Cabinet got involved threatening to sanction the teachers \$1,000.00 per incident.
 - **Update on JCPS Racial Equity Policy** – The trends and the gaps are closing at a rate of 2%. The new schools will have services such as health clinics, more neighborhood centers where parents can stop in verses going to PTA meetings to obtain more information on what their child is experiencing or what they can do to help.
 - **Update on the Development of Girls of Color Academy Similar to the Newcomer and WEB Dubois** – The question raised to JCPS was how are you engaging with minority students and communities to secure their cooperation in the educational process? Their response was that they have been going to churches and talking to community centers. They are also trying to reach out to the immigrant community to see if anyone has any teaching certificate(s) to possibly get them integrated into the school system.

Due to the growth at Dubois, JCPS is adding another age group to the school which will be going into the Liberty Building. There are some backlogs for students getting into these Academies. They are showing great incentives.

COMMITTEE REPORTS *(continuation)*

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *(continuation)*

- JCPS and Education Committee Quarterly Meeting *(continuation)*
 - **Update on LMPD Student Resource Officers (SROs) and the Disparity of discipline with students of color** – The question was asked how is JCPS measuring the effectiveness of trauma informed schools and identifying students’ trauma? They are in the process of placing mental health professionals in every school in Jefferson County. The schools are going to need more resources.

Commissioner Victor Eddie suggested for the mental health students, they should also include referring them to a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (“LPCC”) because they are trained to help individuals and students with mental health issues. The school counselors sometimes can miss the point that some kid who cannot follow that they have some mental health issues. It is good that the students are referred to a psychologist, but they should also refer the student(s) to LPCC. If you are not trained as a clinical counselor, it is difficult to deal with those who have mental health issues. Commissioner Eddie provided an example using immigrant and refugee students who are referred to a social worker.

Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will let JCPS know of his question and will get back with him.
- Girls of Color Academy – Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will be attending the Girls of Color meetings.
- Chief Conrad’s LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting – At the meeting, we met with LGBTQ Officers who talked about their time, what they experienced and what it was like before and what it is like now.
- Trans Day of Visibility – Commissioner Wilson communicated that they recently had a self-defense class last week. The class was well attended.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Americana World Festival 2019 – Saturday, June 1, 2019 – Commissioner Wilson communicated that an Email for volunteers has gone out and encouraged the Board members to participate in volunteering.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gad Niyiragira moved to adjourn, Commissioners Victor Eddie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:09a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Executive Assistant