

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

September 9 2019

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, September 9, 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, Reginald Glass, Olivia Kleitz (*phone*), Angelica Matos (*phone*), Gad Niyiragira (*phone*), Gwendolyn Pearce, and Dawn Wilson.

ABSENT: 3 – Commissioners Victor Eddie, Dr. Arthur Patterson, and Heather Williams (*excused*).

MINUTES

Commissioner Dawn Wilson communicated a correction to the August minutes to include comments under Chief Steve Conrad's presentation:

Commissioner Wilson discussed the idea of Touring the neighborhoods in the west and south end and getting to know community leaders to understand the areas in which they would be Patrolling.

Chair Reginald Glass communicated his remarks were:

When an officer is assigned to a beat that he also meets with various people in the community to learn names and faces rather than just being a stranger riding through and not seeing people as people.

Commissioner David Allgood moved to accept the August minutes as corrected, Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce seconded. Motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

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

Diniah Calhoun communicated to the Board that Mr. Boyd is out of the office today and has provided his report in case he is unable to call into the meeting.

- Staffing – Kendall Boyd introduce the new Assistant Director, Ms. Verná Goatley. Ms. Goatley communicated that she has been with Metro for 20 years with Economic Develop and Louisville Forward and has worked with this department on many occasions with our equity work and supplier diversity. She looks forward with pushing those agendas forward.
- Derby Diversity & Business Summit – The kickoff launch party will be at Churchill Downs on Thursday, September 19, 2019, from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. Kendall communicated that he will Email the link to the Board members.
- New African American Museum – The new museum will be located at Eighth and Main Street. There is an article in the Louisville Business First Journal. Mr. Lamont Collins is the founder of the museum.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT *(continuation)*

- 2019 WorldFest – Thank you to those who participated in this year’s WorldFest. There were a couple inquires.
- Bill Request (BR) 231 – Kendall communicated that he submitted a draft of the Bill to the Board previously by Email to discuss under the new business section, and that he would like for this Board and the Enforcement Board to send a letter support for this Bill.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

BILL REQUEST (BR) 231 – Address hair discriminatory practices against a person’s hair texture or style. The bill is sponsored by Kentucky State Representative Attica Scott.

Chair Reginald Glass asked is there a city ordinance that addressed this Bill?

Kendall Boyd said, “No. This bill will amend the current civil rights legislation at the state level under the definition of race and would encompass the definition of protective hair styles. At the local level, we do not have this protection in the ordinance. It would require an ordinance change to have protective hair styles covered.”

Chair Glass asked is there protection for Muslim taqiyah in the bill?

Kendall communicated that that is not considered a hairstyle but would fall under religious discrimination requirement under the state law.

Commissioner Wilson commented that we will probably see some business owners who will use their religious exemption.

Kendall commented to retort that, you would say that individuals who wear their natural hairstyles generally fall into a category of ethnic or racial group. If you are going to tell people they cannot wear these specific hairstyles, you still have disparate impact on a specific group which is illegal under the law.

Kendall communicated that his hope would be if both boards are in favor, that he would write a letter of support for both boards approval to send to Frankfort to support BR 231.

Chair Glass asked for a motion on the floor for the letter of support.

Commissioner David Allgood motioned for a letter of support for BR 231, Commissioner Dawn Wilson seconded. Motion passed with none opposed or abstained.

Kendall communicated that he would draft the letter for signature at the October board meeting.

2019 LOUISVILLE PRIDE

Chair Reginald Glass asked for information on this year’s Commission booth.

Commissioner Wilson communicated the date is Saturday, September 21st.

Diniah communicated that she will send out a volunteer list via Email.

Commissioner Allgood communicated that he is not able to participate.

Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will participate in the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Commissioner David Allgood reported:

- Commission for Persons with Disabilities – The Committee is established. There is an issue that one can only serve on one commission. Kendall communicated that he is in the process of getting a legal opinion to see if Commissioner Allgood can act as his proxy on the Disability Commission. Technically Kendall would be the representative on the Commission and Commissioner Allgood would be acting as his proxy.
- Medicaid Waivers – Commissioner Allgood communicated that he is continuing to work with the State on Medicaid waivers.
- Infrastructure – Working with the city complete street trying to make sure that our infrastructure is geared towards persons who are aging and persons with disability. This ordinance was passed as well by Metro Council.
- Age Friendly Louisville Committee – The Committee continues to meet. On September 26, 2019, from 8:30 – 10:30a.m., at St. Elizabeth on Burnett Avenue, there will be a gentleman from AARP National to give an update on what has transpired in the last eight months on the four separate committees for the Age Friendly.
- Story and Photo Shoot with Courier Journal – Commissioner Allgood communicated that he did a story. The topic will be on in-accessible restaurants in Jefferson County.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioner Dawn Wilson reported:

- Calendar:
 - **Thursday, September 19, 2019** – U of L asked her to speak on Voters and Women Suffrage. The event will be on campus at the Red Barn from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. U of L also asked for the Commission to have a table at the event. Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will forward the Email she received from U of L.
 - **Monday, September 30, 2019** – U of L Pride Week. U of L asked us to also have a table at Belknap Campus from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m. There is a tabling opportunity for their kick-off at the Health & Science Campus on October 1, 2019. Commissioner Wilson communicated that she will also forward the information.
- Girls of Color Academy – Now officially the Females of Color Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Academy. They will vote on the name at the next meeting on September 12, 2019. On August 6th, we were involved in a work session meeting where the board talked about creating the budgeting as well as other discussions. The final reading, the Females of Color STEM Academy was created.
Chair Glass communicated that he did not receive the notice regarding the Girls of Color STEM work session meeting.
- School Board Election – There are three (3) African American members of the school board. A former Advocacy member, Shameka Parrish-Wright, is running in the election.
- JCPS Quarterly Meeting – We need to schedule our next quarterly meeting for October.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE *(continuation)*

- Chief Conrad's LGBTQ Advisory Committee Meeting – Chief Conrad approached Ujima tour group and they are working on getting new police recruits to tour the city. There were questions about having the police at the Pride.
- Metro Pride – Did meet with Metro Pride, they are still organizing and getting things together.

CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE – Commissioner Gwendolyn Pearce reported:

- Plant a Seed Event – Commissioner Pearce communicated that she hosted the event on August 17th, it went well. There were about 140 people in attendance.
- Lipstick Wars – She attended this event and handed out information.

COMMUNITY UPDATE *(by Stella Dorsey)*

- National Night Out – The event was held on August 4th at 28th and Broadway. This was the first time the First and Second District merged. It was a good turnout. Dennis Lyons observed and said that some of the officers did not use this opportunity to form relationships with the community they patrolled. It was very well organized; they gave away about five (5) televisions.
- Went to Dennis Lyons monthly meeting
- Courier Journal Article – Chief Conrad fired an officer for excessive force.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner David Allgood moved to adjourn; Commissioner Dawn Wilson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:10a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Executive Assistant