



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

March Commission Meeting
March 4, 2024 | 12:00 PM
Metro Conference Room
2310 Parnell Avenue Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Meeting called by: Statutory Monthly Meeting
Type of meeting: Commission Meeting on the first Monday of each month.
Note taker: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director

Metro Commissioners: Aisha Arrington, Chair; Tabitha Ervin, Vice Chair; Dorian Maples; Lana Keesling; Larry Wardlaw; Dr. David Lombard; and Tony Burrus

Agenda: Call to Order
Roll Call of Commissioners
Reading of Minutes
Office Report
Old Business
New Business
Concerns/Comments from the Public
Adjournment

Call to Order/Roll Call: 12:05 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Arrington (in-person)
Ervin (virtual)
Wardlaw (in-person)
Keesling (in-person)
Lombard (virtual)
Burrus (in-person)
Maples (not present)

Other Persons Present: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director
Lakisha Woods, Staff Attorney
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- February 5th meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Office Report

EEOC

Employment Case Processing (10/1/23 – 9/30/24)

Intakes (by 9/30/24): 120 (contract number) 61 (current status)

Contract number of case closures by 9/30/24: 260

- 74 No Probable Cause Cases
- 6 Settlements (\$20,176.23)
- 5 Withdrawals
- 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
- 0 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

Housing Case Processing (7/1/23 - 6/30/24):

30 Cases closed for Contract

- 6 HUD Settlement
- 1 Lack of Jurisdiction/Withdraw/Admin
- 23 No Reasonable Cause
- 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- 0 Reasonable Cause
- 0 Judicial Closures

22 Pending (Open being investigated)

Attended Events/Outreach:

February 1, 2024: Senior Investigator Barnhart, Staff Attorney Woods, and Director Quintana attended the Race Card Project press conference.

February 1, 2024: Director Quintana attended the monthly Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment meeting.

February 7, 2024: Investigators Guayamo and Kelsaw attended EEOC Webinar: Conducting Effective Interviews.

February 7 and February 28, 2024: Admin Hernandez, Investigator Barnhart, and Director Quintana worked with Amp Lab students on outreach and education projects and hosted a Metro information booth.

February 14, 2024: Director Quintana conducted Metro Process training at the WOW Net monthly meeting.

February 21, 2024: Investigator Benson, Senior Investigator Barnhart, and Director Quintana conducted anti-harassment training at The League.

February 21 and 23, 2024: Investigator Benson attended the YLNI Leadership Institute.

February 21, 2024: Investigator Kelsaw, Senior Investigator Barnhart, and Staff Attorney Woods conducted fair housing training per a settlement agreement.

February 22, 2024: Admin Hernandez, Senior Investigator Barnhart, and Director Quintana attended an EEOC Youth @ Work training.

Personnel Issues:

We are still receiving applications for the investigator position.

Budget/Calendar of Events:

Admin Hernandez reviewed current budget status and went over calendar of events.

Legal Update/Matters:

Mediations: The Commission conducted 3 mediations. Two were successful and one failed.

New Business:

- **Fair Housing Summit 2024**

- **April 24th at the Coliseum Conference Center**
- **Keynote: Joshua Barr, Esq.**
- **6 Breakout Sessions and 1 Plenary Session**
- **HUD Representation**

- **Amp Lab Outreach and Education Project**

- **EEOC Youth @ Work**

We've received training from EEOC and have been working with students at Amp Lab and our hope is that we will be able to continue to connect with students through the school districts.

- **Housing Enforcement: Faulkner v. Metro Real Estate HU-0047-A18**

The Complainant was paid \$40,892 by Metro Real Estate and the Commission received \$10,000 from Metro Real Estate for a civil penalty.

Director Quintana is working with the Controller's office to have the civil penalty deposited into Metro's account. Once the funds are deposited, Director Quintana will present a plan to spend them for approval from the commission.

Current Case Age: 135.23

Old Business:

Concerns From the Public:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:29 pm