



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

May 2, 2022
12:00 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 176634

Meeting called by: STATUTORY MONTHLY MEETING
Type of meeting: FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
Note taker: Abigail Reyes, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IV

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 and Roll Call at 12:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Arrington (in-person)
Ervin (in-person)
Maples (Video Conference/Telephone/Electronic)
Wardlaw (in-person)
Burrus (in-person)
Dr. Lombard (in-person)
Keesling (Video Conference/Telephone/Electronic)

Other Persons Present: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director
Jenny Gosheff, Staff Attorney
Abigail Reyes, Administrative Assistant IV

- April 4th meeting minutes were approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/21 – 9/30/22)

- **Intakes (by 9/30/22): 90 (contract number) 40 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/22: 265**
 - o 82 No Probable Cause Cases
 - o 11 Settlements (\$\$117,438.47)
 - o 2 Withdrawals
 - o 2 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - o 0 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

HOUSING CASE PROCESSING (7/1/21 - 6/30/22):

34 Cases closed for contract

- o 6 HUD Settlement
- o 0 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- o 28 No reasonable cause
- o 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- o 2 Reasonable cause

30 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

April 12, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg, Investigator Kelsaw, Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana annual fair housing conference via digital streaming.

April 12-14, 2022: Investigators Eanes and Irby attended Equal Employment Opportunity Commission training on case investigations and analysis.

April 13, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing training at Chase Manor.

April 19-21, 2022: Investigator Barnhart attended Equal Employment Opportunity Commission training on case investigations and analysis.

April 19, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing training for new realtors at Upstar Upstate Alliance of Realtors.

April 19, 2022: Senior Investigator Woods and Director Quintana conducted diversity and anti-harassment training for the Fort Wayne Fire Department new recruits.

April 27, 2022: All staff attended and worked Metro's annual Fair Housing Summit.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

Sierah Barnhart started as an investigator April 18th.

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

Mediations: The Commission had one mediation this month. This mediation was not successful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2022 Fair Housing Summit Recap**

Fair Housing Summit was on Wednesday, April 27, 2022. Director Quintana shares that Metro received overall positive feedback and the event garnered local media attention. We had over 350 registrants and around 300 people attended.

Commissioners discussed the various break-out sessions and number attendees present in the sessions.

Commissioner Ervin, Commissioner Burrus, Commissioner Wardlaw and Commission Chair Arrington also provided positive feedback over the various sessions they attended.

Commission Chair Arrington explained that in her session it came up that there was a possibility that discriminatory language was still out there in neighborhood covenants and Commissioners discussed this but hoped that it was an old document.

Commissioner Ervin stated the Fair Housing Summit overall was excellent. She praised Director Quintana and the staff and stated the keynote speaker, Dr. Matthew Desmond, was amazing.

Commission Chair Arrington states how the city was there, but their program “HANDS” is closed right now. All you get is an answering machine and she was a bit concerned with that. Commission Chair Arrington complimented the staff’s efforts. Commission Chair Arrington stated she appreciated how well every staff member represented Metro professionally.

Director Quintana stated she believed the event was very successful.

- **Faulkner v. Metro Real Estate**

This case went to damages hearing on April 20, 2022. Staff Attorney Gosheff is now in the process of submitting a brief. After a recommended finding is made this case will be presented to the Commissioners.

- **Marketing**

- **Website Update**

One Lucky Guitar (OLG) is in the process of updating the Metro website. Metro received a \$6,000 grant from HUD to complete this project. Our hope is that the updates will be done in the next couple of months.

- **Survey**

Metro will also be meeting with OLG on May 19th and we will be going over key findings from the survey. Rachel Blakeman from PFW is completing the Executive Summary and Metro will work with her to prepare for the meeting with OLG.

Commissioner Wardlaw asks if at some point they will be receiving something in between the meeting with Rachel and OLG and asks if the Commissioners can get a snapshot of what will be released.

Director Quintana states it would be some time after meeting with OLG before a presentation is done with the Commissioners but is hopeful for July.

Director Quintana asks for a clarification on whether or not Commissioners are wanting to approve the survey marketing.

Commissioner Dr. Lombard states he doesn't believe the commissioners have to approve what Metro puts out.

Commissioner Wardlaw states they just want to be informed and ready for questions.

Commission Chair Arrington states she is excited to see it.

Commissioner Wardlaw agrees on the excitement and how 800 people is a large number of participants for a survey.

Current Case Age: 187.35

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:27 pm