



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

November 7, 2022
12:00 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 829119

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 12:01 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Arrington (in-person)
Ervin (in-person)
Keesling (in-person)
Burrus (in-person)
Dr. Lombard (in-person)
Wardlaw (in-person)

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

- October 3rd meeting minutes were approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/22 – 9/30/23)

- **Intakes (by 9/30/23): 100 (contract number) 4 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/23: 230**
 - 9 No Probable Cause Cases
 - 1 Settlements (\$1,125.00)
 - 0 Withdrawals
 - 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - 0 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

HOUSING CASE PROCESSING (7/1/22 - 6/30/23):

13 Cases closed for contract

- 3 HUD Settlement
- 1 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- 9 No reasonable cause
- 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- 0 Reasonable cause

40 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

October 4, 2022: Staff Attorney Gosheff conducted public accommodation training per a settlement agreement.

October 7, 2022: Director Quintana conducted anti-harassment training at Wayne Township.

October 12, 2022: Director Quintana did the welcome and attended the United Front quarterly keynote.

October 12, 2022: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended the United Front CEO Roundtable.

October 13, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted disability discrimination training per a settlement agreement.

October 31, 2022: Metro conducted a press conference for the Equity for All Study at the Grand Wayne Center. The press conference had a great turnout and received great coverage for it on Channel 21, made it on the Journal Gazette the next day, and had a great editorial write up on the study later in the week from the Editorial Board. They highlighted Metro, our services and what we do in the community. When Metro conducted the study, it was with the purpose of providing awareness and for it to be a tool to employers and organizations to help them moving forward.

October 2022: Throughout the month of October, Director Quintana met with over 30 community leaders to discuss the Equity for All Study.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

Sierah Barnhart was promoted to Senior Investigator.

We currently have two investigator positions posted.

Abigail Reyes will be leaving Metro and we will be posting the Administrative Assistant IV position.

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

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

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

Mediations: The Commission conducted eight mediations this month. All eight mediations were successful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Office Updates**

We are getting our restrooms updated. Originally, we were told it would only take a couple days to a week, but it's been two weeks and it looks like it may be done by the end of this week.

For the office furniture, the front office is packed up and Baker Street Furniture will be here tomorrow to remove the old furniture. We checked with Steve Gillette to see what we would do with the old furniture, but he stated there's nothing of value and that we could toss it. Barry Marquart and Greg from Baker Street will be working together to get rid of that. The rest of the office furniture has been ordered and we will just be paying a deposit to lock in the price that had been presented to and approved by the Commission.

- **Equity for All Study**

Commissioners stated they felt we did have a great turnout at the press conference, that it was well received, and we had a great outcome.

- **Webpage**

Commissioner Lombard asked if the study was able to be downloaded. Director Quintana showed the Equity for All Study webpage to the Commission where they can view the results and download them.

- **SEE (Special Enforcement) Funds**

- **Research for enforcement through Purdue Fort Wayne Community Research Institute**

- **Partnership Grant**

- **Ad Campaign to support Equity for All Study with One Lucky Guitar**

- **Annual Evaluations**

- **Current Case Age: 91.70**

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:25 pm