



# METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

September 12, 2022  
12:00 PM  
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM  
2310 PARNELL AVENUE  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805  
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 181824

**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 12:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Ervin (in-person)  
Maples (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  
Andrew Downs  
Rachael Blakeman

- August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes were approved.

## OFFICE REPORT

### EEOC

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

- **Intakes (by 9/30/22): 100 (contract number) 84 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/22: 230**
  - 175 No Probable Cause Cases
  - 19 Settlements (\$163,958.51)
  - 6 Withdrawals
  - 5 Lack of Jurisdiction
  - 5 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

### HUD

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

##### **10 Cases closed for contract**

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

##### **31 Pending (Open being investigated)**

#### **ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:**

- August 1 and 29, 2022: Director Quintana attended the Welcoming Fort Wayne Awards event planning committee meeting.
- August 4, 2022: Director Quintana attended the Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual Harassment monthly meeting.
- August 11, 2022: Investigator Barnhart and Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing training per a settlement agreement.
- August 13, 2022: Metro staff worked a booth at Fiesta Fort Wayne.
- August 14-17, 2022: Senior Investigators Woods, Sorg, Staff Attorney Gosheff, and Director Quintana attended the IAOHRA annual conference.
- August 22, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg, Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended the Region V FHAP Meeting.
- August 23, 2022: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted anti-harassment training per a settlement agreement.
- August 24, 2022: Director Quintana conducted training for Master Spas HR department.
- August 31, 2022: Director Quintana attended the eviction task force meeting.

#### **PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

None

## **BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

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

## **LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Purdue University Fort Wayne Community Research Institute presentation by Rachel Blakeman and Andrew Downs**  
Rachel Blakeman and Andrew Downs presented a summary of the survey and report.
- **Survey Update**  
Metro is working with OLG for a layout that will have the key findings. Our goal is to have it ready for next month's meeting and have a press conference at the end of October.
- **Office Furniture Update and Baker Street Proposal**  
Director Quintana informs the commissioners the total costs for furniture would be \$45,115 and the installation cost is \$4,400 for a project total of \$49,515, this would be for all the offices with a lead time of 10-11 weeks.  
Commissioner Burrus asks if we would need to split it between the EEOC and HUD.  
Director Quintana shared the cost would be split between the two.  
Commissioner Burrus made a motion to approve the projected total. Commissioner Wardlaw seconded the motion. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve.
- **Ergonomics Assessment Update**  
The city paid for items needed per the ergonomics assessment report and the chairs have been delivered.
- **Team Building Event**  
Director Quintana requested approval of \$700 for the team building event. The office will be closed for the team building event. The event will include the activity at Game On and food.  
Commissioner Maples motioned to approve the \$700. Commissioner Burrus seconded. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve \$700 for the team building event.
- **Work to Include Sponsorship**  
Director Quintana asked for a \$1,000 approval to sponsor Work to Include during the month of October- National Disability Employment Awareness Month.  
Commissioner Wardlaw made a motion to approve. Commissioner Maples seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve \$1,000 sponsorship.
- **HUD SEE Funds Award**  
Director Quintana received a confirmation email from HUD informing her that Metro will be receiving \$24,000 in SEE funds as well as additional partnership funds. The SEE funds are going to be used to investigate a complex case. We will be working with Purdue Fort Wayne to get data and do research for the complex case. We will not receive the SEE funds until we are able to voucher for it and we need to start the research now. Director Quintana is asking for approval to use current HUD contract funds to start the research until we receive SEE funds.

Commissioner Burrus made a motion to approve the use of HUD contract funds until we receive SEE funds. Commissioner Wardlaw seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve using HUD contract funds to move forward with investigation.

- **Final Order: Faulkner v. Metro Real Estate HU-0047-A18 / 05-18-1751-8**  
Staff Attorney Gosheff reviewed a history of the case and submitted the final order of damages for vote. Commissioner Wardlaw made a motion to approve the final order. Commissioner Burrus seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve and sign.
- **Current Case Age: 108.33**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 1:15 pm**