



# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

**April Commission Meeting**  
**April 1, 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:** 12:06 P.M.  
**Commissioners Present:** Arrington (in-person)  
Wardlaw (in-person)  
Lombard (in-person)  
Burrus (in-person)  
Ervin (virtual)  
Keesling (not present)  
Maples (not present)  
**Other Persons Present:** Nikki Quintana, Executive Director  
Lakisha Woods, Staff Attorney  
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- March 4<sup>th</sup> 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) 75 (current status)**

**Contract number of case closures by 9/30/24: 237**

- 85 No Probable Cause Cases
- 7 Settlements (\$45,526.23)
- 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):

**31 Cases closed for Contract**

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

**33 Pending (Open being investigated)**

#### **Attended Events/Outreach:**

March 2, 2024: Admin Hernandez, Investigator Benson, and Director Quintana attended the International Women's breakfast in celebration of Women's History Month.

March 6, 2024: Senior Investigator Barnhart and Staff Attorney Woods attended the GFW Women's Network Luncheon that discussed Women in Male Dominated Industries.

March 7, 2024: Director Quintana attended the monthly Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment meeting. Director Quintana also presented on the Metro Process.

March 12, 2024: Director Quintana was on a panel at the GFW Visionary Investors: Workforce and Waffles event. Staff Attorney Woods also attended the event.

March 12, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the Women's Fund Women in the Workplace luncheon.

March 12, 2024: Investigators Eanes, Guayamo, and Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing training per agreement.

March 13, 2024: Admin Hernandez, Investigator Benson, and Director Quintana took part in the Amp Lab Culmination Day where students presented their projects.

March 8 and 21, 2024: Investigator Benson attended the YLNI Leadership Institute.

March 20 and 21, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg, Staff Attorney Woods, and Director Quintana conducted anti-harassment training per request.

March 21, 2024: Investigators Brake and Eanes attended the ADA Amplified Symposium.

March 21, 2024: Investigators Kelsaw, Guayamo, and Senior Investigator Barnhart conducted fair housing training for Aging and In-Home Services.

March 27, 2024: Investigators Guayamo, Kelsaw, Brake, Benson, Eanes, and Senior Investigator Barnhart attended the EEOC Mediation training.

March 27, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the GFW Leaders Luncheon: The Impact of an Aging Population & Costs of Caregiving.

### **Personnel Issues:**

We are still receiving applications for the investigator position, and we have interviews scheduled next week.

### **Budget/Calendar of Events:**

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

### **Legal Update/Matters:**

**Mediations:** The Commission conducted 1 mediation and it failed.

### **New Business:**

- **Fair Housing Summit 2024**

- **April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Coliseum Conference Center**

- Director Quintana gave Commissioners a summary of the speakers and different sessions that will be taking place at the 2024 Fair Housing Summit.

- **Amp Lab Outreach and Education Project Culmination**

We attended the Amp Lab culmination day presentations. Our student team presented us with the marketing they created. Director Quintana showed Commissioners a one-page information document created by the students that could be used by Metro in the future. Director Quintana added that we received a booklet of marketing ideas the students created that we could use and gave Commissioners a few examples.

- **HUD SEE Funds**

Director Quintana explained that Metro received SEE Funds a couple years ago for research purposes. The research was completed but we still have a balance to be used. Our HUD monitor recommended we use these funds for technology. Director Quintana will be discussing our tech needs with Jim Haley and our HUD Monitor to create a plan. Director Quintana will be amending the original work plan, sending it to HUD for approval, and then presenting it to Commissioners for their approval as well.

**Current Case Age: 135.36**

### **Old Business:**

### **Concerns From the Public:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:21 pm**