



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

May 1, 2023
12:00 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 939310

Meeting called by:

STATUTORY MONTHLY MEETING

Type of meeting:

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

Note taker:

Leslie Hernandez, 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)
Keesling (in-person)
Burrus (in-person)
Maples (in-person)
Wardlaw (in-person)
Lombard (virtual)

**Other Persons
Present:**

Nikki Quintana, Executive Director
Jenny Gosheff, Staff Attorney
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- April 10th meeting minutes were approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

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

- **Intakes (by 9/30/23): 100 (contract number) 76 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/23: 230**
 - 86 No Probable Cause Cases
 - 16 Settlements (\$52,078.00)
 - 4 Withdrawals
 - 1 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - 6 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

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

58 Cases closed for Contract

- 7 HUD Settlement
- 6 Lack of Jurisdiction/Withdraw/Admin
- 44 No Reasonable Cause
- 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- 1 Reasonable Cause

20 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

April 12, 2023: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana presented at the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana’s Annual Fair Housing Conference. Investigator Kelsaw also attended the conference.

April 18, 2023: Director Quintana and Staff Attorney Gosheff presented the Equity for All Study at Stillwater Hospice.

April 18, 2023: Director Quintana presented the Equity for All Study to City Council and Staff Attorney Gosheff attended. Director Quintana added that we received great feedback from this presentation, and it also made front page in the newspaper the next day. Commissioner Keesling added that Director Quintana did a great job.

April 20, 2023: Director Quintana presented the Equity for All Study to the Fort Wayne Multicultural Council.

April 21, 2023: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana presented on the Metro Process and Metro services to students at Northside High School.

April 22, 2023: Senior Investigator Sorg and Investigators Eanes and Kinchen hosted an information booth at Dia Del Nino (Children’s Day) at Iglesia Cristiana Principe de Paz.

April 24, 2023: Investigator Kinchen attended the Indiana Civil Rights Commission fair housing training.

April 25, 2023: Lon Meltesen, Regional Director, Region 5, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity visited the Metro office and met with all staff.

April 26, 2023: The Commission hosted the annual Fair Housing Summit and all staff assisted.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

We currently have an open investigator position. We hope to get this position posted this month in case there are college graduates that are interested and would like to apply.

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Director Quintana reviewed current budget status and went over calendar of events.

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

Mediations: The Commission conducted two mediations this month. One mediation was successful, and one mediation failed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2023 Fair Housing Summit Recap**

Director Quintana thanked commissioners for attending the Summit and added that she has received great feedback. We had a little over 300 people attend the Summit, that makes it our largest attended event.

Commission Vice Chair Ervin shared that she thought the Fair Housing Summit was excellent. She added that she talked about it the rest of the week. It came up in a lot of conversations and the topics really stuck with her.

Commissioner Keesling added that she also thought the Summit was great and that she saw a lot of new faces there this year and that was encouraging.

Commissioner Maples thought it was excellent and added that she's been pondering and asking herself what kind of role she can play as a retiree. She added that she heard no complaints.

Commissioner Burrus added that he was amazed at the clerks and legal professionals working together on the evictions. He stated that while being out, he heard people talking about the Summit and they weren't even there. They kept talking about Dr. Andre's presentation so it was nice that we could reach people that didn't even get to attend.

Director Quintana thanked the Commissioners for their support because we wouldn't be able to do what we do without their support and the funding that we're allowed to use towards bringing in keynote speakers.

Commissioner Keesling asked if it was sold out. Director Quintana replied that it was sold out, we opened it up for a little bit over 350 attendees but because the event is free, we still have people that do not show up.

Commissioner Keesling asked at what point do we decide whether we should add more space. Director Quintana replied that it's something that we can look at after reviewing the evaluations. It's something that she does think about, whether we can go larger and if we should go larger.

Commissioner Keesling added that she does think that it's needed.

Commissioner Burrus added that we had a higher percentage of people that attend than those that didn't. Those that didn't attend could be for a number of reasons, like emergencies that arose that day.

Director Quintana stated that she has thought of the different options around the city but there are a lot of things to look at, like: the cost, parking, and enough space for breakout sessions.

Commissioner Maples added that she liked that disability was a topic in the Fair Housing Summit.

Director Quintana added that the Disability Legal Update is a very requested breakout session. Disability and race are our top filed housing complaints.

- **Special Commission Meeting in May** – Director Quintana asked for possible dates so that Commissioners can hold a meeting to sign a final order.
- **Current case age: 113.69**

- **Champions of Change Award** – Commission Vice Chair Ervin stated that Director Quintana and Commissioner Keesling were nominated for The Greater Fort Wayne Inc.’s Champions of Change Award and congratulated them on their nomination.
- Commissioner Wardlaw also wanted to make note of and congratulate Commission Chair Arrington for her op-ed in the Journal Gazette.
- **Equity for All Presentations** – Commission Vice Chair Ervin added that it would be nice if Commissioners would sit in some of Director’s Quintana Equity for All presentations.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:28 pm