



# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

**May Commission Meeting**  
**May 6, 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)  
Ervin (in-person)  
Wardlaw (in-person)  
Maples (in-person)  
Burrus (in-person)  
Keesling (in-person)  
Lombard (not present)

**Other Persons Present:**

Nikki Quintana, Executive Director  
Lakisha Woods, Staff Attorney  
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- April 1<sup>st</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) 83 (current status)**

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

- 112 No Probable Cause Cases
- 10 Settlements (\$64,176.23)
- 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):**

**37 Cases closed for Contract**

- 7 HUD Settlement
- 2 Lack of Jurisdiction/Withdraw/Admin
- 28 No Reasonable Cause
- 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- 0 Reasonable Cause
- 0 Judicial Closures

**32 Pending (Open being investigated)**

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

April 9, 2024: Director Quintana was a student mentor through the City of Fort Wayne for the Women's Fund Take a Girl to Work Day.

April 9, 2024: Senior Investigator Barnhart attended the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's annual virtual fair housing conference.

April 10, 2024: Director Quintana conducted fair housing training for the Realtist Association of Northeast Indiana. Staff Attorney Woods attended this training.

April 11, 2024: Investigators Brake and Guayamo and Senior Investigator Barnhart conducted public accommodation discrimination training per an agreement.

April 11, 2024: Admin Hernandez and Director Quintana met with the Amp Lab team for the Project #3 debrief.

April 15-17, 2024: Senior Investigators Sorg and Barnhart, Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the half day virtual EEOC conference.

April 17, 2024: Investigator Guayamo attended the Latinx Social Services Network Meeting.

April 20, 2024: Admin Bermudez, Admin Hernandez, Investigator Benson, and Senior Investigator Sorg worked a booth at the Dia del Nino event.

April 22, 2024: Director Quintana attended the Welcoming Fort Wayne Plan Steering Committee meeting.

April 24, 2024: All Metro staff worked at the 2024 Fair Housing Summit.

April 26, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted anti-harassment training for The League.

April 30, 2024: Investigator Eanes conducted fair housing training per an agreement. Investigator Kelsaw attended this training.

### **Personnel Issues:**

We have an investigator position open. We are moving to the final round of interviews.

We also have an employee going on leave and we would like to hire a temporary employee to assist with covering some of those duties.

Director Quintana requested the Commissioner's approval to hire a temporary employee for up to \$18 an hour for up to 30 days.

Motion: Commissioner Burrus

2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Keesling

Approved unanimously.

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

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

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

**Mediations:** The Commission did not conduct any in-person mediations for the month of April.

### **New Business:**

- **2024 Fair Housing Summit Recap**

Director Quintana thanked Commissioners for attending the 2024 Fair Housing Summit and asked for any feedback they may have.

Commission Chair Arrington, Commission Vice Chair, and Commissioner Maples shared their feedback on the summit, The Commission also discussed suggestions for next year's summit. Commissioners felt that overall felt it was a successful event.

- **HUD SEE Funds**

Director Quintana stated that Metro received SEE funds from HUD in 2022 and we were able to use it for research or tech. The research was done but now we have a little over \$18,000 left. Metro's HUD representative let Director Quintana know that Metro is able to use these funds for tech. Director Quintana presented HUD with a list of tech items that we would like to purchase with the SEE funds and HUD approved it. The total for the items is \$14,053.92. There will be some funds remaining, but Metro has up to five years to use them. Director Quintana presented the list of tech items to the commissioners to request approval for purchase.

Purchase of tech items for a total of \$14,053.92

Motion: Commissioner Maples

2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Burrus

Approved unanimously.

Commissioners asked that the 2022 SEE Funds also be presented in the monthly commission meetings along with the budgets that are already being presented. Director Quintana agreed and stated that those funds will be presented monthly moving forward.

- **Welcoming Week Sponsorship**

- **Welcoming Fort Wayne Awards**
- **Welcoming Week is September 13-22, 2024**

Director Quintana asked for approval to do a \$500 sponsorship for Welcoming Week. Metro will be recognized as a supporting organization with this sponsorship.

Commissioner Keesling asked if we have sponsored them before. Director Quintana responded that we have sponsored them for a few years now anywhere from \$500 to \$1000.

Motion: Commission Vice Chair Ervin

2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Keesling

Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Vice Chair Ervin asked if we track sponsorships annually to see what we've done in the past. Director Quintana stated that before she moves forward with sponsorship, she verifies with Admin Hernandez what we have done in the past and keep in line with that unless the event is bigger and will bring more exposure. Commissioner Vice Chair Ervin asked if we track how much exposure we receive as a result. Director Quintana responded that we do track outreach numbers.

**Current Case Age: 144.98**

**Old Business:**

**Concerns From the Public:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:54 p.m.**