



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

October Commission Meeting

October 7, 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:

12:01 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Arrington (not present)

Ervin (in-person)

Wardlaw (not present)

Burrus (in-person)

Lombard (not present)

Maples (in-person)

Keesling (in-person)

Other Persons Present:

Nikki Quintana, Executive Director

Lakisha Woods, Staff Attorney

Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- September 9th 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) 124 (current status)

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

- 196 No Probable Cause Cases
- 30 Settlements (\$175,451.23)
- 9 Withdrawals
- 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
- 2 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

Housing Case Processing (7/1/24 - 6/30/25):

5 Cases closed for Contract

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

27 Pending (Open being investigated)

Attended Events/Outreach:

September 5, 2024: Director Quintana attended the Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment monthly meeting.

September 5, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing basics training for various housing providers at the Metro office.

September 11, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing disability training as part of the Landlord Series for Indiana Legal Services at the downtown Allen County Public Library.

September 13, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana conducted fair housing training at the City of Fort Wayne Neighborhoods Inspire Conference.

September 14, 2024: Investigators Kelsaw and Guayamo, Senior Investigator Sorg, and Director Quintana hosted a Metro information booth at the Welcoming Week Welcome Fair at the Renaissance Pointe YMCA.

September 18, 2024: Director Quintana attended the Quarterly Department Head meeting at Citizen's Square.

September 18, 2024: Senior Investigator Eanes conducted new realtor training for the Upstart Upstate Alliance of Realtors.

September 19, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the Latino's Count annual event.

September 20, 2024: Director Quintana attended the Welcoming Fort Wayne Awards.

September 25, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the Allen County Leaders luncheon.

September 27, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods and Director Quintana attended the Greater Fort Wayne Hispanic Chamber of Commerce annual event.

September 26, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing disability training per a settlement agreement.

Personnel Issues:

Eric Eanes has been promoted to Senior Investigator.
We are currently in the interview process for the open investigator positions.

Budget/Calendar of Events:

Admin Hernandez reviewed the current budget status and went over the calendar of events. Commissioner Keesling noted that the November commission meeting was moved to Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Admin Hernandez stated that she would make a note of it and make the change to the calendar.

Legal Update/Matters:

Mediations: There were no mediations or conciliations conducted in the month of September.

New Business:

- **2025 Fair Housing Summit**
 - **April 23, 2025**
 - We will be working with OHNS to get the agenda and speakers for the event. We will also be opening up the event to more registrants this time around.
 - Commissioner Keesling inquired about the possibility of expanding the space to accommodate more attendees at the event. Director Quintana explained that while it is possible to increase the space, the event has remained free, so we are attempting to keep costs manageable. Additionally, we are waiting for confirmation of partnership funding for the year. Commissioner Keesling noted that the event's growth over time is a positive development, emphasizing that they want to avoid turning people away.
- **Annual Report 2023- 2024**

Director Quintana informed the commissioners that she is in the process of obtaining a quote from OLG to produce the combined annual report. Once she receives the quote, she will present it to the commissioners for approval. Commissioner Keesling inquired about the reason for producing combined annual reports for 2021 and 2022. Director Quintana explained that due to timing and cost considerations, it was more practical to combine them. Commissioner Keesling also asked if there is a deadline for completing the annual reports. Director Quintana stated there is a requirement to produce an annual report, but would verify there is no deadline requirement in the Ordinance. Commissioner Keesling emphasized the importance of meeting any potential deadlines.
- **Unwelcomed Exhibit**
 - **Exhibit: September 28th – October 27th**
 - **Discussion: October 10th 2:00 p.m.**
- **Fall Team Building scheduled for October 29th**

Current Case Age: 138.96

- **Greater Fort Wayne – Influential Woman**

Director Quintana was named a Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly's Influential Woman, and they offered the option to purchase a half page ad for \$647.06 in their publication. The Commission motioned to purchase the \$647.06 half page ad.

Motion: Commissioner Keesling

2nd: Commissioner Burrus

Approved unanimously.

- **Follow up audit report**

Director Quintana reviewed the audit report with the commissioners.

Old Business:

Concerns From the Public:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:23 p.m.