



# METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

**September 13, 2021**

**4:30 PM**

**METRO CONFERENCE ROOM**

**2310 PARNELL AVENUE**

**FORT WAYNE, IN 46805**

**Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 568383**

**Meeting called by:**

STATUTORY MONTHLY MEETING

**Type of meeting:**

FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**Note taker:**

Abigail Reyes, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IV

**Metro**

**Commissioners:**

Lana Keesling, Chair; Aisha Arrington, Vice Chair; Dorian Maples; Larry Wardlaw; Tabitha Ervin; 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 4:33 p.m.

Commissioners Keesling, Maples, Wardlaw, Ervin, Dr. Lombard; and Burrus present.

**Other Persons**

**Present:**

Nikki Quintana, Executive Director

Jenny Gosheff, Staff Attorney

Abigail Reyes, Administrative Assistant IV

- August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes were adjusted and approved.

## OFFICE REPORT

### EEOC

#### EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/20 – 9/30/21)

- **Intakes (by 9/30/21): 110 (contract number) 76 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/21: 275**
  - o 214 No Probable Cause Cases
  - o 24 Settlements (\$84,783.00)
  - o 8 Withdrawals
  - o 7 Lack of Jurisdiction
  - o 2 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

### HUD

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

##### **5 Cases closed for contract**

- o 1 HUD Settlement
- o 0 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- o 3 No reasonable cause
- o 0 With draw after Resolution
- o 1 Reasonable cause

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

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

August 4 and August 9, 2021: Director Quintana attended the Welcoming Week committee meetings.

August 5, 2021: Director Quintana attended the Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment meeting.

August 8, 2021: Director Quintana sat on a diversity panel for the Advancing the Voice of Women Campaign Institute.

August 14, 2021: Investigators Guayamo and Hernandez, Senior Investigator Sorg, Admin Reyes, Staff Attorney Gosheff, and Director Quintana worked an information booth at Fiesta Fort Wayne.

August 16, 2021: Staff Attorney Gosheff attended an Open Door Law training.

August 16, 2021: Senior Investigator Sorg attended the Allen County Work to Include meeting.

August 19, 2021: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana conducted anti-discrimination training per a settlement agreement.

August 30, 2021: Director Quintana conducted metro process training at Greater Fort Wayne Inc.

August 2021: Through the month of August the staff worked the Metro on the Move Initiative at the Allen County Public Library and Amani Family Services.

August 2021: Throughout the month of August the staff attended virtual United Front trainings.

#### **PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

We are currently starting the interview process for the Investigator position and hope to begin the interview process for the Administrative Assistant III position in the following weeks.

Our two new Investigators will start taking intakes.

**BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

Admin Reyes will take questions and comments.

**LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:**

Mediations: The Commission had one mediation and four conciliations. All were successful.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **HUD Partnership Grant**  
We requested \$6,500 to update our Metro homepage. We will also be using the funds to update the housing page that is on our webpage. We will be working with One Lucky Guitar to get that done.
- **EEOC Outreach Grant**  
We were able to request \$4,000. This is new, EEOC has never given this amount of funds in the past, but they had extra funds to give out this year. In less than seven days, they asked us to put something together to request funding for our Outreach and Education. We worked with Todd Steele from Liechty Media to create a plan to use the funds in the audio and digital advertisement. It is a possibility we may not get it. If we do, this will be additional funding we have not had in the past.
- **Welcoming Week**  
Began on Saturday, Metro was at the Welcome Resources Fair, September 11th. Senior Investigators Sorg, Woods, and Investigator Nancarrow attended this event. We gave out Metro swag, made contact with many people, and we were able to give them information about our services.
- **Fair Housing Event 2021**  
This year it will be on October 13th. A save the date will be sent out this week, followed by a press release and news release the following week. We will have a keynote speaker and six break-out sessions. The event will take place at the Coliseum. We will also be following COVID-19 protocols; with the venue, we do have enough space to spread out tables and have a limited amount of people at each table. Face masks will be required.
- **Metro on the Move**  
August 26<sup>th</sup> the initiative concluded. Over the 12 weeks we did receive a handful of individuals walk-in. We received a lot of positive feedback. Making ourselves available and being out in the public has been very positive. We have hopes to continue the relationships we have with the organizations. This could be something we prolong in the future.

**Current Case Age: 145.74**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

**CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:52 pm**