



# Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

**September Commission Meeting**  
**September 11, 2023 | 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:**

12:08 P.M.

**Commissioners Present:**

Arrington (in-person)  
Keesling (in-person)  
Burrus (in-person)  
Wardlaw (in-person)  
Ervin (remote)  
Lombard (not present)  
Maples (not present)

**Other Persons Present:**

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

- August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

## Office Report

### EEOC

#### Employment Case Processing (10/1/22 – 9/30/23)

**Intakes (by 9/30/23): 130 (contract number) 102 (current status)**

**Contract number of case closures by 9/30/23: 230**

- 178 No Probable Cause Cases
- 35 Settlements (\$134,174.12)
- 7 Withdrawals
- 3 Lack of Jurisdiction
- 7 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

### HUD

#### Housing Case Processing (7/1/23 - 6/30/24):

**1 Cases closed for Contract**

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

**23 Pending (Open being investigated)**

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

August 3, 2023: Investigator Kinchen attended the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's virtual Fair Housing Basics training.

August 4, 2023: Director Quintana attended the Mayor's Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment monthly meeting.

August 9, 2023: Investigator Eanes attended the ADA and Mental Health: The Hidden Disability training.

August 11, 2023: Director Quintana met with Indiana Civil Rights Commission Director and staff to discuss Equity for All Study.

August 12, 2023: Admin Hernandez, Admin Bermudez, Investigators Kelsaw and Kinchen, and Director Quintana hosted an informational booth at Fiesta Fort Wayne.

August 13-17, 2023: Investigators Guayamo, Eanes, and Kelsaw, Senior Investigator Sorg, and Director Quintana attended the International Association of Human Right Agencies annual conference. Director Quintana presented the Equity for All study and received great feedback. Director Quintana also received the Individual Achievement award at the conference.

August 21, 2023: Director Quintana attended the Gateways for Growth Committee meeting.

August 24, 2023: Director Quintana conducted Metro Process training in partnership with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for members of Northeast Indiana Human Resources Association.

August 29-September 1, 2023: Senior Investigator Sorg, Staff Attorney Gosheff, and Director Quintana attended the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FHAP/FHIP Conference in Denver, Colorado.

August 30, 2023: Investigator Kelsaw attended the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's virtual Familial Status training.

**Personnel Issues:**

We will start interviews for the investigator position on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget/Calendar of Events:**

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

**Legal Update/Matters:**

**Mediations:** The Commission conducted two mediations this month. Both mediations were successful.

**New Business:**

- **Welcoming Week**  
Metro sponsored the Welcoming Fort Wayne Awards, and that event will be on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **Updated Forms**  
Over the past couple of months, we have been working on updating the format of our intake forms, letters, notices, determination hearing logs, and determination hearing documents. There have also been changes to our Commission meeting office reports and agendas. Our goal is to create uniformity in all our standard documents and make them easier for the public to understand. These changes will also help to streamline our process.
- **HUD Partnership and SEE Awards**  
Metro will be receiving \$15,000 in Partnership funds from HUD. These are usually used for outreach and education. Our goal is to use most of these of these funds for our 2024 Fair Housing Summit.  
Metro will also be receiving \$12,000 in SEE funds (Special Enforcement Funds) and these funds can be used for litigation costs related to fair housing cases and tech.
- **Current Case Age: 120.18**

**Old Business:**

**Concerns From the Public:**

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:22 pm**