



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

September Commission Meeting
September 9, 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:

12:02 P.M.

Commissioners Present:

Arrington (in-person)
Ervin (in-person)
Wardlaw (in-person)
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

- August 5th 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) 112 (current status)

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

- 185 No Probable Cause Cases
- 28 Settlements (\$163,951.23)
- 6 Withdrawals
- 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
- 1 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

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

2 Cases closed for Contract

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

26 Pending (Open being investigated)

Attended Events/Outreach:

August 1, 2024: Director Quintana met with a representative of the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service where she presented on their mission and services.

August 3, 2024: Director Quintana sat on the Diversity of Thought panel for the AVOW Campaign Institute.

August 5, 2024: A representative from the Department of Labor presented to all Metro staff on the services they offer and their jurisdiction.

August 10, 2024: Admin Hernandez, Investigators Brake, Eanes, and Director Quintana hosted a booth at Fiesta Fort Wayne.

August 11-15, 2024: Investigators Kelsaw, Eanes, and Guayamo, Staff Attorney Woods, and Director Quintana attended the International Association of Human Rights Agencies annual conference.

August 28, 2024: Director Quintana conducted metro process and outreach training for the North Carolina NDO Roundtable. Senior Investigator Sorg attended the training.

August 28, 2024: Staff Attorney Woods conducted fair housing training per a settlement agreement.

August 29, 2024: Senior Investigator Sorg and Director Quintana conducted anti-harassment training for the staff of NEIRP. Investigator Eanes attended the training.

Commission Vice Chair Ervin asked Director Quintana to share more about the IAOHRA conference. Director Quintana and Staff Attorney Woods shared the different keynotes and workshops attended while at the conference.

Personnel Issues:

We just conducted internal interviews for the Senior Investigator position.
We currently have investigator positions open and we will begin the interview process soon.

Budget/Calendar of Events:

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

Legal Update/Matters:

Mediations: The Commission conducted one conciliation for the month of August and the conciliation failed.

New Business:

- **Welcoming Week**
 - **Welcome Fair September 14th 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
Metro will be hosting a booth at the Renaissance YMCA.
 - **Welcoming Awards September 20th 8:30 a.m. -10 a.m.**
Registration is still open, and it is a free event.
- **Unwelcomed Exhibit**
 - **Press Release went out September 6, 2024, to promote the exhibit and discussion.**
 - **Exhibit: September 28th – October 27th**
 - **Discussion: October 10th 2:00 p.m. – Registration is now open! Amy Nelson from Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana will be presenting.**
- **Fall Team Building**

We are currently planning our fall team building event and are hoping that it happens in October or November.

Current Case Age: 139.54

Old Business:

Concerns From the Public:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:18 p.m.