



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Mission Statement

The mission of the City of Jackson Human Relations Commission is to serve as an official agency of the City of Jackson, responsible for advising and making recommendations to the City Manager and City Council concerning good human relations, combating discrimination within the community wherever it exists, and for acting to promote needed change.

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Place: City Hall, 2nd Floor Chambers, 161 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson MI, 49201

- I. Call to Order, 6:00pm.
- II. Roll Call: Donna Brown, Cheryl Ragland, Maurice Imhoff, James Johnson, Jr., Dorial LaPorte (for the City of Jackson), Councilwoman Robinson, Bob VanSumeren, Barbary Holt; present. Miriam Brown Dorsey, Amy Rich; both absent, excused.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda. Motion to adopt as amended (add “e” Old Business. Update Committee Assignments), Imhoff. Second, VanSumeren. Unanimously passed.
- IV. Citizen Comments (3-Minute Limit). Citizen comments were offered by Jean E. McKim. Comments were offered by Marc Stanley who spoke about upcoming training opportunities for HRC members. He intends to apply for a grant to pay for the trainings, from Jackson Community Foundation. Stanley asked HRC for a letter of support. VanSumeren motions to approve letter, Johnson, Jr., second. Motion passed; Imhoff opposed.
- V. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve, Imhoff. Second, VanSumeren. Unanimously passed.
- VI. Community Liaison Police Officer Report. Dep. Chief Garcia updates HRS as follow: New Chief Chris Simpson being onboarded. Violence Summit being planned. The City Police are preparing the 2026 FY budget. Ride-alongs are occurring with citizens. Some officers have undergone de-escalation training.
- VII. Committee Reports
 - Nominating Committee (Johnson (Lead) Dorsey, Holt, Rich)
 - Project Development Committee (Ragland (Lead), Rich, Imhoff)
 - HRC Tote Bags. Motion to approve expenditure for tote bags, VanSumeren. Second, Brown. Unanimously passed.
 - Davis’s Catering. Motion to empower chair to make a decision about food for HRC event in April, VanSumeren; second, Johnson, Jr.
 - Policy and Complaint Committee (VanSumern (Lead), Imhoff, Brown, Holt)

- Imagine Planet Complaint Update. Imhoff updated commission on status of compliant. After investigation, complaint indicates county employee may have been rude to Jackson resident. Motion to send to city attorney, Brown; Imhoff, second. Unanimously passed, VanSumeren abstaining for conflict of interest.

- Finance Report (Holt(lead), VanSumern, Hunt)

VIII. Old Business

- a. Selection of HRC Officers. Motion to approve the following (below) slate of officers for the 2025 year, VanSumeren; second Brown. Unanimoulsy passed.
 - 1 Chair: Ragland
 - 2 Vice Chair: Johnson, Jr.
 - 3 Secretary: VanSumeren
 - 4 Treasurer: Rich
- b. HRC Brochure. Chair Ragland shows new brochure to commissioners, who all approved of the new layout and design.
- c. Legal Aid Event. The legal services event will be held at the American One Event Center, on April 26, 2025, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. VanSumeren will reach out to Judge Gaecke, Counsellor Lyons, and SEDRC for tables and panel discussions. Johnson, Jr., will talk with the Jackson Housing Commission to see if they will contribute a presence to the event.
- d. HRC Canopy.
- e. Updated Committee Assignments. Chair Ragland has an updated list of committee assignments.

IX. New Business

- a. Award for Director Hitt. Imhoff motions to spend \$300 for an award for Chief Hitt, from HRC, for outstanding service to the community. Johnson, Jr., second. Unanimously passed. Imhoff and Ragland will see to the arrangements.
- b. The March HRC meeting will be held on March 18, Tuesday, 6:00pm.

X. City Councilmember Liaison Comments.

XI. Commissioner's Comments.

XII. City Staff Liaison Comments.

XIII. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 7:25pm, VanSumeren. Second, Johnson, Jr. Unanimously passed.

These minutes were compiled from my personal notes and form the best of my recollection.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. VanSumeren, Secretary
Human Relations Commission
City of Jackson, Michigan