



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.

City of Jackson Human Relations Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Donna Brown, Maurice Imhoff, Miriam Brown Dorsey, Cheryl Ragland, James Johnson Jr., Amy Rich

Absent (Excused): Barbara Holt

Also Present: Doria LaPorte (City Staff Liaison), Councilperson Arlene Robinson

III. Adoption of the Agenda. Motion to adopt the agenda by Dorsey, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Citizen Comments (3-Minute Limit). No citizen comments were made.

- Michael Murphy from Empower Youth was present.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Rich, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. **Note:** Miriam Brown Dorsey was removed from the Public Relations Committee (Item VI.C).

VI. Community Liaison Police Officer Report – Chief Chris Simpson

- March is Reading Month; officers will be reading in middle schools.
- Cadet Smith will attend the Washtenaw Police Academy.
- Interviews for new recruits are ongoing.
- Several officers will attend Command School.
- Project Safe Neighborhoods is continuing.
- Officers are being trained on use of an anti-choking device.
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training is underway.
- The recruitment team will attend upcoming job fairs.

VII. Committee Reports

- **Nominating Committee** (Johnson [Lead], Dorsey, Holt, Rich)
Johnson provided an update: Interviews are being scheduled for three candidates. Some applicants did not return calls or failed to show up.
- **Project Development Committee** (Ragland [Lead], Rich, Imhoff)
 - HRC Tote Bags are under consideration.
 - **Kennicakes** will provide breakfast (Danishes, yogurt, fruit, juice, and coffee) and boxed lunches with a 5% vegetarian option.
- **Policy and Complaint Committee** (VanSumeren [Lead], Imhoff, Brown, Holt)
No update.
- **Finance Committee** (Holt [Lead], VanSumeren, Hunt)
No update.

VIII. Old Business

- a. **Legal Aid Event** — Scheduled for April 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the American One Event Center.
- b. **HRC Canopy** — Continued discussion.
- c. **Award for Director Hitt** — An award for Director Hitt was approved.

IX. New Business

- a. Discussion of new event ideas.
- b. The HRC Annual Planning Meeting will be held on **June 7, 2025**, at Cascades Park.

X. City Councilmember Liaison Comments. Councilperson Robinson provided remarks.

XI. Commissioner Comments. Commissioners shared brief updates and reflections.

XII. City Staff Liaison Comments. Doria LaPorte provided updates on staff matters and city support for HRC initiatives.

XIII. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. by VanSumeren, seconded by Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

These minutes are presented from recollection and notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob VanSumeren, Secretary
Human Relations Commission
City of Jackson, Michigan