

City of Jackson Human Relations Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

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 promoting needed change.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Donna Brown, Maurice Imhoff, James Johnson Jr., Shalanda Hunt, Amy Rich, Robert VanSumeren. Absent (excused): Cheryl Ragland, Barbara Holt, Miriam Brown Dorsey
Also Present: Doria LaPorte (City Staff Liaison), Councilperson Robinson (City Council Liaison)

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to adopt agenda by Dorsey. Seconded by Imhoff. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Comments

John Hart, Director of Disabilities Connection (Prospect St.), provided comments:

- Introduced his organization and highlighted upcoming events.
- Shared details about Challenge Day, a program designed to help students cross barriers and treat each other with respect.
- Invited HRC to attend sessions held the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. (usually at the Chamber).
- Noted participation in the Human Services Collaborative Alliance, held the fourth Monday of each month.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion by Rich to approve April 2025 minutes. Seconded by VanSumeren. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Community Liaison Police Officer Report

Lt. Lilly (Jackson Police Department) reported:

- Two new officers completed training.
- Jackson Police Memorial on May 7 was well attended.
- Officers completed emergency police driving training.
- Announced dates for the Summer Safety Series.
- National Night Out scheduled for August 5.
- A recent weekend homicide resulted in a suspect being taken into custody.
- During Police Week, the Mayor issued an official proclamation.

7. Committee Reports

- Nominating Committee (Johnson, Dorsey, Holt, Rich): No updates.
- Project Development Committee (Ragland, Rich, Imhoff): No updates.
- Policy and Complaint Committee (VanSumeren, Imhoff, Brown, Holt): No updates.
- Finance Committee (VanSumeren, Holt, Hunt): No update this month.

8. Old Business

- HRC Canopy: No update.
- Legal Summit: Small in attendance but well organized; considered a successful event. Ideas discussed for next year.
- Strategic Planning Meeting: Scheduled for June 7, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Jackson Coffee Company (SOAR). Catering by Big Guy Catering.
- Apparel: Ongoing discussion.
- Juneteenth: Preparations underway.

9. New Business

No new business discussed.

10. City Council Liaison Comments

Councilperson Robinson noted numerous upcoming downtown events.

11. Commissioner Comments

No commissioner comments.

12. City Staff Liaison Comments

No comments.

13. Adjournment

Motion by VanSumeren to adjourn. Seconded by Dorsey. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. VanSumeren

Secretary, Human Relations Commission

City of Jackson, Michigan