



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: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: City Hall, 10th Floor Conference Room, 161 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson MI, 49201

- I. Call to Order. 5:59pm.
- II. Roll Call. Present: Donna Brown, Maurice Imhoff, Miriam Brown Dorsey, Amy Rich, Robert VanSumeren, Barbara Holt, Cheryl Ragland (chair). Also present: Doria LaPaorte, for the city, and Councilperson Robinson, city council liaison. Absent (excused): James Johnson, Jr., Shalanda Hunt.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda. Motion to adopt, VanSumeren. Second, Rich. Unanimously passed.
- IV. Citizen Comments (3-Minute Limit). No citizen comments.
- V. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. Imhoff to approve; second, VanSumeren. Unanimously passed.
- VI. Community Liaison Police Officer Report. Chief Simpson offers an update on police vacancies/staffing. Major issues: 3 homicides (April 20, May 16, July 27). Summer is ending; there were a lot of good partnerships. August 5, National Night Out; good turnout. GVI coordinate made presentation to Ward 4. Active shooter event training to test police response for such an event, should one occur.
- VII. Committee Reports.
 - Nominating Committee (Johnson (Lead) Dorsey, Holt, Rich). Applications are being reviewed. No interviews scheduled.
 - Project Development Committee (Ragland (Lead), Rich, Imhoff). No update.
 - Policy and Complaint Committee (VanSumern (Lead), Imhoff, Brown, Holt). Maurice Imhoff received a request for an update on the Animal Planet matter. (Jean McKim, author). VanSumeren will schedule a meeting to discuss with sub-committee.

- Finance Report (VanSumeren, Rich [lead], Hunt). Nothing has changed since May meeting. 2026 Budget is \$10k.

VIII. Old Business.

- a. Strategic Planning Meeting. The strategic meeting was held in June 2025. It went well.
 - a. City Manager Greene's Directive.
 1. City Manager forwarded a directive. He wants the commission to look into what comes after DEI, how to step into the space where this work is occurring, focusing on human oneness. (Brown, Dorsey, Imhoff, VanSumeren: Policy & Complaint Committee.)
 2. Councilperson's Directive: Commissioners should go to the City Council meetings, to have a regular presence. Focus on human rights issues in the City of Jackson. Schedule?
 - b. Review goals/objectives from strategic sessions.
 - c. Commissioner Rich will attend Jet's Jam at JC.
 - d. Candidate Forum 2026. Will need to talk with city attorney. Find out the rules for hosting such an event, with League of women Voters.

IX. New Business.

- a. 2025/2026 Goals and Objectives.
- b. Goal Prioritization and Timeframe Assignments.
- c. Harold White Breakfast. October 22, 2025, (7:30am-8:30am) proposed date. Proposed location: Jackson Masonic Temple (Jackson City Center) location. Ms. LaPorte will check on capacity.
- d. HRC Dinner: December 2025.
- e. Next Steps and Reminders.
- f. 100 Homes. We propose to do another event. Proposed: February 7, 2025; 9:00am-Noon, Christoff's.
- g. Jackson Legal Services Event. Proposed: April 25, 2026, 9:00am-1:00pm.
- h. Letter to Local Civic Teacher, encouraging young people to attend HRC. Rich will explore process and bring recommendations.
- i. Holiday Parade: Imhoff will bring recommendations for an HRC presence.
- j. May 2026, strategic planning.
- k. Motions to approve items c, d, f, g, h, i, j, VanSumeren, Motion. Second, Dorsey. Unanimously passed.
- l. Correspondence from NAACP. NAACP sent a sponsorship form. Motion to provide \$500.00 sponsorship, for NAACP Dinner, VanSumeren. Second, Brown. Unanimously passed.
- m. Motion to spend \$225.00 on three tickets to the NAACP event, VanSumeren. Second, Dorsey. Unanimously passed.

- n. City Council Meetings Schedule: September 2025, Amy Rich will attend for HRC.
- X. City Councilmember Liaison Comments.
- XI. Commissioner's Comments.
- XII. City Staff Liaison Comments.
- XIII. Adjournment. Motion, 7:32, Dorsey. Second, Holt. Unanimously passed.

These minutes were taken from my notes and personal recollections.

Humbly submitted,

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