

# City of Detroit

Human Rights Commission

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2021

Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Conference Room 1240

(via zoom/facebook live)

12<sup>th</sup> Floor Coleman A. Young Municipal Center

Commissioner Chair: Shannon Smith

Vice-Chair: Daryl Harris

Secretary: Darnell Adams

Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Director: Charity Dean

Meeting Start Time: 4:07 PM

Meeting End Time: 4:49 PM

I. Introduction of Commissioners (P = Present x Zoom) (A = Absent) (PP = Present x Phone)

- (P) Shannon Smith, At Large, Commission Chair
- (A) Daryl Harris Commission, Vice-Chair
- (P) William Ross,, At Large
- (P) Darnell Adams, Commission Secretary, D4
- (P) Lavonne Thomas, D2
- (-) Vacant, D5
- (-) Vacant, At Large
- (P) Charlotte Wright, D1
- (P) Suniel Singh, D6
- (A) Patricia Cole
- (P) Dr. Rhonda Paul, D7

II. Approval of Agenda

- Commissioner Singh motioned to accept meeting agenda; seconded by Commissioner Ross. Unanimous approval

III. Approval of Minutes

- Commissioner Singh motioned to accept previous meeting minutes; seconded by Commissioner Adams. Unanimous approval

IV. Commission Chair Report

- Commission Chair Smith briefly mentioned that he sent all commissioners the bylaws of the commission. In addition, Commission Chair Smith sent packets out to all commissioners for them to better understand their roles

and responsibilities on the commission. He encouraged everyone to familiarize themselves with the information in the packet

- Commissioner Singh asked about the timeline to fill the vacancies on the commission. Commission Chair Smith requested the CRIO department to respond. CRIO Deputy Director Hill (DD) mentioned that she is working to get those appointments filled and will provide a list of candidates and let us know the status of the vacancies as she receives more information. DD Hill mentioned that the Mayors office is aware of the vacancies and are prioritizing them and that they would be resolved in the next 30 days
- CRIO said that they would send the portal information to all commissioners the following Monday so that they were aware of the portal and could send their contacts the information

## V. 2021 Leadership

- Commission Chair Smith mentioned to the commissioners that we planned to have the vacancies filled before making leadership decisions for 2021 and asked the commissioners what their preference was
- Commissioner Singh was okay delaying the election of leadership until we have the vacancies filled. Commissioner Adams asked if we should hold elections despite having the vacancies filled but CRIO DD Hill encouraged the Commission that she will have those roles filled by the 03/35/2021 HRC meeting
- Commissioner Ross asked that we hear something from CRIO by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March so that the commission can make a decision on whether to hold their election

## VI. Department Report – CRIO

- DD Hill reported out on behalf of CRIO
  - BHM Programming
    - Black Bottom presentation by Jamal Jordan
    - Business on a round table for small businesses with our partners throughout the city.
  - Future 2021 Programming
    - Preparing for our women's history month
    - Preparing for Juneteenth
  - Staff Updates
    - DBOP manager took another position at tech town
      - BBOP analyst Bianca has been to that managers position
    - Hired Language Access Coordinator
  - New Initiatives
    - Marijuana Ventures and Entrepreneurship Office
    - Office of Disability Affairs
      - Two (2) directors for those departments will be hired
  - Budget
    - Beginning to meet with City Council regarding the CRIO budget.

- DD Hill asked for questions on her report. Commissioner Ross asked what programming was done for Human Trafficking day during the month of January and learned nothing had been done. DD Hill said she would do something to acknowledge it.
- Commissioner Singh asked for written reports from the department moving forward ahead of the meeting so that the commission can have relevant questions for the department during the HRC meeting.
- Commissioner Smith asked for the civil rights complaint reports for the last two months and executive order 2016 updates. Chair Smith also asked for metrics for the new offices created in the CRIO department. Chair Smith also asked how is CRIO involved with the marijuana venture work. Chair Smith asked that budget season incorporate these new staff and wants to see an updated org chart for the department
  - DD Hill, CRIO noted that consistency will return at the next meeting with reporting and information sharing
- Commissioner Adams asked about morale within the department with all of the transitions and how the new initiatives are impacting staff capacity and budgets
  - DD Hill, CRIO spoke at length on her skillset to help keep morale on track within the department
- DD Hill, CRIO noted that the new directors of OoD and MV can come to the HRC meeting and present their metrics and introduce themselves to the HRC'ers

## VII. Public Comment

- No public comment

## VIII. Adjourn

- Moved and seconded. Unanimous approval