



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** Wednesday, January 16, 2023  
**Place:** City Hall, City Council Chambers  
161 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson MI, 49201

- I. Call to Order, 6:15.
- II. Roll Call: Robert Vansumeren, James Johnson, Jr., Shalanda Hunt, Miriam Brown Dorsey, Cheryl Ragland, present. John Willis, Chief Equity Officer, County Commissioner, present. Council-person Robinson present. . L. Guinn, absent.
- III. Election of officers: All running unopposed. Johnson, chair. Ragland, vice-chair. Secretary/Treasurer, VanSumeren.
- IV. Adoption of the Agenda, motion to amend, add item I, Ragland; second Hunt. Motion to accept agenda, Hunt, support, Johnson. Unanimously passed.
- V. No Citizen Comments.
- VI. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve November minutes, VanSumeren. Dorsey, second. Unanimously passed.
- VII. No Community Liaison Police Officer Report this month.
- VIII. Committee Reports
  - Nominating Committee. Interviews will be held soon. No further update at this time.
  - Project Development Committee. No update this month.
  - Policy and Complaint Committee. No update this month.
  - Public Relations/Communications Committee. No update this month.
  - Public Events. No update this month.
- IX. Old Business. No old business.
- X. New Business
  - a. Doria LaPorte – New City Liaison for the HRC. HRC thanks John Willis for his service. We welcome Ms. LaPorte.

- b. Discussion of Strategic Planning Session. Committee will report on new strategic discussion.
- c. N. Weatherspoon – New Youth Council Leader. Motion to table discussion, Dorsey. Second, Hunt. Will be present on February 15, 2023.
- d. Discussion of HRC Orientation Process. The City has developed an orientation packet. HRC can weigh in, if needed (additions, deletions). Ragland proposes to have a committee review the packet, moves to review orientation packet, and bring back proposed edits to body. Second, Hunt. Unanimously passed.
- e. Discuss, select, and vote on 2023 Committee Assignments
  - Motion to for committee structure to be: Nominating Committee; Project Development Committee; Policy and Complaint Committee; Public Events (to include ad hoc HWB Committee); Add Finance Committee. Motion, VanSumeren, Second Dorsey.
  - Committee Assignments:
    - Nominating Committee: Hunt (chair), Johnson, Dorsey
    - Project Development: Ragland (chair), Johnson
    - Policy & Complaint: VanSumeren (chair), Hunt, Dorsey
    - Public Events: Hunt, Dorsey, Ragland
      - Harold White Breakfast: Ragland (chair)
    - Finance: VanSumeren (chair), Hunt
  - Make a motion to approve committee assignments, Johnson. Hunt, second. Unanimous.
- f. Review and Discuss new HRC Applications and process (30-Day Rule). Motion to maintain status quo whereby Committee screens applicants for fit, experience. New process get treasurer’s clearance first; applicants must be screened within 60 days (from application receipt to HRC decision), Johnson. Second, Hunt. Unanimous.
- g. Order new HRC table covers and signs. Ragland proposes to order new HRC table covers, pop-ups, and signs. VanSumeren moves to authorize Vice-chair to facilitate purchase of signs/table cloth. Hunt, support. Unanimous.
- h. Discussion of Scholarship to be in Alice Lewis’s name – beginning at \$250. Motion to turn this over to Project Development Committee, Hunt. Second, Dorsey. Unanimous.
- i. HRC Statement on Tyree Nichols murder. Motion to empower Vice-Chair emend/edit statement and release on behalf of HRC.

XI. City Councilmember Liaison Comments

XII. Commissioner’s Comments

XIII. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn, Hunt. Second, Dorsey. Unanimously passed. 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted from my notes,

Robert W. VanSumeren

January 18, 2023