

Human Relations Commission Zoom Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2021

- I. Call to Order
Meeting was called at 6:30 by Cheryl Ragland
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Miriam Dorsey, Robert VanSumeren, James Johnson, Maurice Imhoff, Cheryl Ragland, Shalanda Hunt
Absent: Karyl Baker
Staff: John Willis
City Council Liaison: Arlene Robinson
- III. Adoption of the Agenda: Motion by Miriam D. 2nd by Shalanda H. Motion carried.
- IV. Approval of Minutes (January): Motion by Miriam D. 2nd by James J. Motion carried. Approval of Minutes (December) Motion by James J. 2nd by Maurice I. Motion carried. Minutes from November
- V. Citizen Comments: None
- VI. Guest Speakers: Tony Gant-Nation Outside- Provided an update on the “Fair Chance” housing. “We want landlords to wait to do a criminal background check after they offer a lease”. “Landlords will have the opportunity to see people as people first”.
- VII. Community Liaison Police Officer: Lt. Williams provided an update
 - i. It has been a crazy busy month. The first homicide of the year occurred yesterday between the Randolph and Brown St area. An arrest was made, and the suspect is lodged at the county jail without bond, pending the next court hearing. The weapon used has been recovered and an on-going investigation continues.
 - ii. Warren Johnson was selected to represent the Police Department’s Diversity Action Team. Warren J. is a lifetime City resident. Director Hitt will also be a part of this work, representing the Fire/Police Departments.
 - iii. Citizens Police Academy- looking to move forward. Still unknown at this time if it will be virtual or in-person. There is a true benefit in the Academy as it is one of the best programs that builds police and community relationships.
 - iv. Personnel- no real changes. Still experiencing a shortage and trying to get the numbers up.
- VIII. Committee Reports: None-
- IX. Old Business
 - A. MEI Project Update
 - i. Karyl B: provided an email, unable to attend the scheduled meeting today, will report out at the next meeting.
 - B. Housing and Accommodations Committee Status Update
 - i. All data has been collected. Plans to complete the project by the end of March. Recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,900.00 from FEMA. This will allow temporary emergency shelter. Currently individuals/families are being placed in hotels, which is just a band-aid for the situation.
 - ii. United Way is looking to purchase the Ethnos building.
 - C. Youth Council Update

