
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
Civil Rights Board
Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. • via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jacob Beech, Gabriella De La Cruz, Jessica Glynn, DeShawn Houston

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Angela Graham-Williams and Marissa Harrington (Excused), Jannen Brown joined at 7:08 p.m.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Clyde Robinson (City Attorney); Rebekah Kik (CPED Director), Tinessa Patterson (DEI Specialist)

The Civil Rights Board meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Houston.

Opening Remarks: None

Agenda: Director De La Cruz to adopt meeting agenda with added item; supported by Director Brown. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Agenda adopted.

- Update from Education Subcommittee and requested for this be a standing agenda item.

Minutes: Director Beach motioned to approve minutes from April 7, 2021; supported by Director De La Cruz. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Minutes adopted.

Public Announcements and Communications: None

New Business – Public Comment: None

Board / Staff Comments: None

Chair Houston read Director Harrington's comments regarding the board name change – She is in favor of a board name change and feels that what the board is tasked with is more important and should be the focus. Attorney Robinson confirmed that the City Commission will have the final say on board name change as it must go before them for approval. Director Beech suggested tabling this conversation once the board is ready to bring an ordinance change to the City Commission.

Old Business – Public Comment: None

Board / Staff Comments: None

Investigation Process Draft – Attorney Robinson explained that the draft document was sent to the board to get their input and asked for recommendations by board members to be sent to him as soon as possible so that the document can be finalized. Director Glynn recommended a line-by-line reading of the document. Attorney Robinson confirmed that the GR investigation procedures were used as a template for the City's investigation procedures. Document will be internal but can be posted on City website.

Director De La Cruz asked for Complaint form to be added to the 'Quick Link' area on the City's website.

Tinessa Patterson will send board members available dates for a special meeting in June before June 21 to read the investigation process document and will email board availability.

Education Subcommittee meet at beginning and end of May. Tinessa Patterson quoted number of landlords in attendance at these meetings. Director Beech and staff be working on getting slides and information in the presentation posted to the City website.

Citizen Comments: None

Miscellaneous Board Comments: Director Brown will send Tinessa Patterson her new email address and the board and staff will be updated.

Director Beach Assistance informed board of the opportunity for renters who have been affected by COVID and are behind in their rent that they can apply for assistance at housingresources.org. He also acknowledged Pride month.

Closing Comments: None

Next Meeting: July 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:44 p.m.

Tinessa Patterson, Recording Secretary
Dorla Bonner, Staff Liaison
Vice Mayor Patrese Griffin, City Commission Liaison
DeShawn Houston, Chair