



**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY.  
LIVE STREAMED AT:  
[www.cityblm.org/live](http://www.cityblm.org/live)**

**I. Call to Order -Roll Call of Attendance:**

Commissioners Present: Smith, Jones, Krishna, Ajayi

Absent: Commissioners: McGinnis, Carey, Konam

**II. Public Comment-**

None

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes- Commissioner Jones

Second-Commissioner Krishna

All in favor. Motion passes with the correction of including Commissioner Ajayi as present at the June 2020 meeting.

**IV. Agenda Items**

a. Review of NIOT Camden NJ Film project

Commissioner Jones and Smith viewed the film and participated in breakout sessions. Attendees agreed changes need to be made with policing and called for a review of the current police structure, funding etc. The sponsors told attendees that all notes of the meeting would be compiled and made available to them. The HRC did not receive any request from NIOT for financial participation of the event.

Commissioner Ajayi was told by Mike Matejka that there was no cost involved in being a sponsor of the event. They only wanted the City logo and a representative from the HRC to attend the event.

b. Overview of new local online business directory

Commissioner Jones presented an overview of the business directory. We viewed the old version of the previous website, which had broken links and therefore was not updated. He presented the new directory [minoritybizdirectory.org](http://minoritybizdirectory.org). This website is self-service so individuals using the site can update their own information as needed. It will send an annual email to all users reminding them of the annual renewal requirement. Users can add information, graphics etc., without any assistance from a webmaster. The website also has a companion link where individuals can add information about their upcoming events etc. Commissioner Ajayi asked for clarification if this website would be endorsed by the Commission. Commissioner Jones stated that he created it as a link for community usage. It takes the place of a link currently on the City's website for a minority directory. Commissioner Smith asked if the former website was under the purview of the Human Relations Commission. Commissioner Jones stated that it was.

Commissioner Ajayi expressed a further concern about the vetting of businesses listed here as minority owned vs. minority managed, since a business must be at least 51% female or minority owned to meet the criteria for the designation. The Community Relations Manager will explore what other municipalities are doing to ensure that businesses met the minimum criteria.

Commissioner Jones motioned to put the [minoritybizdirectory.org](http://minoritybizdirectory.org) directory under the umbrella of the Bloomington Human Relations Commission and that we move forward with customizing it to meet the needs of the Community Relations Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ajayi. All in favor, motion passes.

### **Old Business**

c. Fair Housing Training

Emily Petri of Prairie State Legal Services will provide a virtual Fair Housing Training for the Commissioners on Wednesday August 12, 2020 at our regular 5:00 pm meeting time. She has the email addresses of all the Commissioners, and she will send the link to the meeting. Since no Human Relations business will be discussed during the training, we are in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

d. Commissioner Training

The Community Relations Manager will create a webinar of the training and make it available to the Commissioners on one of the City's platforms, so it may be viewed at any time.

e. Proposed MLK Speaker

Rev. CT Vivian is not available to be our Speaker due to his health concerns. The fee range for other speakers considered are between \$10,000 and \$17,000. The Commissioners have decided to go with a younger speaker who may be a part of the current social justice movement. (Author and activist Kimberly Jones from Atlanta, or locally Ja'mal Green from Chicago).

Contingency plan for a virtual MLK event if an in-person event is precluded due to COVID-19: During the virtual event, awards will still be conferred and possibly a speaker giving a virtual keynote speech. Commissioner Ajayi thought it appropriate to continue with solicitation for awards, but not incur the expense of a speaker.

Commissioner Ajayi motioned to adopt a contingency plan to the MLK Luncheon in the event that COVID-19 necessitated the cancellation of an in-person event. The contingency plan would be to honor recipients as we have done in the past and forgo the hiring of a keynote speaker. Commissioner Krishna seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

**V. New Business**

a. Business Directory proposal from Denise Moore

Commissioner reviewed the proposal for Ms. Moore's regional database of M/WBE owned businesses. Her proposal includes the hiring of an individual who will be responsible for the maintenance of the database to ensure that all listings are up to date and current. The annual fee to purchase this service is \$3500. The Commissioners decided not to purchase this service.

b. BHRC Youth Commissioner

The mayor thought this was "a great idea". His staff is aware of the proposal so we will proceed with the proposal. The purpose of the proposal is to get young people interested in City government. Commissioner Jones motioned to move forward with the proposal to secure a Youth Commissioner. Commissioner Krishna seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

c. Discussion centered on defunding police

The HRC will provide a venue for this discussion. Commissioner Ajayi stated the Mayor Koontz from the Town of Normal is interested in this discussion. Other individuals to invite to the discussion include Mayor Renner, local law enforcement executives, clergy and community leaders i.e., NAACP, BLM and NIOT.

Commissioner Ajayi expressed 2 concerns with the proposed changes to the Ordinance regarding adding specific language to address the following:  
Required certification to prove 51% ownership by M/WBE and access to certified payroll reports.

**VI. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** August 12, 2020

Commissioner Ajayi motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Jones. All in favor, motion passes.

**VII. Adjournment:** 6:27 pm.

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY. LIVE STREAMED AT:**

**[www.cityblm.org/live](http://www.cityblm.org/live)**

Prior to 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, 1) those persons wishing to provide public comment or testify at the meeting must register at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register), and/or 2) those persons wishing to provide written comment must email their comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org).

Members of the public may also attend the meeting at City Hall. Attendance will be limited to the lesser of 50 persons or 50% of room capacity and will require compliance with City Hall COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

The rules for participation and attendance may be subject to change due to changes in law or to executive orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic occurring after the publication of this agenda. Changes will be posted at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register).

AGENDA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

**I. Call to Order -Roll Call of Attendance:**

Present: Commissioners Smith, McGinnis, Konam, Ajayi and Jones.

Absent: Commissioner Krishna

**II. Public Comment-** No public comment

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Ajayi motioned to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020. Commissioner seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**IV. Agenda Items**

a. Divest/Invest discussion debriefing

**V.** Commissioner Ky Ajayi was disappointed that no elected officials chose to participate in the discussion. He also would like the City Legal Department to provide the Commission with the Open Meetings Act rule that prohibits Commissioners from taking part in community discussion. He felt the purpose of the discussion was lost in the

rhetoric between the panel and the participants, and that Amber Butts of BLM was the only voice that stayed on task in the discussion.

Commissioner Jones mentioned that it was possible that the Public Safety Citizens Review Board was also set to have a discussion on the topic of Divest/Invest. Overall, the Commissioners thought the event was carried off well.

b. Second session of Divest/Invest discussion Commissioner McGinnis stated that if the Public Safety Citizens Review Board was taking up the topic in a public forum then there would be no need for the BHRC to hold another discussion. Commissioner Ajayi would like the Commission to publicize a second event, inviting local government officials to attend. Also, make sure there is no scheduling conflict with PSCR. Plan the discussion for late October or early November.

#### **VI. Old Business**

a. Vetting process for verification of 51% ownership  
Staff liaison did not find a sufficient local level vetting process for contractor compliance registration. Commissioner Ajayi has some information that may be helpful and he will forward those to staff.

#### **VII. New Business**

a. Review of draft selection criteria for MLK Adult & Youth Awards Commissioner approved draft of selection criteria. Staff instructed to change language in first sentence to a gender-neutral pronoun.

b. Review of proposed format for 2021 MLK Virtual Event

Commissioners agreed to hold a virtual event and to not hire a speaker for the event. Local dignitaries would be featured during the event and each given a space of 3 minutes to talk about promoting the ideals of Dr. King.

Commissioner Ajayi motioned to approve changes to the MLK Event process. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

c. Required Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Commissioners  
Staff will send a training to the required annual sexual harassment prevention training for the commissioners.

#### **VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: October 14, 2020**

**IX. Adjournment:** Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2020 at 5:30 P.M.**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIRTUALLY. LIVE STREAMED AT:**

[www.cityblm.org/live](http://www.cityblm.org/live)

Prior to 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, 1) those persons wishing to provide public comment or testify at the meeting must register at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register), and/or 2) those persons wishing to provide written comment must email their comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org).

Members of the public may also attend the meeting at City Hall. Attendance will be limited to the lesser of 50 persons or 50% of room capacity and will require compliance with City Hall COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

The rules for participation and attendance may be subject to change due to changes in law or to executive orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic occurring after the publication of this agenda. Changes will be posted at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register).

**I. Call to Order -Roll Call of Attendance: 5:33 pm**

Present: Commissioners Smith, McGinnis, Konam, Ajayi, Konam, Krishna, Jones, Carey

Absent:

**II. Public Comment-** No public comment

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020. Commissioner Ajayi seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

**IV. Agenda Items**

- a. Police Reform on PSCRB agenda for October 8, 2020  
The minutes for this meeting have not yet been posted. The Commission wanted to wait to view the outcome of the PSCRB's discussion of police reform. When the minutes are available, Staff will send copy to Commissioners.
- b. Discussion of response to the Open Meetings Act, meeting requirements.  
The response from Legal was that they did not have much experience in that there had not been many public bodies who have held an event like ours. What happened in the past was "it has been the practice of the city when sponsoring an event where there is believed to be a majority of a quorum present (at least 3 Commissioners present for the



August 2020 event) that the event would have to be posted to notify the public. Legal had received instructions from the Attorney General's Office which states "it has been consistent with our position supported by the Attorney General's Office that if more than 3 Council members or members of a public body are present at an event, they cannot discuss public business or participate in such discussions."

Commissioner Ajayi wanted clarification on what constitutes discussing public business, to include whether discussing hypothetical approaches to governance is covered by that definition of public business. Commissioner McGinnis took exception with the broad definition of public business and also wanted clarification of the term.

Commissioner Jones mentioned that it was possible that the Public Safety Citizens Review Board was also set to have a discussion on the topic of Divest/Invest. Overall, the Commissioners thought the event was carried off well.

**V. Old Business**

a. None.

Commissioner Smith wanted a status update on the amended compliance language for M/WBE and DBE businesses. Staff informed the commissioners that the draft is currently under review by Legal and Administration.

Commissioner Smith also wanted an update on the Youth Commissioner initiative. It was difficult to get the information out to students since the pandemic has created very unstable school attendance situations. This initiative may have to be tabled for another time. Commissioner Jones supported the idea of pausing on pursuing a youth commissioner at this point due to the challenges presented to execute it properly.

**VI. New Business**

a. Preparation of the annual activity report for Council

As the Commission did in the previous year, we are asked to assemble a list of Human Relations Commission's accomplishments for the past year. The Commissioners will send their selected list of accomplishments to staff who will compile the report for presentation to Council.

**VII. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** November 11, 2020

**VIII. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Ajayi reminded us that our next meeting will be held post-election. He stated that regardless of the outcome, incidents of violence may take place effectively dividing communities. The Commission should be prepared at the November meeting to present ways to heal the community.

Commissioner Ajayi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. The meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.**

**THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY. LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.cityblm.org/live](http://www.cityblm.org/live)**

Prior to 15 minutes before the start of the meeting, 1) those persons wishing to provide public comment or testify at the meeting must register at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register), and/or 2) those persons wishing to provide written comment must email their comments to [publiccomment@cityblm.org](mailto:publiccomment@cityblm.org).

Members of the public may also attend the meeting at City Hall. Attendance will be limited to the lesser of 25 persons or 25% of room capacity and will require compliance with City Hall COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

The rules for participation and attendance may be subject to change due to changes in law or to executive orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic occurring after the publication of this agenda. Changes will be posted at [www.cityblm.org/register](http://www.cityblm.org/register).

**I. Call to Order -Roll Call of Attendance:**

Present: Commissioners, McGinnis, Smith, Jones, Ajayi, Carey, Konam

**II. Public Comment- None**

**III. Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the minutes for October 2020. Seconded by Commissioner McGinnis. All in favor. Motion passes.

**IV. Agenda Items**

a. HRC's lead position for future Juneteenth Celebrations

Commissioner Ajayi requested that the Council provide specifics for their vision of the Juneteenth Celebration. All of the Commissioners agreed that Councilman Mwilambwe to provide the BHRC with what he envisions for the Juneteenth Celebrations. Staff will contact the Councilman.

**V. Old Business**

a. Discuss whether PSCRB police reform meeting impacts future discussion of same by HRC

Commissioner Ajayi stated that the discussion surrounding police reform or divest/invest is a community discussion and it is not in the sole purview of the

PSCRB to facilitate discussions the topic in a public forum, and this should not prevent the BHRC from holding their own forum.

Commissioner Jones stated that as a courtesy the Commission should contact the Mayor and/or the City Council to inform them of the Commission's plan to hold public discussion on this topic.

Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the Commission contacting the Mayor to discuss with him the Commissions potential role in holding forums on this topic. Commissioner McGinnis seconded the motion. Commissioner Ajayi did not see the logic in requesting input from the Mayor on whether or not the Commission could hold a meeting on Police Reform. The BHRC can reach out to the leadership of the PSCRB and coordinate our efforts. None in favor. The motion failed.

Commissioner Jones motioned to have a discussion with the Mayor on the Human Relation Commissions potential role on the topic of police reform. Commissioner Carey seconded the motion. Motion carried with one nay vote.

- b. Reminder to submit items for the annual report to council on HRC 2020 accomplishments- Due the second week in December.
- VI. New Business-**No new updates on the MBE/WBE changes to the ordinance.  
Reminder to complete the mandatory sexual harassment prevention training.
- VII. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** December 9, 2020
- VIII. Adjournment:** 6:06 pm