



**Bloomington/Monroe County
Human Rights Commission**

**September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Hooker Conference Room, City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2024, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Stephen Coover, Autumn Crisovan, Susan Gray, Amy Jackson (online via Zoom), Ryne Shadday, Emma Williams

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Director Michael Shermis, Assistant City Attorney Enedina Kassamanian, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier

Public Attending: Aislinn Al-Zahara (came during the public input)

Call to Order: Chair Shadday called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2024 Meeting

1. Coover moved to amend the minutes to reflect the status of Coover's case, which had been pending closed and is now formally closed. Gray seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6-0.

Report from Staff

1. **Commission on the Status of Black Males Appointment:** Cornelius Wright has been confirmed and is now appointed to the Commission.
2. **HRC Mayoral Appointment:** Waiting for the Office of the Mayor to select the appointment from the three applications submitted.
3. **PrideFest:** BMCHRC's presence at the event went well!
 - a. The proclamation was excellent. Both the speech and delivery of the proclamation by Commissioner Shadday and the speeches by London Montgomery and Lilliana Young were well received.
 - b. We successfully took pictures of many elected officials present for next year's Municipal Equity Index application.
 - c. The tabling went well, with people expressing appreciation for the gender-affirming care resolution. An individual from another Indiana city requested insight on preparing a similar resolution in their own city. An IU professor expressed interest in bringing their students to a future commission meeting.
 - d. At least three people asked for referrals to various resources and medical professionals (counselor, gynecologist, endocrinologist) since we had a sign celebrating gender-affirming care. Additionally, a representative of a local faith group asked to be put on a resource list because they are LGBTQ+ friendly. Commissioners discussed whether to create such a resource list. Commissioner Jackson raised the concern of how such a list would be vetted and whether a

governmental organization can be seen to be prioritizing certain professionals, businesses, or faith groups. Commissioner Gray suggested simply referring people to organizations who already have such resource lists.

4. **Hate Crime:** A hate crime was reported to BMCHRC staff. A Black woman went into the Seminary Square Kroger and found upon returning to her vehicle that the N word had been written on her car in ink. Director Shermis has requested the police report and will be meeting with the complainant this week.

Reports from Commissioners

1. Commissioner Jackson reported that Congregation Beth Shalom had reported a hate crime last week. A piece of wood with swastikas and playing cards which represent a white supremacist group were left at the synagogue. A police report has been filed, which will come to the BMCHRC at the end of the quarter with any other hate incident reports. Director Shermis stated that representatives would also be welcome to come in to speak with BMCHRC staff.
2. Commissioners Crisovan and Jackson had a table at the MCCSC welcome fair for international families. The event was great! Commissioner Jackson reported how positive it was to see Commissioner Crisovan speaking Mandarin with young kids and families.

Open Cases

1. Coover's race discrimination in employment case: This case has been formally closed. The complainant has accepted a \$15,000 settlement.

Assignment of New Cases

1. There have been five intake interviews in the last week, all in the area of housing, for discrimination based on disability, religion, and national origin. There are two that are more likely be cases. The first will be Commissioner Crisovan's case (housing/national origin). The next one would be Commissioner Shadday's case.
2. There have been three inquiries about accessible parking spaces at apartment complexes.

Unfinished Business

1. **MEI:** Bloomington received an excellent preliminary score, which is currently under embargo but will become official by the end of the year. Director Shermis is moving forward to discuss with Human Resources and Parks and Rec to develop new policies.

New Business

1. **Monroe County Jail:** Commissioner Gray listened to two online hearings about the jail. Commissioner Williams received several questions at PrideFest about what BMCHRC is doing for incarcerated individuals; suggested collaboration with New Leaf New Life.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment: Chair Shadday adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.