



March 16, 2026 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, March 16, 2026, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Sharon Baker, Kathleen Bensberg, Stephen Coover, Amy Jackson (online via Zoom), Emma Williams, Lilliana Young.

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Liaison Michael Shermis, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier.

Public Attending: None.

Call to Order

1. Chair Williams brought the BMCHRC to order at 5:01 PM.

Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2026 Meeting

1. Jackson moved to approve the minutes from February 16, 2026. Young seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6-0.

Report from Staff

1. **Annual Report:** Young moved to approve the 2025 Annual Report. Bensberg seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 6-0.
2. **Art/Essay Contest:** We received a number of wonderful entries from Templeton and Unionville. Commissioners looked over some of the pieces and will set up a time to judge them soon.
3. **Human Rights Award:** Staff will soon issue a press release opening 2026 nominations to the public. Commissioners mentioned several individuals active in the community and may additionally nominate these candidates for the Be More Volunteer awards.

Reports from Commissioners

1. **Young** has been meeting with councilmembers and community groups regarding the Municipal ID program and LGBTQ+ rights resolution.
2. **Bensberg** raised questions about the Indiana law going into effect on July 1, 2026, which criminalizes sleeping outdoors. Commissioners may make statements to local government in their own names. Jackson proposed increasing our efforts in education, perhaps by speaking to Beacon staff about our work. Williams suggested creating or promoting a Know Your Rights-style card.

3. **Jackson:** The Front Door will be touring potential locations tomorrow.

Open Cases

1. Young's national origin and age discrimination in employment case. Recently received position statement from respondent. Waiting for complainant response.
2. Bensberg's disability discrimination in employment case. Asked respondent for additional information. They provided more information, expecting last details soon.
3. Williams's disability discrimination in employment case. This case was settled before the Respondent interview stage; the complainant will receive a large monetary settlement. Although the case did not reach a finding, this was a positive and well-deserved conclusion.

Assignment of New Cases

1. Shermis mentioned several potential cases in development.

Unfinished Business

1. None.

New Business

1. None.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment

1. Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.