



June 15, 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, June 15, 2026, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Sharon Baker, Stephen Coover, Emma Williams, Lilliana Young.

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Liaison Michael Shermis, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier, Senior Assistant City Attorney Anna Holmes.

Public Attending: None.

Call to Order

1. Williams brought the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Due to technical issues, we were unable to hold a hybrid meeting on Zoom and continued with a quorum in person.

Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2026 Meeting

1. Only two people present were able to vote on approving the minutes. Young moved to table the approval until next month; Baker seconded. All were in favor.

Report from Staff

1. **Human Rights Award:** This is a brief presentation to the winners during the City Council meeting and is tentatively scheduled for July 22. Shermis will inform everyone when the date is set.
2. **Appointment to the Commission on the Status of Black Males:** Cornelius Wright, the HRC's appointment to the CSBM last year, has resigned, and there are no current applications. Shermis has reached out to one individual who applied to another commission and invited commissioners to reach out to any City residents who would be interested.
3. **Municipal Equality Index:** We will likely receive information on the 2026 MEI in the next few weeks. Shermis will be connecting with the deputy mayor, who expressed doubt last year over Bloomington's continued participation. Bloomington has received a perfect score for over a decade. Bloomington will appear on the index regardless of participation, but if we do not participate, the city will not receive an accurate or flattering score. Commissioners expressed a desire that Bloomington continue to participate.

Reports from Commissioners

1. **Baker** shared an update to last month's presentation on the state law banning sleeping outdoors. The county can no longer provide 30 days' notice for removal of encampments because state law supersedes this policy.

Open Cases

1. Coover's disability discrimination in public accommodations: Came to a probable cause finding after interviews. Commissioners will receive a consent agreement to sign in the upcoming days.
2. Jackson's race discrimination in public accommodation. Came to a NPC finding due to lack of evidence, but recognized the possibility of implicit bias in the complainant's experience. Suggesting a mediated conversation, which the respondent agreed to consider.
3. Bensberg's national origin discrimination in public accommodations: Complainants first brought serious legal issues beyond discrimination and were directed to a lawyer. After coming to a settlement on the other issues, they returned to the HRC with the discrimination claim. They do not speak English, and there are complex problems with the case.

Assignment of New Cases

1. No current upcoming cases.

Unfinished Business

1. None.

New Business

1. None.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment

1. Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.