

Commission on the Status of Black Males Meeting Notes

Meeting: Commission on the Status of Black Males

Date: August 12, 2026

Commissioner Attendees: Dhakir Abdullah, Patrick Smith, James Sanders, Tyson Coe, and Diana Powell-Opata (remote)

City Staff Attendees: CSBM Liaison, Crystal Ritter

Public Attendees: Kim Paulk and Jamartae Jackson

Notes

1. Call to Order

- a. Commission Chair, James Snaders, called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda and Memoranda/Minutes

- a. Patrick moved to approve the minutes from July 8, 2026. Dhakir seconded. Passed unanimously, 4-0.

3. Reports (if any)

A. Staff Liaison (Crystal)

- a. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Umoja Day at Neal Marshall
- b. Share the fliers for the Black Male Youth Summit

B. Public/Public Comment

- a. Visitor Kim Paulk asked the Commission about interest in presenting at a school in Bedford, IN about the topic of racism. There was an occurrence at the school that prompted them to reach out.
 - i. James asked Mr. Paulk to gather and provide more information about the incident to csbm@bloomington.in.gov so the CSBM could decide whether to offer any resources, since it is in a different county.
 - ii. Crystal offered to share with them Building a Thriving and Compassionate Community and other training resources.

4. Old Business

- A. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow

- a. We need to set a date for when the nomination form will go out.
 - b. James asked if it was possible for community organizations to provide scholarships for the awards. James will bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- B. Black Barbershop Health Initiative
 - a. Nothing of note at this time.
- C. National Million Father March
 - a. 44 people in attendance
 - b. Received a request to host the event at Templeton Elementary
 - i. Dhakir is going to visit Templeton to look at the location and will report back.

5. New Business

1. Black Male Youth Summit - Thursday, Sept. 17 in the Council Chambers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - a. Update on speakers
 - i. Jamartae Jackson is confirmed as speaker.
 - ii. We have not heard back from Dr. Ledet. James does not want to chase presenters. He suggested that we move down to other suggested speakers.
 - iii. James suggested Project Alpha as one of the presentations to be presented at the Black Male Summit. Patrick and Dhakir agreed with having Project Alpha present at the event.
 - b. Update on donations
 - c. Promoting the event
 - i. Black Male Youth Summit Ambassadors to promote the event
 1. Invite a couple to come in and help with planning and help promote the event.
 2. Crystal will email all of the contacts for students that attended last year.
 3. Tyson suggested having Commissioners go in and present to classrooms.
 4. Mr Mitchell at Bloomington High School
 - d. Communication with the schools
2. Winter Wonderland - Saturday, Dec. 12 at Banneker
 - a. Crystal will set up a meeting with Erin at Banneker with Commissioners & other organizations.

- b. NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on Oct. 24 has selected Winter Wonderland as their fundraiser.
 - i. We will need Commissioners to help with picking up the gifts at the event.
 - 3. Election of Secretary
 - a. Proposal to elect Tyson Coe
- 6. Adjournment**
- Chair James Sanders adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Action Items

- ☐ Voted on Electing Tyson Coe as Secretary