



July 20, 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, July 20, 2026, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Sharon Baker, Kathleen Bensberg, Stephen Coover, Lauren Henderson, Amy Jackson, Emma Williams, Lilliana Young.

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

Public Attending: Susan Williams.

Call to Order

1. Chair Emma Williams brought the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2026 Meeting and June 15, 2026 Meeting

1. Young moved to approve the minutes from May 15, 2026. Baker seconded. Approved by roll call vote, 5-0, Coover and Jackson abstaining due to prior absence.
2. Young moved to approve the minutes from June 15, 2026. Baker seconded. Approved by roll call vote, 4-0, Bensberg, Henderson, and Jackson abstaining due to prior absence.

Presentation: Susan Williams, Trinity Haven

1. Susan Williams presented on the work of Trinity Haven, an Indianapolis nonprofit providing transitional housing for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing housing instability. They are expanding to Bloomington, where they hope to provide host-family based housing for LGBTQ+ students.

Report from Staff

1. **Human Rights Award:** The awards will be presented by Chair Emma Williams at the City Council meeting on Wednesday around 6:45 p.m.
2. **Tabling Opportunities:** Staff shared tabling opportunities for Pridefest and the ADA Anniversary Celebration, as well as a shared tabling opportunity with the Commission on the Status of Black Males at the Banneker Block Party.

Reports from Commissioners

1. **Jackson** shared that the Front Door has moved into a new space on the corner of 4th and College, and that they will likely hold an official open house to open the space on the weekend of Pridefest.
2. **Henderson** connected with Shalom about keeping BMCHRC brochures there.

Open Cases

1. Jackson's racial discrimination in public accommodations case. Found NPC, although it was a complex and emotional case. The respondent expressed that they were open to a mediated conversation, which was very important to the complainant. This is in the hands of the respondent to organize, but the BMCHRC offered to help mediate if requested.
2. Coover's disability discrimination in public accommodations case. The case concluded with a probable cause finding and a consent agreement. The respondent provided an apology and added accessibility and reasonable accommodation policies to their manual.
3. Bensberg's national origin discrimination in public accommodations case. A very complex case, with additional complications of a previous related civil case which resulted in a settlement. The affidavit was sent to the respondent, and their response is due August 13.

Assignment of New Cases

1. There is one upcoming case of sex discrimination (pregnancy) in employment, which will be assigned to Baker. Another disability/ADA issue was taken up by the Fair Housing Center.

Unfinished Business

1. None.

New Business

1. **Approval of Second Quarter Report:** Jackson moved to approve the report, Young seconded. Passed unanimously, 7-0.
2. Commissioners shared insights with Henderson on what a new commissioner should know for their first case.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment

1. Chair Emma Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.