



September 21, 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, September 21, 2026, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

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

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Liaison Michael Shermis, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier, Senior Assistant City Attorney Anna Holmes (on Zoom), Mayor Kerry Thomson, Special Assistant to the Mayor Jennifer Miers.

Public Attending: Melanie Litke.

Call to Order

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

Mayoral Exchange: Mayor Kerry Thomson

1. Mayor Thomson is visiting each board and commission of the City for an open dialogue. She conversed with commissioners about their questions and concerns.

Presentation: Melanie Litke, Milestones

1. Melanie Litke presented on Stone Belt's Milestones program, which provides accessible mental health care and clinical support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2026 Meeting

1. Coover moved to approve the minutes from August 17, 2026. Jackson seconded. Approved by roll call vote, 7-0.

Report from Staff

1. **United Against Hate Week:** The Office of the Mayor is collaborating with the HRC and the BPD to create a short social media video on the role of each body in responding to hate, discrimination, and potential crimes.
2. **Home School Presentation:** On September 18, Shermis, Vosmeier, and Jackson visited a local homeschooling group studying different aspects of "what it means to be human" to

present on the work of the commission. It was a good experience, and Jackson provided valuable suggestions on adapting the presentation for future groups.

Reports from Commissioners

1. Commissioners had a brief discussion about the impacts of federal immigration policy on our community.
2. **Henderson** reported that we can refer people to the Community Legal Clinic at Maurer for help with simple civil matters. She also referenced the first arrest under the street homelessness ban.
3. **Jackson** reported that she has rotated off the Front Door's board, but that their grand opening will be occurring on the evening of October 2.

Open Cases

1. Baker's pregnancy discrimination in employment case. Received a timely but insufficiently detailed response; requested additional information, which the respondent provided only in part. Now scheduling interviews.
2. Bensberg's race/national origin discrimination in public accommodations case. Respondent has not provided sufficient information and has disregarded a subpoena. An interview has been scheduled, with notice of a probable cause finding if the respondent does not appear.
3. Jackson's race discrimination in public accommodations. Had previously found no probable cause, but had suggested a mediated conversation as the complainant was primarily looking for acknowledgment and apology for her negative experience. The respondent agreed, and a conversation will take place next week with the respondent's representatives, the complainant, Jackson, and HRC staff present.
4. Henderson's disability discrimination in housing case. Affidavit has been sent to the respondent; awaiting response.

Assignment of New Cases

1. Two intakes next week.

Unfinished Business

1. None.

New Business

1. None.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment

1. Chair Emma Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.