

## **BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of January 24, 2022 Meeting**

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, January 23, 2022, beginning at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Bryon Bangert, Valeri Haughton-Motley, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Erin McAlister, Pam Jackson and Latosha Williams. Also present were Dave Askins from B Square Bulletin; Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC assistant; and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

**Call to order:** Shadday called the meeting to order and called the roll at 5:31 p.m.

**Election of officers:** Shadday asked Calloway-Thomas if she wanted to serve as BHRC secretary again in 2022; she said yes. Shadday nominated Calloway-Thomas for secretary. McAlister seconded. No other nominations. Shadday called the roll; Calloway-Thomas elected secretary, 7-0.

Williams nominated McAlister for vice chair. Haughton-Motley seconded. No other nominations. Shadday called the roll; McAlister elected vice chair, 7-0.

Haughton-Motley nominated Shadday as chair. Calloway-Thomas seconded. No other nominations. Shadday called the roll; Shadday elected chair, 7-0.

**Approval of minutes of November 22, 2021 BHRC meeting:** Haughton-Motley moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Shadday called the roll; minutes approved, 7-0. McKinney noted that she had reached out to Rafi Hassan at MCCSC, as the commissioners requested in November, and hopes to have him at a BHRC meeting in the near future. The December, 2021 meeting of the BHRC was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

**Reports of commissioners:** Shadday said he wanted this to be a regular item on the agenda going forward. No reports from commissioners.

### **Unfinished business**

**Human Rights Award:** McKinney said that information about nominations for this award had been in the Rights Stuff newsletter several times and on Facebook. She had shared information with the commissions in CFRD that work on diversity issues. Bangert noted it had been in the HT as well. Haughton-Motley said she still wanted to nominate CO•RE and will contact McKinney for more information. McAlister suggested all of the commissioners try to think of at least one

nomination. Shadday suggested everyone share information about the award on their social media or via email.

**2022 goals and objectives:** Shadday said he wanted one cohesive document. He said we had received possible goals only from Williams; Bangert said he had suggested some as well, such as jail issues, the Fair Labor Initiative and homeless issues. McKinney said she could put the old goals and the goals suggested thus far into one document. Shadday said he wanted to spend one meeting on this and hammer out the goals, and then add to them over the year.

**Essay/art contest:** After discussion, the commissioners chose Williams' suggested: "My Rights, Your Rights, Our Rights." McKinney will write a description for students on the meaning of this theme. Calloway-Thomas and Haughton-Motley volunteered to judge the essays. Jackson and Bangert agreed to judge the art.

**Lead Forward Community Grant:** McKinney said that she had begun reaching out to possible partners for the fair housing, fair employment, and diversity/inclusion/equity box lunches. She said the commissioners would need to help with these events. Williams and Shadday said they would be happy to help. Williams suggested Panera for the box lunches. Bangert suggested One World.

**Joint meeting with the MCHRC:** McKinney reminded the commissioners that the February meeting of the BHRC would be a joint meeting with the MCHRC, beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, likely via Zoom. The commissioners agreed not to also meet at their regular time Monday, February 28.

**Fourth quarter Report:** After discussion, Haughton-Motley moved to approve the fourth quarter report as presented. McAlister seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed 7-0.

**Annual report:** McKinney told the commissioners that they would be receiving a more final version of the report later in the week, and she would appreciate feedback then. She asked the commissioners if they would prefer less spacing between the lines, to perhaps make it more readable, and to make it shorter. The commissioners said they preferred less spacing.

**Future of policing task force update:** Calloway-Thomas, who is representing the BHRC on this task force, reported on its activities thus far. She said the task force was formed in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. Its goal is to develop a vision for policing that is forward thinking, responsive to community needs, inclusive of diverse community voices, equitable in its implementation of policies regardless of protected status and that provides appropriate protection for all residents, visitors and law enforcement officers. She said they are looking

at other communities' policies on issues such as using tasers and hiring/retention, and how BPD's use of social workers is working in practice. They are meeting with focus groups, including perhaps the BHRC. They've done ride-alongs. They hope to issue a report in early March. Jackson thanked Calloway-Thomas for her work on the task force.

**Settlement agreement (tentative):** McKinney said that a complaint had been filed with the BHRC, and a reasonable settlement was offered. The complainant rejected the settlement and has said he wants remedies not possible under the local ordinance. He has said he wants to withdraw the complaint and file it elsewhere, but has not yet done so, so the status of the complaint is currently in limbo.

**Assignment of new cases:** No other cases.

**Other business:** Shadday reported that he would be serving on the Sister City Steering Committee with Palo Alto.

**Public input:** No public input.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. McKinney, director, BHRC/assistant city attorney