



City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Hooker Conference Room #245, at City Hall at Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington Indiana on the Second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. In-person and a brief Zoom meeting.

Minutes

Mar 12, 2025, Attendance Key: ✓ Present ✗  Zoom

✓ 	James Sanders MLK Birthday	✓	Patrick Smith Mayor	✗	Isaiah Brock Mayor
✓	Siddhu McLeod Council 2025	✓	Diana E. Powell-Opata Council 2025	✓	Cornelius Wright Human Rights
✓	Dhakhir Abdullah Mayor-2025				
✓	Staff Liaison		Andrew Shannon Safe & Civil City Director		

Quorum: Yes

1. Call to Order: Mar 12, 2025
 - a. Motion to approve: Patrick made a motion to begin the meeting at 5:35pm.
 - b. Second: James
 - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Introductions
 - a. All present introduced themselves, beginning with Patrick, then Dhakhir, then, Cornelius, then Diana, then James, and finally Andrew.

3. Request for Additional Agenda Items: YES
4. Approval of February meeting minutes: YES
5. Old Business
 - a. 2025 Events
 - i. Discussed the success of the Black History Month Gala- held on Saturday, March 1, 2025
 - ii. Discussed success of Black Leaders of Tomorrow Awards
 1. It is hoped that we have nominations for future candidates before Martin Luther King Day
 2. To help with nominations it is proposed that we get the word out through the Martin Luther King newsletter, the Commissions website, get things out to the congregations of the community, and to other community groups that members of CSBM may be a part of.
6. New Business
 - a. Black Barbershop Health Initiative provides free health screenings and conversations centered around men's health at local barbershops
 - i. it is planned to go back to this discussion at the next meeting
 - ii. Patrick is the chair of this initiative
 - iii. The month of April may not work because of Patrick's work schedule
 - iv. Possible screenings:
 1. Diabetes awareness
 2. High blood pressure screenings
 3. Prostate cancer awareness
 4. Other
 - b. National Million Father March (August)
 - i. The CSBM organizes fathers, father figures, mentors, and role models to welcome students back on the first day of school part of the National Million Father March
 - ii. Dhakir has volunteered to chair this initiative
 - iii. Fairview Elementary is the planned site to hold the event as it is logistically and infrastructurally the best

choice. Moreover, the event has been held there a few times and so the staff there are familiar with the process and look favorably on the initiative.

- iv. CSBM has done clothing drives at Fairview before
- v. James plans to contact the principle there.
- vi. James will get the date for the event.

c. Black Male Youth Summit (September)

- i. The Black Male Youth Summit is an opportunity for young black males in Bloomington to join together for a day of personal and professional development with community leaders.
- ii. Post-secondary Planning Workshops
- iii. * College Readiness
- iv. * Building A Resume
- v. * Workforce Readiness
- vi. * Guest Speakers
- vii. * Stereotypes of Black Males
- viii. * Respectability Politics
- ix. Black Male Identity
- x. Violence Prevention Education
- xi. *Determine other two BMS categories
 - a. James has volunteered to chair this initiative.
 - b. The event will be held on the second Thursday in September which is the 11th of September.
 - c. We need to find people to speak
 - d. We need to come up with a theme
 - e. We need to get the word out about the event.

d. Winter Wonderland Photos with Santa (December)

- i. The Winter Wonderland event is a program of the City of Bloomington's Commission on the Status of Black Males. The initiative originated from recognizing that our community lacked a signature holiday event that truly represented people of color. We wanted to create a diverse and inclusive experience that was accessible to everyone, and most importantly, free of charge.

- ii. It was mentioned that this will take place at the Banneker Center as it has on previous occasions

e Juneteenth

- Will be held at Switchyard Park
- Andrew proposed helping CSBM with their Juneteenth event through the entertainment sphere. He mentioned however, that he would be able to help on Friday June 13 as opposed to on June 19th. Proposed that having it in conjunction with Food Truck Friday, an event that will already be taking place at Switchyard Park, to maximize effect given the amount of people that the Food Truck event will likely draw.
- There will be health screenings at the event inside the pavilion.
- CSBM are considering different options on where to hold the event in preparation for possible inclement weather.

LISASION REPORT

- o Andrew made the CSBM aware of the annual report that is needed that the CSBM must submit. It is proposed that we have a chair for each initiative outlined above.

Comment

- Dhakir volunteered to be CSBM's secretary and it was accepted by the Commission.

Meeting Adjournment: Yes

- Proposed by James
- Second by Patrick