

## BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### Minutes of October 26, 2020 Meeting

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission met on Monday, October 26, 2020, beginning at 5:35 p.m., via Zoom. Present for this meeting were commissioners Ryne Shadday, Byron Bangert, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Jacob Simpson, Latosha Williams and Valeri Haughton-Motley. Commissioner Pam Jackson had notified staff that she could not attend. A quorum was present. Also present were Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, BHRC legal assistant; Vauhxx Booker and Cedric Harris, members of the public; Shatoyia Moss, director of the City's Safe and Civil City Program; Andrew Krebb from the mayor's office, and Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney.

**Call to order:** Chair Shadday called the meeting to order and called the roll at 5:35 p.m.

**Approval of minutes of September 28, 2020 BHRC meeting:** The BHRC approved the September 28, 2020 minutes by consensus.

#### **New business**

**Guest speaker, Shatoyia Moss:** Moss said that she is the director of the City's Safe and Civil City Program and is also the city's staff liaison to the Commission on the Status of Black Males and the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth.

She said the CSCY works on getting resources to parents and to people who work with children. With COVID, they work on keeping their programs going and keeping people. It can be challenging to promote connections at the moment. They have the SWAGGER awards to recognize kids who have done something special but may not get recognized often as a rule. They have a teen round table, to get teens' perspective on the future of Bloomington. And they have a youth participatory budget program where they get to decide how to spend money; the process includes elections.

She said the CSBM works on education, health, criminal justice and employment. They have six initiatives each year, including the outstanding leader of tomorrow, the Black Male Youth Summit, the Black Barbershop Health Initiative, Photos with Santa and the Million Father March. She noted that this commission has a vacancy, which the BHRC fills. McKinney said she would follow up with Moss on that.

Williams asked if the CSCY does any outreach to foster kids. Moss said that can be challenging given confidentiality rules and overworked social workers.

Calloway-Thomas asked how the CSBM measures its success. Moss said that they use surveys as one measuring tool. Other tools include the number of participants and whether they are invited back to do similar programming in the future.

The commissioners thanked Moss for attending.

**Facebook Live discussion:** Andrew Krebbs, who is in charge of digital communications for the mayor's office, said that he understands people have concerns about Facebook. But it's proven to be an excellent way to engage the public in a time of COVID. He said other options can include inviting CATS to stream meetings. He said the city will likely continue to use Facebook live even after COVID restrictions are removed. He said the City also uses YouTube, Instagram and Twitter, but Facebook has proven to be the best tool. People can watch live meetings on Facebook even if they don't have an account. The number of people participating via Facebook with the City in the first six months of COVID is 3 or 4 times the number of people who participated in the last two years.

Calloway-Thomas asked if this meant the BHRC has to use Facebook Live. Krebbs said it's not required but he really encourages it. He said not all boards and commissions do it.

Bangert asked why Zoom was not enough, since it's easy to use and does not have the negative history of Facebook. Krebbs said that unless you are looking for a Zoom link, you won't come across it. But it will come up on your Facebook account. It reaches more people. Shadday said that Booker did not know about the BHRC meetings until he saw it on Facebook.

Shadday asked DeCriscio Bowe for stats about the September BHRC meeting, which was on Facebook. She said that within an hour after the meeting, it had reached 200 people. She said that meeting has since reached more than 800 people. She said the average post reaches between 16 and 30 people. She also provided an update on the most popular pieces of content so far.

DeCriscio Bowe said that having the meetings on Zoom and Facebook Live can be more challenging for her; she has to monitor both, and if more public attends and comments, she might need help from commissioners.

Williams thanked DeCriscio Bowe and said she was happy to see more people know that the BHRC exists.

Bangert said if the BHRC decides to use Facebook Live, he will not show his image on the screen.

Calloway-Thomas suggested the BHRC not make a decision yet but to discuss the topic at a future meeting.

**Third quarter director's report:** After discussion, Haughton-Motley moved that the BHRC approve the report. Calloway-Thomas seconded. Shadday called the roll; passed unanimously.

**November BHRC meeting:** The commissioners decided to cancel the November BHRC meeting, scheduled for November 23, and the December BHRC meeting, scheduled for December 28. Instead, the commissioners will meet earlier in December, at a time to be determined.

Williams asked why the BHRC appoints a member to the CSBM. McKinney said it's in the ordinance establishing the CSBM. Williams asked if the BHRC should do a call for applications and said she might be interested. McKinney said the city regularly puts out calls for applications. Booker asked how he could apply; McKinney said there is a form on the city's web site.

**2020 annual report:** The commissioners agreed to keep doing the annual report as it has been done in the past. Williams said the report is a great way to evaluate goals and set strategic planning for the next year. Shadday said he wants the BHRC to establish goals and objectives for 2021. Williams said she wants the report to document that the BHRC adjudicates cases, provides education and advocates for changes.

**Unfinished business:** There was no unfinished business.

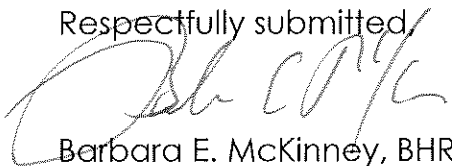
**Assignment of new cases:** There were no new cases to assign.

**Other business:** There was no other business.

**Public input:** Cedric Harris said he had no comment, but he enjoyed the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara E. McKinney, BHRC director/attorney