

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

November 12, 2025,
Zoom

Attendance Key:  Present



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

Quorum: Yes

1. Call to Order: November 12th, 2025, 6:30pm
 - a. Motion to approve: James
 - b. Second: Diana
 - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Verify Quorum: yes

3. Request for Additional Agenda Items:

Approval of September and October Minutes: Both sets of minutes were approved. The September minutes required approval at the October meeting because the Commission did not have quorum in September and therefore could not conduct any votes. As a result, both the September and October minutes were approved at the November meeting.

Old Business

a. Winter Wonderland

- i. Andrew Shannon mentioned that we have should have received a copy of the flyer and the Winter Wonderland layout via email. However, he passed out copies of the flyer during our meeting.
 1. We have different volunteer stations
 2. We have volunteers to help set up on the prior Friday
 3. It will be held on the first Saturday in Dec 12-3pm at the Banneker Center. We need some volunteer efforts on Friday Dec 5th. We need help to begin setting up after 5pm.

b. Justin Crowsley will be contacted by Cornellius

c. Jimmy Torry needs to be contacted to play Santa. Cornellius will do it.

d. All Commissioners need to help get donations in order to provide toys for children. Shannon gave us a template for us to reach out to business for toy drive. Toys should be placed in a box in Shannon's office.

e. We found out that the NAACP had donated over 90 toys for the events.

f. Cornellius mentioned that his Masonic Lodge gives a family a 200 Christmas gift card each year and he would check with his lodge to see if they would donate it to the Winter Wonderland efforts.

- i. The question was posed as to where we want them dropped off and such. Shannon mentioned that we

could drop them off in his office in letter suite 260 CFRD.

- ii. It was planned that water would be delivered at Banneker instead of having it at Shannon's office so there will not be a need to move the water to Banneker subsequently.
 - 1. There is a room where they can collect them at Banneker
- iii. Cornellius asked if once we get the advertisement together and they are dropping toys off, what's our range to drop off and, but we need them on Dec 5.
- iv. It proposed and agreed to that we should include the term "new" in our advertisement for donations of toys as we did not want to provide the visitors with used or old toys.
 - 1. It was determined that the Sheriff could not help us purchase toys. It was communicated to the Commission that they could help by being present and by possibly giving out toys. However, the Commissioner's decided not to go that direction. It was decided that we would get in contact with the Sheriff's office to thank them for the offer.
 - 2. Age group for toy recipients – from kindergarten to about 13 or 14.
 - 3. No registration and application required for recipient families.
 - 4. Refreshments are there,
 - a. There is a station for popcorn, powder to make hot chocolate but we don't make the hot chocolate for them. There is also a cookie decoration station. There is also tea and lemonade.
 - b. Commissioners need to volunteer at a station.
 - c. The Commission may also order off amazon

5. We need to include in the advertisement that
“while supplies last.”
6. Kids must be present to receive gift.
7. We have an Excel sheet for recording of cookies,
snacks, and toys for previous events and that we
should create a new one for this Winter
Wonderland.
8. Shannon will send us an Excel sheet example
from the Summitt

4. New Business

- a. Public Comments/Guest(s)
 - i. none

2. Committee Reports

- a. Chairperson’s Report (James)
 - i. No report
- b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow
 - i. James mentioned that we need to start reaching out to
community members and others for potential nominees
for the awards. It mentioned that the recipients,
generally two, possibly a male and female, receive
their awards during the Gala that the Commission puts
on.
- c. Black Barbershop Health Initiative
 - i. Nothing to report
- d. National Million Father March
 - i. Nothing to report
- e. Black Male Youth Summit
 1. James: we need to advertise it earlier and
consider our themes earlier.
 2. The Commission proposed that we should ask
past student participants or potential future
participants what themes that they would like to
see spoken about.
- f. Winter Wonderland
 - i. Discussed during old business.
- g. City Staff Liaison Report

- i. He thanked the Commission for the work they had been doing, being a presence in community, ---he emailed us (during meeting) the template for shopping list. Same spreadsheet and outline.

3. Announcements/Community Updates

- a. none

Adjournment: 7:35pm