



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

Oct. 08, 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
✓	Dhakir Abdullah Mayor-2025				
✓	Staff Liaison		Andrew Shannon Safe & Civil City Director		

Quorum: Yes

1. Call to Order: Oct 8th, 2025, 5:57pm
 - a. Motion to approve:
 - b. Second:
 - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Verify Quorum: No, but there were four members present. Patrick was present on Zoom. Patrick requested that we push voting on issues to the next meeting.

3. Request for Additional Agenda Items:

- a.** There was a request by Dhakir; however, during Commissioner's reports Patrick addressed the issue. So, there was need for Dhakir to present his topic for discussion.

4. Approval of September Minutes: They could not approve at that time give aforementioned circumstances. The vote was to be postponed until the following meeting.

5. 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.

- 1. We have diff volunteer stations
- 2. We need 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. Andrew presenting it to us on whether we wanted to start a toy drive.

f. We need various action figures,

g. 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 victors with used or old toys.
- v. It was asked if we do a coat drive given that it would be getting cold soon.
 - 1. It was mentioned that we should not do the coat drive as some children may feel bad about getting coats while their counterparts received toys.
 - 2. It was mentioned that the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls-the latter Cornellius is affiliated with—are doing a coat drive instead.
 - 3. Shannon informed the Commission that the Sheriff wishes to work with Commission to do the toy drive. It is to be decided during the next meeting if we will choose to partner with him.
 - 4. Age group for toy recipients – from kindergarten to about 13 or 14.
 - 5. No registration and application required for recipient families.
 - 6. 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, because more. There is also a cookie decoration station. There is also with tea and lemonade.

- b. Commissioners need to volunteer at a station.
 - c. The Commission may also order off amazon
- 7. We need to include in the advertisement that “while supplies last.”
- 8. Kids must be present to receive gift.
- 9. We have an Excel sheet for recording of cookies, snacks, etc., and toys for previous events and that we should create a new one for this Winter Wonderland.
- 10. Shannon will send us an Excel sheet example from the Summitt
- 11. Patrick was given the tasks: write general letter for toy drive and to write to the Sheriff, and a letter to solicit toys from different venders

6. New Business

- a. Public Comments/Guest(s)
 - i. Alex Nave
 - 1. Stated that he is a senior at IU
 - 2. He learned about the Commission through Dr. Gloria Howell
 - 3. Works at NMBCC
 - 4. He met Shatoya Moss, and she gave him some information, and he wants to get involved
 - 5. He has been involved mostly with the Black community at IU.
 - 6. Studies marketing.
 - ii. Patrick gave him an invitation to come present future incentives to us if he wishes.

2. Committee Reports

- a. Chairperson’s Report-James
 - i. Not present
- b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow
 - i. nothing
- c. Black Barbershop Health Initiative
 - i. Already given that

d. National Million Father March

i. Done

e. Black Male Youth Summit

1. Patrick expressed praised the work of the Commissioners involved and the way the event turned out.

2. General comments regarding the Summit

a. Cornellius received correspondence from Bloomington North and South High School in writing wonderful reports regarding the event.

b. Received wonderful feedback from school. The school administrators of Bloomington South sent messages specifically home to parents about the success and impact of the event

i. This was the first time this ever happened.

c. We also received an invitation to come bi-weekly to speak with the Highschool version of the Black Male Youth North initiative from Mr. Mitchell Nelson a schoolteacher who was present at the Summit. He was responsible for bringing the students to the Summit.

d. Dhakir informed the Commission that he was invited directly by Mr. Nelson at the Summit about the potential of the Commission coming to the meetings at North.

e. Andrew mentioned that the Commission should check their emails to read Mitchell's words from the day prior regarding invitations and praise of the Summit.

f. Patrick discussed issues surrounding a counsellor being upset about having to sit

upstairs away from students. And he explained the rationale for this measure.

- i. Patrick stated that said counsellor mentioned that students are very close to counsellors and that they open up to them.
- ii. Patrick felt that we should do the same again next time.
 - 1. It encourages them to become independent and understand how to behave.
 - 2. The counsellors thought that would be needed to keep decorum, but we hope to allow students to mature and more.

f. Winter Wonderland

- i. We discussed it previously in this meeting.

g. City Staff Liaison Report

- i. Shannon covered everything prior in the meeting.
- ii. He thanked the Commission on the work we have been doing up to this point and being a presence in the community.
- iii. Shannon emailed us (during meeting) the template for shopping list. Same spreadsheet and outline.

3. Announcements/Community Updates

- a. Keep Sanders in our thoughts for government shutdown as he works for the federal government
- b. On next meeting we need to talk amongst ourselves concerning what we will spend and whatever we will purchase with the monies referenced.
- c. We need shopping list on Nov 6th prior to our meeting on November 12th.

Adjournment: 6:50