


## 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

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Aug12, 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

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1. Call to Order: Aug 13, 2025, 5:49pm
  - a. Motion to approve:
  - b. Second:
  - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Verify Quorum: yes
3. Request for Additional Agenda Items: no request

4. Approval of July Minutes: Diana motion to accept, and Siddhu seconded
5. Old Business
  - a. No old business
6. New Business
  - a. Public Comments/Guest(s)
    - i. Dr. Kellum Mark, middle school principal in Indianapolis, working in education for 23 years, public and private. Does a lot of speaking and helping schools and learning how to engage young people. Spoke at the Black Expo previously. He has his own podcast. He hopes to get more fathers and mentors to get involved in children and students' lives. He has agreed to be one of the CSBM's guest speakers for the Black Male Youth Summit of 2025.
    - ii. James requested that Mark submit a picture and bio closer to the time of the event and submit his presentation to Andrew Shannon.

## **2. Committee Reports**

- a. Chairperson's Report (James)
  - i. No report
- b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow
  - i. table
- c. Black Barbershop Health Initiative
  - i. table
- d. National Million Father March
  - i. James- it went well. About 65 volunteers were there to greet students. There were 12 more participants than last year. James was interviewed by a news outlet.
  - ii. Dianna –says we need more signs at the next National Million Fathers March. She stated that she wished we had more volunteers in the back of the building where the car-riders were being dropped off.
- e. Black Male Youth Summit
  - i. Have three speakers
    1. Dr. Kellum Mark
    2. Dr. Adrian Parker

### 3. Brother Thomas X Williams

- ii. We have the Triva questions for the Summit.
- iii. Budget (?) 30 pizzas from Pizza X have been donated. Andrew wants to order some more submarine sandwiches and could possibly order prizes. James stated that Alpha Phi Alpha's Sigma Kappa Lambda (SKL) chapter has 375 dollars for prizes or submarine sandwiches for the Summit.
- iv. Andrew recommends that SKL gets the prizes because it is less pipework----Shannon has 400 dollars for extra food and maybe for cookies.
- v. James- the Commission usually spends around 500-700 dollars for prizes.
- vi. James—asked the question, “should we have breakfast?”
  - 1. The Commission discussed it and decided to have a continental breakfast of bananas, apples, granola bars etc. chips
  - 2. Prizes will be taken care of by SKL.
- vii. James-will get the presentation together
  - 1. We need an MC
- viii. Patrick
  - 1. Suggested Drew McKenzie, a teacher at Fairview Elementary for MC. James says he will ask him.
  - 2. Patrick said if Drew could not do it, he would do it.
  - 3. Siddhu stated that he could volunteer to MC as well.
  - 4. Patrick ended up volunteering to MC the event.
- ix. James---talked about Project Alpha of Alpha Phi Alpha and how through this initiative they talk to young men about college, what to do after high school or approach that situation, and how to prepare themselves in general and also about trades. He asked if we were on board with that---and the Commission confirmed this.
  - 1. James advocates Drew be there as he is the National Initiative person of SKL.

2. James wants the Commission to be on site for the Summit at 9am.
- x. Andrew---needs to see names and titles of keynotes and Dr. Smith by August 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a City of Bloomington Press release regarding the event, and they want the press release to go out first week of September.
    1. For all PowerPoints—we can have our colleges help with clicker.
  - xi. James—stated that we needed Brother X's bio and such.
  - xii. Andrew---if we get things before 28<sup>th</sup> of August we could get the ordering done
  - xiii. James—says that we will meet this request before Andrew Shannon has to travel for his trip.
    1. We need to do a dry run on September 9<sup>th</sup> around 5:30-7pm to make sure there are no other meetings there. Andrew says he will check on that.
    2. There is usually music that plays (clean version)
      - a. James will make a playlist and share
      - b. James will contact Drew to put in 15 minutes at the program related to Project Alpha.
    3. The Commission- we could get a QR code that leads to info for speakers (like Instagram and contact info)—we usually have QR codes for surveys. This is so students can follow these speakers or possibly network with them.
    4. Andrew will send a letter to the participant schools form them to submit to allow the Commission to know how many students will attend. James—said students need permission slips---Andrew submitted student engagement form with Dr. Priester-Hanks who is the Postsecondary Readiness Coordinator with the Monroe County Community School Corporation.

5. Andrew-We have a free bus service to carry students to the site and back to school.
6. We may have info from keynotes on a piece of translucent surface.
7. If parents and staff want to stay, they have to sit in balcony. This is so students can feel free to participate in the event without having to feel that they are constrained by personages outside of their normal school environment.

f. Winter Wonderland

- i. Andrew will ordered things for this event.
- ii. James has not heard anything form Arron, so he will leave it up to Dianna and Arron
- iii. Andrew needs to meet with business members for prizes

3. City Staff Liaison Report

- a. Andrew thanked the Commission for the Million Father March---He was happy, and he wants us to take ownership of all of the events that we plan as a Commission, which he remarked that we did at the March.
- b. Andrew-Dr. Winston, the Super Intendant stated that she really enjoyed it.
- c. We had it on Wednesday, august 6 2025.
- d. James—do we have ideas about winter clothing drives?

4. Announcements/Community Updates

- a. Pridefest is coming up and we are not tableting as the Commission. However, there is the ability for Commissioners to volunteer if they wanted too individually.

5. Adjournment: 6:43pm