

COMMISSION ON THE

STATUS OF BLACK MALES

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

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 Zoom Meeting,
Bloomington.in.gov/csbn


Agenda

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

July 9, 2025		Attendance Key: ✓ Present ✗ Zoom	
✓ 	✓	Patrick Smith Mayor	✗ Isaiah Brock Mayor
✓	✓	Diana E. Powell-Opata Council 2025	✓ Cornelius Wright Human Rights
✓			
✓		Andrew Shannon Safe & Civil City Director	

1. Call To Order: July 9, 2025, at 5:35
 - a. Motion to approve: James motion to accept agenda items
Patrick Seconded
2. Verify Quorum: Yes
3. Request for additional agenda items: Dhakir and Patrick requested to have additional items added to the agenda.

4. Approval of June Minutes: Yes

5. Old Business

a. none

6. New Business

a. Decided to discuss this under the Officer Reports agenda items.

b. Public Comments/Guest(s)

i. none

7. Committee Reports

a. Chairperson's Report (James)

i. His report was discussed under the Outstanding Black Leaders and Tomorrow and the Black Male Youth Summit portions of the agenda.

b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow

i. James mentioned tabling the event

c. National Million Father March

Dhakit reported that the event was on and was to be held on August 6th, 2025. He thanked Cornellius for reaching out to the Principal of Fairview to confirm the event was fine to proceed as it had in past. Dhakit thanked Andrew for his and his interns help in confirming with the principal that the event was fine to proceed as it had in the past by visiting Fairview and talking with the principal's assistant leaving flyers and emailing the principal

d. Black Male Youth Summit

i. James reported that given that the approaching deadline that the CSBM should put forward different speakers relating to the themes of the event and to subsequently collect their bios and such. It was stated that we should allow the speakers to choose a theme from those selected to speak to. James mentioned that he had one speaker in mind and would confirm with him if he could speak at the event.

e. Winter Wonderland

i. James remarked that Everything is proceeding as planned. However, we still need to ensure that we have a proper number of gifts and that we should seek outside donations to help fund the event.

8. City Staff Liaison Report

a. Andrew Shannon

i. Concerning the Winter Wonderland Initiative Andrew said However, the CSBM has to invest in a Santa Suit and props for the Santa figure. Also, the CSBM needs to identify a candidate to play Santa.

- ii. Concerning the Black Male Youth Summit Andrew remarked that we had acquired a large number of pizzas from Pizza X to support the event. The event was planned and confirmed with the school and thus it is on. Also, Andrew mentioned that they had secured the buses to bus students to and from the event. Andrew charged the CSBM to go out and ask for donations and sponsors to continue to help with the event in terms of prize acquisition.

9. Additional items:

- a. Dhakir-discussed how he had reserved tickets with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission through the direction of Virgil Giles, the then Director of the Indian Chapter of the Indiana Commission on the Status of Black Males. However, after calling Dhakir onetime but missing him and leaving a message Dhakir could not get back in touch with them to claim the tickets. Dhakir was never called back by the Civil Rights Commission despite the different times he called. Nor could he get in touch with Virgil by calling his office or emailing him.
- b. Patrick—wanted to know why the Office of the Mayor wished the Bloomington Commissions to turn back in their name tags. Andrew responded that said Office was hoping to establish uniformity.

10. Announcements/Community Updates

- a. Siddhu updated the CSBM on his progress in making connections with figures who wished to support the CSBM.

11. Adjournment: 6:35pm

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Commission On The Status of Black Males Members

- a. James Sanders, Chair (Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027)
- b. Dhakir Abdullah, Secretary (Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026)
- c. Siddhu McLeod (Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026)
- d. Diana E. Powell-Opata (Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027)
- e. Patrick Smith (Term: 2/1/2025 - 1/31/2027)
- f. Cornelius Wright (Term: 2/1/2024 - 1/31/2026)