










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

Mar 12, 2025, Attendance Key:  Present   Zoom				
	James Sanders MLK Birthday		Patri ck Smit h May or	Isaiah Brock Mayor
	Siddhu McLeod Council 2025		Dian a E. Pow ell- Opa ta Cou ncil 202 5	Cornelius Wright Human Rights
	Dhakir Abdullah Mayor- 2025			
	Staff Liaison		And rew Sha nno n Safe & Civil City Dire	

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Quorum: Yes

1. Call to Order: June 11, 2025, at 5:35pm by Patrick Smith
 - a. `Motion to approve: by Patrick.
 - b. Motion: **Passed**
2. Request for Additional Agenda Items: NO
3. Approval of May meeting minutes: YES
4. New Business
 - a. Public Comments
 - a. Introductions from the interns with the office of the Safe and Civil City Director
 - a. Stephen Daley introduced himself
 - b. Bray Lynch introduced himself
 - b. Virgil Giles, the Director of the Indiana Commission on the Status of Black Males provided a presentation.
 - a. Mentioned that there was a new executive director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.
 - b. Informed us that there are four other commissions that fall under the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and they had
 - a. Indiana Commission for Women
 - b. Indiana Commission for Hispanic/Latino Affairs (ICHLA)
 - c. Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission
 - d. The MLK Commission
 - c. These Commissions were funded for another two years, but the Indiana Commission for Women was not funded when a local legislator ended budgeting
 - d. The Indiana Commission on the Status of Black Males budgeting came to just under 129,000 which was a 5% decrease.
 - e. The Indiana Commission on the Status of Black Males has been

tasked with being made more viable. So, they want to be more active with local Commissions.

- f. In October they will have a health conference which aligns with Governor Mike Braun's health initiative, which has to do with prevention management, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.
- g. They have opened the door for the CSBM of Bloomington to participate and to have a resource table at the event with no charge to us.
- h. If there are any men, women, or student who want to attend let them know.
- i. Friday July 11, there will in Indianapolis be a celebration of the Negro Leagues with Negro League representees of Indianapolis: the Indianapolis Indians. The Indiana Commission on the Status of Black Males will provide us with free tickets so that we can take students of any level, even if online, to the event with us.
- j. No date yet of other events being planned.
- k. Virgil informed us that if we have events where we needed the Indiana Commission to sponsor or wish him to come out and speak at, we should provide him with a two-day notice so that he could acquire a state vehicle for the trip. Also, for the events we need to include a resource table and inform him with a write up concerning the event so that he can present it to the governor for approval.
- l. They have a grant program and a social media account.
- m. In an effort to be more involved with the community they planned to host

events in the communities thereby eliminating transportation as a factor for those that don't have it. IN the past they always had event in the State House.

- n. Given the limits in funding, they often with partnerships.
- o. They have to cut out some things because of budget cuts.
- p. They however received 10,000 of external funding for their Black Health Initiative.
 - a. They bought lunch for medical service providers and volunteers.
 - b. Barbers came out and cut hair for free
 - c. IU Health and Anthem are great partner of theirs.
- q. Virgil agreed to participate in our Black Male Youth Summitt, if given governor approval, by the request of Patrick Smtih and Andrew Shannon.

Old Business

a. 2025 Events

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Juneteenth (Andrew Shannon)
 - o When the CSBM arrives on Friday June 13, we will be given one table and two chairs.
 - o Thet want us to come set up at 1pm but you are free to come at 2pm and a person can table until 6pm.
 - o They want the CSBM to check in for the event.
 - o All things are outside.
 - o First aid and vital check are there (fire truck)
 - o The interns will direct people to proper places.
 - o food truck venders present
 - o 21 non-food vendors signed up
 - o The Small Business Association will be there
- The Chair's Report

- o Wait until next month
- Black Barbershop Health Initiative (Patrick Smith)
 - o A lot of communication with Hoosier Health through Sherly Cremark- he got news that they probably won't be able to do A1C test because electricity is a major factor. They don't have electric outlets there to generate power they would need for it.
 - o But will do flexibility, grip assessment, vegimeter, and sleep hygiene.
 - o Cathy says that she wishes to focus on her work with the NAACP
 - o We will share data with Hoosier Health Initiative. They have a way to account for those who sign up.
 - o Fire truck will provide vital checks, and he will see if he can get data working with them if possible.
 - o Patrick is going to construct a sheet for us to collect data simply.
 - o Demographic info is wanted if we can get it, but at a minimum we want the number that came through and maybe took advantage of services.
- National Million Father March
 - o After emailing the Principal of Fairview, calling the principals receptionist, and reaching out to Dr. reaching out to Drew McKenzie at Teacher at Fairview (seemed promising), all to no avail, Dhakir reached out to Dr. Priester-Hanks to try and connect to initiate the conversation concerning their hosting of the National Million Father March.
 - Dr. Priester-Hanks is the Postsecondary Readiness Coordinator with the Monroe County Community School Corporation.
 - Emailing her proved unfruitful.
 - Cornellius stated that he could contact someone at the school for me to get things moving as he has been in conversation with them regarding the past iterations of the initiative at Fairview.

- It was stated that we would need to get out and be posted up around 8am before buses arrive.
 - Cornellius said that he spoke with the principal the week prior and the principal seemed happy about the vent.
 - It is believed that Dr. Winston will be present as they are usually present for these events.
- Black Male Youth Summit (Andrew Shannon presented on this)
 - o The event is scheduled for 9/11/2025 from 10am-2pm.
 - o Location: City Council Chambers (reserved)
 - o We have food for the atrium.
 - o The event has the approval of Dr. Priester-Hanks
 - o The interns are waiting on the CSBM for the theme and presenter list so they can come up with the marketing materials.
 - o We need to provide Virgil Giles with an official invitation to participate.
- Winter wonderland (Andrew reported)
 - o Saturday Dec 6, 2025, at Banneker Community Center
 - o The interns are working on a flyer for the event.
 - o Andrew will formulate an appeal letter as a template; we can use to reach out to make appeals for sponsorships and contributions for toys.
 - o We have the document, and we are free to change the letter head.
 - o The gifts and prizes acquired from businesses and such for the SWAGGER Awards are listed on the document.
 - o It was mentioned between Andrew and Diana that toys that proved important were nerf guns, action figures, Beyblades among other things. We also need to make sure to acquire proper toys for girls.
 - o This is important because they were holding their breath for fear of running out of toys last time.
 - o For seeking donations and such we need a way to communicate amongst each other to ensure that we

understand one Commissioner has gone to what business so that there is no overlap.

- City Staff Liaison Report (Andrew)
 - o Said that he would follow up with emails that listed prizes and awards received for Swagger Awards.
- Announcements and Community Updates
 - o Andrew Shannon and his interns went to a history museum and there was a great presentation provided them by Elizabeth Mitchell. They also had an opportunity to hear about important Bloomington landmarks.
 - o The interns have been out putting up flyers about Juneteenth event.
- Adjournment
 - o Proposed at 6:35 by Patrick and seconded by Diana.