

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

December 10, 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: December 10th, 2025, 5:35pm
 - a. Motion to approve: James
 - b. Second: Diana
 - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Verify Quorum: yes

3. Request for Additional Agenda Items: no

Approval of November Minutes:

motion to approve-Patrick

seconded---Tyson

Old Business

a. Winter Wonderland

- i. Nothing to report

4. New Business

a. Public Comments/Guest(s)

- i. Diana's son was present to observe [Didn't get his name]

2. Committee Reports

a. Chairperson's Report (James)

- i. No report

b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow

- i. Need to put the call out for it.
 - 1. Reaching out to potential people for nomination
 - 2. Need to send out a press release near Winter Wonderland
 - 3. Get the word out and so that the community can visit our website and we need to send our advertisements to people we know
 - 4. It was reported by Shannon that they have updated the Commission's website
 - a. Tyson said it was not.
 - i. Shannon reported that the Black-Market event and some other things are in fact updated---we can now copy and paste things on website
 - ii. The event is on Feb 28th
 - 5. Update jot form for outstanding leaders of tomorrow for nominations
 - a. James decided that him and I can work on the form

- i. We need something by end of calendar year.
- 6. During the MLK program is when we announce the award. Nominations don't close until beginning of February 1st
- 7. Ramir Williams was last year's winner, and he will announce the award recipients this time
- 8. Aubrey will get a script to approve by Dec 20 for Shatoya
- c. Black Barbershop Health Initiative
 - i. Patrick has no date and no report
 - ii. Juneteenth is on a Friday in 2026. It is June 12th
 - iii. Dianna proposed a calendar of events for us. This will ensure that we have all events documented and hence know how to prepare for them and to be aware of them.
 - 1. She will work on it
- d. National Million Father March
 - i. No one is opposed to us having it at Fairview again.
 - ii. August 5th, they open
- e. Black Male Youth Summit
 - 1. Our date—we moved it to September 17th
 - 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.
 - 3. Need speakers
 - 4. Andrew mentioned that it was phenomenal (
 - 5. Andrew wishes to have one of the speakers from the Summitt to participate in staff development training for his office.
 - 6. Patrick suggested Virgil Giles the former director in Indy as a potential speaker at the 2026 Summit.
 - 7. Cornellius is supposed to get surveys to schools to see what topics we want to talk on
 - 8. We need Patrick to reach out to Virgil Giles

f. Winter Wonderland

- i. James—says it went well
- ii. we had a ton of volunteers for set up, break down, and more
 - 1. Patrick---thinks it was great, people enjoyed themselves, he likes how well we worked together.
 - a. Patrick suggested that if we are going doing snow again, we need to have a tarp, and that we be more intentional about clean up and specific responsibilities.
 - 2. There was some confusion on where furniture would be left and how we should leave the room
 - 3. Dianne—felt that for activities—we need good and solid activities—
 - a. She mentioned that the snow molding for the activity was expired,
 - b. Said she has background on early childhood education and can pair with director on working with being more intentional about ensuring that we really have the kids in mind while we are conceptualizing the way the event will go
 - c. Wants to know if we can get pizza donations
 - d. Andrew—mentioned that when we target sponsors, we target them for specific things
 - i. We should not hit the same sponsors repeatedly.
 - ii. We may get Pizza X for Black History month kick-off. We go to them for Juneteenth, especially for Black Malke Youth Summitt
 - e. Dianna suggested that would look to other pizzerias for pizza for the Winter Wonderland event

f. James mentioned that we can reach out to the divine 9

He is aware that the Zetas have money to spare.

g. Patrick—asked if there were any presents left

i. Andrew—there were very few left and the rest were given out to those who asked if there were any left.

h. Dianne

i. Suggested taking Polaroid pictures

ii. It was stated that the Polaroids may not be as good as online as the online format is a good way to collect metrics. This is because we require participants to provide their emails to receive their Santa pictures.

iii. Patrick mentioned that Polaroid now has a digital feature—you can take a picture like regularly but can also download it

iv. Tyson—noticed a lot of kids running around stations in a rambunctious way---So, he felt we needed a little more organization

v. James- maybe get more volunteers next year for the organization side
Tyson mentioned

- Andrew-

- We were given the folder of photos

- Dianna—We need to have t-shirts for commission so that we can be easily identified at our events---and the Commission is open to it.

- James-the Black and Bloom group has done this in the past, so it should be something easily done.

- James thanked us all for our work

- Shannon---thanked everyone for their great job in working the event
 - Shannon offered to take those Commissioners present to Crazy Horse in celebration of all we accomplished this year, and the great work done.
- James—would like to send Justin Crosley a thank you letter for allowing us to use his photographic equipment
 - It is proposed that we get need a new beard for Santa in the future as Santa's beard was constantly on the verge of falling off and it did not fit flush with his face.
- City Staff Liaison Report
 - iii. Thanks for support with Winter Wonderland
 - iv. Annual report will be discussed next month about what will be added and he bring in the old report form 2024
 - v. 280 people attended the Winter Wonderland event
 - vi. 80 people attended the Black Male Youth Summit.
 - vii. Patick—mentioned that for the presentation of the report in front of the City Council we should know what our needs are (maybe monetarily) as a result of earlier suggestions

3. Announcements/Community Updates

- a. Dhakir mentioned the IUB MLK Breakfast of which he is on the planning committee, and he asked if the Commissioners would attend
 - i. James mentioned that the CSBM usually attends
 - 1. The Commission usually has the speaker for the MLK Birthday Commission attend
 - 2. James says he will take things to MLK Commission and discuss what was proffered during the CSBM meeting.
 - a. The MLK Commission's team for MLK Day is to highlight women normally not discussed and a few you have likely heard of
- Adjournment:
 - Patrick made a motion
 - It was seconded by Diana and the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm

