

HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023
4:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division Street

"To increase constructive communication among all people regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, physical or mental disability, family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. To also increase constructive communication between residents, public officials, and community organizations, thereby promoting harmonious and productive relationships within the community, and equitable access to community resources for all."

A. INTRODUCTIONS

B. ROLL CALL

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. January 25, 2023

D. COMMUNICATIONS

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. CRB Community Survey – Update from Sub-Committee

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Code Compliance Presentation – Jason Francisco, Code Compliance Manager

H. COMMUNITY POINTS OF INTEREST – OPEN DISCUSSION

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

J. BOARD COMMENTS

K. NEXT MEETING – March 15, 2023

L. ADJOURNMENT

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Room 302A
&
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday January 25, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Kathy Szenda Wilson, Deana Spencer (arrived at 4:04pm), Chris Lussier, Donald Woodward (aka Pao Shan), Joe Hooper and Lyanna Wesley, all attending in person. Rebecca Fleury, Keona Ackley, Boonikka Herring and Jeffrey Cotton all attending remotely from the City of Battle Creek and Emirroa Austin, attending remotely from the City of Grand Rapids.

Staff: Deputy Clerk, Alicia Greene; Interim Police Chief, Bagley and DEI Officer, Kimberly Holley

Guests: Comm. Ballard

Board Members Absent: Derrick Freeman, Jennifer Gregor and Whitney Wardell

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Chris Lussier, supported by, Joe Hooper, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of November 16, 2022. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Communications: There were none.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Old Business: Ms. Szenda Wilson provided the information collected in the CRB Survey from community members.

Mr. Lussier reviewed the results of the CRB Survey with the Board, disaggregating much of the information for the Board to view and discuss.

Mr. Lussier will send the disaggregated information, in a PDF to Rebecca Forbes, to be emailed to the Board members.

The Board discussed their role in the creation of a CRB to be presented to the City Commission.

Ms. Fleury provided an overview of the expectations, noting the City Commission will decide if a CRB is created and how it would operate.

Ms. Szenda Wilson noted the next step would be to bring a recommendation to a commission workshop and suggested creating a work group to put together a draft recommendation and share with this board before presenting it to the City Commission.

Ms. Fleury noted the Commission workshop would be approximately 2 hours on a Thursday in February or March.

New Business: Ms. Szenda Wilson introduced Kimberly Holley new DEI officer for the City.

Interim Police Chief Bagley was introduced and shared his background and experience with the CRB in Kalamazoo. Chief Bagley provided information about text surveys sent through CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) to individuals who have had routine calls for service, noting we have had almost 1700 responses with a range of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest) Battle Creek currently has a rating of 4.5-4.6.

Community Points of interest: Ms. Szenda Wilson stated, Code Compliance will be at the February meeting with a presentation.

Ms. Ackley reminded the Board members TRHT is currently doing healing circles, for more information reach out to TRHT.

Chief Bagley in response to Ms. Spencer, stated

Chief Bagley responding to Mr. Cotton, clarified BCPS decision to not allow community members at certain sporting events, noting this decision is totally in the schools hands.

Mr. Hopper reminded the Board February is black history month and many activities will be available throughout the community, including, Saturday February 25th, Faith Temple is hosting a presentation and the entire Community is invited.

Public Comments: There were none.

Board Comments: There were none.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board February 15, 2023 @ 4:00pm in Room 302A and available by Zoom.

Adjournment: Ms. Kathy Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:05pm.