

**Human Relations Board  
Battle Creek City Hall  
10 N. Division St.  
Room 302A  
&  
Virtual-ZOOM  
Wednesday January 17, 2024  
4:00 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:** Charles Asher, Josita Todd, Donald Woodward (aka Pao Shan), Rebecca Fleury and Deana Spencer (4:16pm), - all attending in person attending in person. Keona Ackley, Joe Hooper, Jeffrey Cotton, Whitney Wardell (4:29pm) attending remotely from the City of Battle Creek.

**Staff:** DEI Officer, Kimberly Holley; Police Chief Bagley; Rebecca Forbes, Executive Assistant

**Guests:** There were none.

**Board Members Absent:** Kathy Szenda Wilson, Boonikka Herring, Lyanne Wesley, Jennifer Metzger, Derrick Freeman, Eva Masters, Roger Ballard

**Ex-Officio:** Rebecca Fleury, attending in person.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Charles Asher, supported by Deana Spencer, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of November 29, 2024. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

**Communications:** There were none.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Old Business:** Community Oversight Board (COB) updates provided by Kimberly Holley. Ms. Holley provided an overview of the workshop with the City Commissioners in December 5, 2023. Ms. Holley is currently working on updates/revisions to the draft plan to be reviewed before returning to the Commission for consideration.

Ms. Holley noted the Language Access Task Group will be meeting on January 31, 2024 to discuss recommendations for language access in several areas of the city.

The Board reviewed and discussed the “Assessment of Economics in the City of Battle Creek”.

Rebecca Fleury provided additional details around ongoing community and economic development in the City.

**New Business:** Charge of the Human Relations Board-tabled to future date

2024 HRB Calendar-meeting dates updated-recommended change for June 2024.

A motion was made by Deana Spencer, supported by Charles Asher, to approve the date change for the June 2024 Human Relations Board meeting from June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> due to the Juneteenth Holiday. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

**Community Points of Interest:** Deana Spencer shared concern for violence in the North end of town. Whitney Wardell noted the County will be conducting their annual PIT (point in time) count assessing the number of unhoused individuals in the County. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Ms. Wardell.

Chief Bagley shared data around the 10 incidents with 12 homicide victims, occurring in the City of Battle Creek in 2023.

Mr. Cotton highlighted concerns with the youth in the Battle Creek community, noting two major factors being housing and employment, requesting a meeting with Chief Bagley.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**Board Comments:** Ms. Spencer asked about the availability of funds for City sidewalk repair. Ms. Spencer shared a poor interaction with a 911 call she placed for service.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Human Relations Board February 21, 2024 @ 4:00 pm in Room 302A and available by Zoom.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Keona Ackley adjourned the meeting at 5:08pm.