

**Human Relations Board
Battle Creek City Hall
10 N. Division St.
Room 302A
&
Virtual-ZOOM
Wednesday September 20, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Kathy Szenda Wilson, Chuck Asher, Keona Ackley, Jeffrey Cotton (4:04pm), Joe Hooper, and Deana Spencer (4:08pm) - all attending in person. Donald Woodward (aka Pao Shan) remotely from the City of Kalamazoo. Derrick Freeman, Lyanne Wesley (4:02pm), Jennifer Metzger, Whitney Wardell (4:05pm) all attending remotely from the City of Battle Creek.

Staff: Deputy City Clerk, Alicia Greene; DEI Officer, Kimberly Holley; Police Chief Bagley; Community Development Specialist, Michelle Salazar; Rehabilitation Coordinator, Christopher Douglas

Guests: There were none.

Board Members Absent: Boonikka Herring

Ex-Officio: Rebecca Fleury, in person and Comm. Roger Ballard remotely

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Chuck Asher, supported by Rebecca Fleury, to approve the Human Relations Board minutes of August 16, 2023. All yes, none opposed. Motion approved.

Communications: There were none.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Old Business: Community Review Oversight Board: Discussion will be postponed until a future meeting.

New Business: Rebecca Fleury provided an update on the status of the Community Review Oversight Board, noting a report will be made to the City Commission and would then be brought back to the HRB for input.

Kimberly Holley reviewed the current status of the Language access Plan, noting the DEI Office and Communications Department have partnered to conduct a Language Access Assessment.

Michelle Salazar provided insight on her personal experiences with translation services.

The Board discussed language access in the City.

Community Points of Interest: Deanna shared a community member's interaction with BCPD. Chief Bagley gave an update on the missing 11 year old boy.

Public Comments: Tristen Bredhoft thanked the City for prioritizing language access. Christopher Douglas noted Michelle Salazar has been invaluable for interpretation services in the Community Development Department.

Board Comments: Ms. Szenda Wilson requested and the Board agreed to move the next meeting to October 25, 2023 due to scheduling conflicts. Additionally Ms. Szenda Wilson would like to revisit extending the time allowed for the HRB meetings at a future meeting, asking the Board to consider a 3:30pm start time and HRB leadership.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Human Relations Board October 25, 2023 @ 4:00 pm in Room 302A and available by Zoom.

Adjournment: Ms. Kathy Szenda Wilson adjourned the meeting at 5:06pm.