
CITY OF KALAMAZOO
Civil Rights Board
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 5:00 p.m. • City Commission Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Madison Lukeman, Cathy Phason, Sandra Calderon,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Burpee

Ex-Officio Members: Tanya Hewitt-Smith and Commissioner Hoffman

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Jones (Assistant City Attorney), Lal Tluangi (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Coordinator).

The Civil Rights Board meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Phason.

Agenda: Agenda not adopted due to lack of quorum.

Minutes: Minutes not adopted due to lack of quorum.

Public Announcements and Communications: None

New Business:

Civil Rights Board Complaint Update Discussion – Chair Phason stated that the board would like to have summaries and regular complaint updates. Director Tanya stated that Specialist Lal has sent the board s summary and a complaint log, have worked to update the physical complaint log and asked the board to share any edits they want during the meeting.

Ordinance Review Subcommittee Meeting Update – Subcommittee members (Vice-chair Lukeman, Chair Phason, and Commissioner Hoffman) recounted the recent meeting of the committee, the meeting schedule that has been established and the goals of the committee. They are looking forward to working on the ordinance and working with the city attorney team as they go through the ordinance.

Public Comments:

Tobi Hanna-Davies (ISAAC) – Thanked the board for the progress and the subcommittee is working to change the language of the ordinance. Stated ISAAC is looking forward to ordinance enforcement and congratulated the board on filing members and also asked if there are any more board openings.

Andrew Chaponda (ISAAC) – Thanks the board for the work they are doing regarding the ordinance. Advised the board to move a little faster as the community needs it.

Richard Stewart – Stated that during the ordinance revision, the board should change its name from Civil Rights Board to Ch.18 Ordinance board as the current name is misleading.

Miscellaneous Board Comments: Director Calderon noted that her name was misspelled and expressed interest in being apart of the nomination committee. Chair Phason appointed Director Calderon to be apart of the nomination committee. Vice-Chair Lukeman shared that there are two vacancies open and encourage the community to apply. This message was reaffirmed by other board members. Director Calderon inquired if there are any open subcommittee spots open, Chair Phason stated that there are no subcommittee spots open and the ordinance subcommittee has been filled. Chair Phason also thanked the community for showing up to the meetings and the board is pushing for changes including making the meetings once a month and having the

Ordinance Subcommittee meet on a biweekly basis. Vice-Chair Lukeman wanted to still encourage people to make a complaint as the ordinance is still in place. Chair Phason clarified that complaints do not always stay in the city and are referred to appropriate organizations. Commissioner Hoffman stated that the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Fair Housing are examples of agencies that complaints are referred and that the city is working to build partnerships. Director Tanya stated that complainants are informed of the status of their complaints and are told where their complaints have been referred.

Closing Comments: None

Next Meeting: December 6, 2023, at 5:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT: 5:22 pm

Lal Tluangi, Recording Secretary
Tanya Hewitt-Smith, Staff Liaison
Stephanie Hoffman, City Commission Liaison
Cathy Phason, Chair