

Roll Call

The Kalamazoo City Commission met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 5:02 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Anderson
Vice Mayor Jeanne Hess
Don Cooney
Stephanie Hoffman
Chris Praedel
Alonzo Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Qianna Decker*

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Aaron Leal, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioner Excused

Commissioner Praedel, seconded by Commissioner Cooney, moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Decker. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Public Comments

When an opportunity was given for general public comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Tobi Hanna-Davies, City resident, regarding enforcement of the City's nondiscrimination and fair housing ordinances.

Sharlae Davis, City resident and Executive Director of ISAAC, regarding the work involved to create the "beloved community" envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2025-19-01

Presentation re: Request for Updates to the Civil Rights Board Ordinance

City Attorney Leal delivered a presentation entitled *Enforcement of Civil Rights, May 12, 2025*. A copy of the presentation slides was filed with the papers for this meeting.

*Commissioner Decker arrived at 5:11 p.m.

Commissioner Questions:

Following the presentation, City Attorney Leal and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Director Tanya Hewitt-Smith responded to Commissioner questions regarding the Detroit civil rights ordinance and Human Rights Commission; whether the Civil Rights Board (CRB) had engaged the community to educate them about the City's ordinances and the process for filing a complaint; whether training was available for CRB members; potential changes to Chapters 18 and 18a of the City Code to make more complaints actionable; whether creative consideration had been given to what enforcement the City was able to do; and areas covered by City ordinances that were not covered by Michigan civil rights laws and the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

Mayor Anderson asked if Commissioners were interested in forming a subcommittee to work with the CRB, and he suggested the Commission have a conversation about this possibility.

Commissioner Comments

An opportunity was given for general comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Adjournment



Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

Approved by the City Commission on: _____

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