



CITY OF YPSILANTI
REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. November 18, 2025 HRC Action Minutes

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- B. TABLED Resolution Inaction is Discriminatory, proposed by Layton, past Chair and Commissioner.
- C. TABLED Discussion regarding Working Discrimination Complaint Form
- D. TABLED Discussion regarding a Harm Reduction Presentation

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- E. Election of a New Chairperson, due to resignation of Chair Layton from Commission.
- F. Electing a HRC representative to the Tenants' Rights Committee
- G. Discussion on potential zoning concerns or barriers with the lens of the HRC, and potential joint meeting.
- H. Discussion regarding a Town Hall Meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES
REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING
6:00 PM - Thursday, November 20, 2025
Council Chambers
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

[IGNORE_INDENT]

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Harper called the meeting to order 6:04p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Commissioner Harper
Commissioner Lycan
Commissioner Myers
Commissioner House
Commissioner Munro

Absent:

Commissioner Layton
Commissioner Kalfayan

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Lycan offered, supported by Commissioner Munro, to table Item D in Old Business.

Commissioner Lycan moved to Approve the AGENDA as amended. Commissioner Munro seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper

No: None

Absent: (2) Katherine Layton, Ravyn Kalfayan

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 18, 2025 HRC Meeting Action Minutes

Commissioner Lycan moved to Approve the September 18, 2025 HRC Meeting Action Minutes. Commissioner Munro seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper

No: None

Absent: (2) Commissioner Layton, Commissioner Kalfayan

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

1 Member of the public spoke.

Commissioner Kalfayan entered the Chambers at 6:13p.m.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B. TABLED Proposed Resolution - Inaction is Discriminatory

Commissioner Lycan moved to table Item B. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

C. Discussion regarding working Discrimination Complaint Form

Commissioner Lycan moved to add this as an item for the next agenda. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

D. Review and Discussion of proposal for Town Hall Meeting.

This item was tabled during agenda approval.

E. Discussion regarding responses to questions posed to City Attorney and City Manager

Commissioner Lycan moved to have Council Member King take these questions to the City Council. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

VII. NEW BUSINESS

F. Harm Reduction Presentation

Commissioner Lycan moved to table this to clarify if there is a public speaker. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public spoke.

IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Lycan moved to add to next month's agenda a discussion on potential zoning concerns or barriers with, the lens of the HRC. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

Commissioner Lycan moved to schedule a meeting with the Planning Chair and the HRC Chair. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

Commissioner Lycan moved to approve the proposed 2026 HRC schedule for meetings. Commissioner Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Juanita House, Jane Munro, Arika Lycan, Justin Harper, Ravyn Kalfayan

No: None

Absent: (1) Commissioner Layton

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 7:08p.m.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY COUNCIL INACTION AS DISCRIMINATORY

WHEREAS, the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that prejudice and discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height, weight, and criminal conviction history pose significant threats to peace and public welfare, as affirmed in Section 58-31 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Human Relations Ordinance mandates that the City Council and the Human Relations Commission proactively address discrimination through patterns of action or nonaction that cause social tensions, disparities, or harm, as outlined in Section 58-36; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has failed to act on pressing issues impacting marginalized communities, including but not limited to:

- The removal of the Planning Commission subcommittee Housing Affordability and Accessibility Report and Recommendations from the City Plan in 2020;
- The delayed passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance, which would address discriminatory traffic enforcement practices;
- The failure to advance a resolution in support of drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts, which are critical to public health and safety;
- The introduction of language referring to people with disabilities and unhoused individuals as a "subsection of the population," which is contrary to the principles of equity and inclusion established in the Human Relations Ordinance; and
- The refusal to allocate over \$2.4 million from the Public Safety and Mental Health Millage reimbursement funds toward mental health and social services, despite the ordinance's recognition that systemic discrimination affects access to resources; and

WHEREAS, per Section 58-70, no governmental body may adopt, enforce, or allow policies that result in discriminatory effects, including those that create unequal opportunities for marginalized groups in housing, employment, or public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, per Section 58-35, the City's Human Relations Commission is tasked with recommending policies that prevent and rectify patterns of discrimination, including those perpetuated by inaction; and

WHEREAS, inaction by the City Council on these critical matters constitutes de facto discrimination by failing to remedy systemic inequities and by disproportionately harming vulnerable communities in Ypsilanti;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Ypsilanti recognizes its failure to act on these matters as a form of institutional discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council commits to immediate and measurable action, including:

1. The expedited passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance;
2. The introduction and passage of a resolution supporting drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts;
3. The removal of language that dehumanizes people with disabilities and unhoused individuals from all city documents and resolutions; and
4. The commitment of Public Safety and Mental Health Millage funds to mental health and social services as part of an equitable approach to public safety; and
5. A request to amend Sections 58-76 and 58-77 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances to hold public officials, city staff, and commission members accountable for discriminatory actions and to remove existing protections that shield them from personal liability in cases of discrimination.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Ypsilanti affirms its duty to uphold the Human Relations Ordinance by actively working to eliminate systemic discrimination and by ensuring that public policy reflects the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion.

DRAFT

TENANTS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHMENT: Sep. 23, 2025 [Establishing Resolution 2025-191](#)

DURATION: 3 years from resolutions adoption (Sept. 2025)

STRUCTURE

Voting:

- Two (2) members of the Ypsilanti City Council
- One (1) representative from YpsiBIG (Ypsi Ballot Initiative Group)
- One (1) representative from the Human Relations Commission
- One (1) representative from the Planning Commission
- One (1) representative from the Sustainability Commission
- Three (3) tenants who reside in the City of Ypsilanti

Non-Voting:

- The City Attorney or their designee
- A City staff liaison from the Community Services or a designated department
- Legal Services of Southeast Michigan

GUIDE

- Research and propose ordinances and policies for council consideration.
- Develop and recommend strategies for tenant education and empowerment.
- Serve as a forum for receiving public comment on tenant landlord issues.
- Engage with landlords and other stakeholders to promote best practices.
- Track relevant housing data and report annually on the state of tenant housing.
- Perform other duties consistent with the resolution.

APPLICATION

CITY OF YPSILANTI

A TENANTS' RIGHTS COMMITTEE

An Ad-Hoc Tenants' Rights committee of the Ypsilanti City Council to address housing instability, promote safe and healthy rental housing, and advance the City's Master Plan goal that "Anyone, no matter what age or income, can find a place to call home in Ypsilanti."

THE CITY OF YPSILANTI RESOLVES:

Section 1. TITLE.

This body shall be known as the Tenants' Rights Committee of the Ypsilanti City Council (the "Committee").

Section 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

The City Council finds that:

- (a) Ypsilanti is a community of renters, with over 58% of households being tenant-occupied, one of the highest rates in Washtenaw County.
- (b) Nearly 60% of tenant households are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on rent, creating severe housing instability.
- (c) A significant power imbalance exists in the landlord-tenant relationship, evidenced by the high rate of eviction filings where the majority of landlords have legal representation while most tenants do not.
- (d) There is a critical need for a dedicated body to research, recommend, and develop policies to protect tenant rights, ensure housing quality, and work towards a more equitable housing market.

Section 3. ESTABLISHMENT AND DURATION.

There is hereby established an Ad-Hoc Tenants' Rights Committee. The Committee shall exist for a period of three (3) years from the date of this Resolution's adoption, after which the Council shall review its progress and consider its status.

Section 4. MEMBERSHIP.

4.1 Composition. The voting membership of the Committee shall consist of nine (9) members as follows:

- (a) Two (2) members of the Ypsilanti City Council;
- (b) One (1) representative from YpsiBIG (Ypsi Ballot Initiative Group);
- (c) One (1) representative from the Human Relations Commission;
- (d) One (1) representative from the Planning Commission;
- (e) One (1) representative from the Sustainability Commission.
- (f) Three (3) tenants who reside in the City of Ypsilanti

4.2 Ex-Officio Members. The following shall serve as non-voting, ex-officio members:

- (a) The City Attorney or their designee;
- (b) A City staff liaison from the Community Services or a designated department.
- (c) Legal Services of Southeast Michigan

Section 5. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Committee shall have the following duties:

- (a) To research and propose ordinances and policies for Council consideration, including but not limited to: tenant right of first refusal and just-cause eviction policies, pre-tenancy fee reforms, etc.
- (b) To develop and recommend strategies for tenant education and empowerment.
- (c) To serve as a forum for receiving public comment on tenant-landlord issues.
- (d) To engage with landlords and other stakeholders to promote best practices.
- (e) To track relevant housing data and provide an annual report to the City Council on the state of tenant housing in the City.
- (f) To perform any other activities consistent with this Resolution.

Section 6. LEGAL SUPPORT.

The Committee shall be supported by the legal expertise of its appointed representative from Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM), who shall advise on matters of landlord-tenant law, ordinance drafting, and legal trends.

Section 7. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

7.1 Officers. The Committee shall, at its first meeting, decide organizational structure and elect a chair.

7.2 Meetings. The Committee shall meet on a bi-monthly basis or as it determines necessary to accomplish its duties.

7.3 Reporting. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the City Council on a regular basis, and no less than annually.

Section 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.