



CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
[ZOOM MEETING](#)
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Abdo
Commissioner Choudhuri
Commissioner Hagenauer
Commissioner Hill
Commissioner McLaughlin
Commissioner Robinson
Commissioner Sharon
Commissioner Smith

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3 - 4

A. Approving the minutes of November 10, 2021 Meeting.

Did not meet quorum.

[HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION - 10 Nov 2021 - Action Minutes](#)

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Social Equity and Data Collection Presentation - Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity for Washtenaw County

Data Presentation - Commissioner Choudhuri

B. Discussion on quorum violations regarding Race and Equity Discussion Group

5

C. Approval of HRC 2022 Meeting Schedule
[2022 HRC Meeting Schedule](#)

D. Creating a system to receive social equity data

- 7**
- E. Information regarding App Presentation - Commissioner Hagenauer and Commissioner Smith
[ypsi app concept](#)
 - F. Meet the Commissioner Campaign - Commissioner Hill
- 9 - 13**
- G. Youth position voting on the Commission
 - Youth seats may only be "honorary"
 - Would not have voting power[Age requirement for office -boards and commissions](#)
[Opinion various Qs from HRC chair 0-22719](#)

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

- A. January 12th 2022 (Tentative)

XI. ADJOURNMENT



ACTION MINUTES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Meeting

**7:00 PM - Wednesday, November 10, 2021
ZOOM MEETING**

The HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 7:00 PM, in the ZOOM MEETING, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM due to the Board not meeting a quorum.

2 ROLL CALL

Commissioner Abdoo
Commissioner Choudhuri
Commissioner Hagenauer
Commissioner Hill
Commissioner McLaughlin
Commissioner Robinson
Commissioner Sharon
Commissioner Smith

3 AGENDA APPROVAL

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approving the minutes of October 13, 2021.

5 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

6 DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Social Equity and Data Collection Presentation - Alize Ashberry-Payne, Racial Equity for Washtenaw County

Data Presentation - Commissioner Choudhuri

b) Creating a system to receive social equity data

- c) Information regarding App Presentation- Commissioner Hagenauer and Commissioner Smith
- d) Meet the Commissioner Campaign - Commissioner Hill
- e) Youth position voting on the Commission
 - Youth seats may only be "honorary"
 - Would not have voting power

7 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

8 OLD BUSINESS

9 PROPOSED BUSINESS

10 NEXT MEETING DATE

- a) December 8th, 2021

11 ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
ONE SOUTH HURON STREET
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197
2022 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The regular meetings of the City of Ypsilanti **Human Relations Commission** for the year of 2022 will be held on the **second Wednesday of each month**, unless a holiday falls on that date. Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers (first floor) at One South Huron Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Dates for 2022 meetings are as follows:

January 12th
February 9th
March 9th
April 13th
May 11th
June 8th
July 13th
August 10th
September 14th
October 12th
November 9th
December 14th

The City of Ypsilanti encourages persons with disabilities to participate and will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) services, and audios of printed materials being considered at the meeting. Individuals requiring auxiliary aids or services should provide two (2) days' notice to the City, and contact the City by writing or calling the following:

City Clerk's Office
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-5420
(734) 483-1100

The Ypsilanti App :

The City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission has worked for several years to develop kiosks or other strategies that would enable citizens to better access information about the city government.

In response Commission member Richard Smith with help of other volunteers has begun developing a Ypsilanti app essentially putting the Kiosk on people's phones.

The app would not only have city related links but also links for other Ypsi related activities: events, parking, jobs, shopping, social media etc.. The idea being that if people use it a lot for other activities they will also use it to be involved in government activities.

Here is a current draft

<https://5049008.igen.app/>

A key part of this is having links to already managed sources of information. While it can be developed at this point through volunteer labor , it is unlikely that there will be a source for staffing it and monitoring posts . Realistically we don't want scam operations , misinformation to proliferate on the app.

This is a chunk of the initial work finding good sources and checking them both in terms of how they work on a phone and accuracy/ completeness. For instance in social services George has found three links for information. Two are from the county- these are easy to use but miss some of the smaller groups.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IGQbtQOebSeluhBSofg8MGU95p_Ztugxf1NsZW0SYy/preview

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3110/COVID-19-Operating-Social-Service-Agencies>

United Way is also part of the state 211 phone system. Their data is also on line and is pretty sophisticated but also tricky to make work on the web. It may be best to only list their phone contacts.

This is where it is now – Richard could use suggestions for content areas and then there is the need for help in figuring out where to link to. That process of developing the links may also create additional linkages between groups working in Ypsilanti .

This does not solve all of the communications issues. There is a need for a non-digital process- but I think that may develop out of the neighborhood groups over the next few months.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Bruner, Asst Ypsilanti City Manager
FROM: John M. Barr
DATE: July 29, 2005
SUBJECT: Eligibility to hold office

You have requested my opinion as to whether a minor (person under the age of 18) may hold office as a member of a board or commission in the city of Ypsilanti.

The Ypsilanti City Charter sets out the requirements to hold elective office of Mayor or Council member in section 202 (c) as a "qualified elector" and resident of the ward of the office for 30 days. The Charter is silent on the qualifications of members of boards and commissions.

The City Charter in section 3.02 requires an elector to be a resident of the city and meet the requirements of state law.

State law as determined in the case of Attorney General v Abbot 121 Mich 540 (1899) provides that the minimum qualification for holding any office in the State of Michigan is being an elector.

The Michigan Constitution in Article II, Section defines elector as being a citizen, 21 years of age, residing in the state for 6 months and meeting the requirements of local law. The 26th amendment to the U.S. constitution lowered the voting age to 18 years of age, and thus an Ypsilanti elector must be age 18 or older, a U.S. citizen and city resident.

The city gets all power from the state and lacks power to change the age of an elector to less than 18.



**Barr,
Anhut &
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P.C.**

November 5, 2021
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Therefore it is my opinion that persons under the age of 18 may not hold "legal" city office in the city of Ypsilanti. Persons under the age of 18 may be not be elected to city officer or voting members of boards and commissions, but may be appointed to be "honorary" members of boards and commissions with the right to attend meetings and debate, but not to make motions or vote.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Andrew Hellenga, Ypsilanti Deputy City Clerk
From: John M. Barr, Ypsilanti City Attorney
Date: February 27, 2019
Re: Questions from HRC

Pursuant to your recent request, here are the questions proposed by the HRC chair and my answers:

- 1) Does the Mayor and City Council have a right to appoint individuals to the Human Relations Commission who are not qualified to be electors in the City of Ypsilanti?

Answer: On April 19, 1996 I wrote an opinion for Interim City Manager Robert A. Slone, Jr. on the subject mentioning that there was no state or local requirement (code or charter) for residency for appointed office. I invited City Council to amend the City Code if residency was required.

This situation continued until December 21, 2010 when City Council passed ordinance No. 1139, City Code Section 2-111, the present law, requiring residence for appointment to a city board or commission, and allowing an override with 5 votes.

- 2) Does the City Charter's language setting the number of the Human Relations Commission at nine prohibit the statutory addition of more than nine members to the Human Relations Commission?

Answer: Yes. If the commission desires to add more than 9 members the City Charter must be changed. The Charter reads:

9.02. Human Relations Commission. A Human Relations Commission consisting of nine members shall be established within six (6) months of the effective date of this Charter. The Commission



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as a whole shall be representative of the diversity of the entire community. The Commission shall endeavor to increase mutual understanding among the residents of the community and eliminate discrimination, and shall be assigned, by ordinance, such powers and responsibilities as will enable it to carry out these tasks. The City shall make an annual appropriation for the effective operation of the Commission, and the City Manager shall designate a staff person to assist the Commission

- 3) Does the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act's provisions on age discrimination prohibit the City of Ypsilanti from refusing a person 16 or over from being seated as a regularly appointed member of a Board or Commission established under ordinance or charter on account of age?

Answer: No. A minor does not have full legal status until reaching the age of majority, in Michigan, 18 years of age. MCL 722.51. The same is true of the sale or purchase of liquor.

- 4) Does the City Charter's language stating: "A Human Relations Commission consisting of nine members shall be established within six (6) months of the effective date of this Charter" require the appointment of qualified individuals with reasonable speed to fill vacancies on the Commission?

Answer: No. The 6-month provision was the time to establish the commission. There is nothing in the charter or ordinance that provides a time limit for appointments.

- 5) Does the order of application into the City Charter and non-mention of the Human Relations Commission from 9.03's first clause which reads: "the Council may create or discontinue, by ordinance, boards and commissions as the Council deems necessary or of benefit to the City of Ypsilanti. Council will provide for the duties and functions of boards and commissions, subject to law. The boards and commissions shall not administer any activity, department, or agency of the City government unless specifically required to do so by State statute, but shall serve solely in an advisory capacity or in the capacity of a quasi-judicial appeal board." exempt the Human Relations Commission from the provisions of that first clause?



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Answer: The City Charter was amended to add the words "or discontinue" to section 9.03 after the original Charter was adopted. Pursuant to the statutory rule of construction that the law "later in time" controls, it is my opinion that City Council has the authority under the amended City Charter section 9.03 to discontinue the Human Relations Commission by ordinance.