

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Commissioner Jones-Darling | Present |
| Commissioner Saunders | Present |
| Commissioner Shuler | Present |
| Commissioner Fellows | Present |
| Commissioner Gaines | Absent |
| Commissioner Hunter | Present |
| Commissioner Devika Choudhuri | Absent |
| Commissioner Avonte Browning | Present |
| Commissioner Josephine Hicks | Absent |

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Hunter moved, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to approve the agenda.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved as submitted.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 23, 2018

Commissioner Hunter moved, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to approve the minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Introduction of Youth Commissioner Avonte Browning

1. Attorney opinion regarding Commission questions regarding the Non-discrimination ordinance (NDO)
 - a. How many times has the City's NDO been violated?
 - b. How many fines have been assessed as a result of an NDO violation?
 - c. What is the enforcement mechanism for establishing a civil infraction resulting from an NDO violation?
 - d. Does the Human Relations Commission have the authority to establish probable cause during a mediation resulting from an NDO violation?
 - e. What can the Commission or the City do to enforce the results of mediation
What has been done in other Michigan cities?

Commissioner Jones-Darling highlighted the main points of the opinion, noting that the City has no record of a violation or fines assessed and stated that the City ordinance does not grant the Commission authority to establish probable cause during a mediation resulting from a violation, as it is an advisory body.

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that he had contacted the Michigan Department of Civil Rights to determine how other cities enforce their NDOs. Commissioner Shuler indicated that the NDO is an enforceable ordinance. Commissioner Fellows stated that the Commission needs authority to investigate in order to be more accountable to residents. Commissioners Saunders and Shuler noted that the Commission should have authority to hold the City Council accountable for investigating violations.

In response to query by Commissioner Jones-Darling, Deputy Clerk Andrew Hellenga indicated that an online form could be set up for the Commissioners in order to receive complaints. Commissioner Shuler added stated that further study is necessary to find out what is preventing citizens from reporting violations.

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Fellows to table Discussion Item 1 regarding Attorney opinion regarding Commission questions regarding the Non-discrimination ordinance.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Discussion Item 1 was tabled for the next meeting.

2. Sub-committee reports

Commissioner Fellows reported on the Housing Access Affordability and Accessibility Sub-committee and its move toward community engagement, stating that City Council allocated to the sub-committee \$75,000 from the new City budget. In response to query by Commissioner Saunders, Commissioner Fellows stated that the money was sourced from the Public Safety Mental Health millage.

3. Gender neutral wording recommendation

Commissioner Hunter moved, seconded by Commissioner Shuler, to table Discussion Item 3 regarding gender neutral wording recommendation to next meeting due to absence of key

Commissioners and speakers

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and Discussion Item 3 was tabled for the next meeting.

4. The AATA bus stop at Washtenaw and Summit has a rusted railing that poses a serious safety risk

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that the railing at Washtenaw and Summit belongs to the City; the bus stop belongs to the Transit Authority; and the Transit Authority is looking to move its bus stop across the street. Commissioner Jones-Darling further indicated that the route for Bus 4 is set for frequency expansion in May 2019.

Commissioner Shuler requested that the Transit Authority be invited to discuss the new plans at the next meeting.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None.

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that a reconsideration of the vote to require landlords to provide voter registration information and tenant rights handbooks to all new tenants is scheduled to take place this week.

Commissioner Fellows moved, seconded by Commissioner Hunter to support ordinance requiring landlords to provide voter registration information and tenant rights handbooks to all new tenants.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and a written recommendation in support of the ordinance will be made by Commissioner Jones-Darling.

- A. Public fliers on utility poles
- B. Create process of building community input
- C. Commission support of community benefit organizers

Responding to Commissioner Hunter, Commissioner Jones-Darling indicated that the public fliers on utility poles discussion be brought before the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Fellows indicated that creating a process of building community input is aligned with the Commission's goals. She indicated that City Council is advocating for a Human Relations Commissioner to be added to the Ad Hoc body created for negotiations with developers, and Commissioner Shuler indicated his support thereof.

IX NEXT MEETING DATE: September 24, 2018

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Shuler moved, seconded by Commissioner Hunter to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.