

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, August 24, 2020 ~ 5:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting: Zoom web conferencing platform; Livestreamed via You Tube and Facebook

In compliance with the State of Michigan's Open Meetings Act, "the minutes must show the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at a meeting open to the public, and the purpose(s) for which a closed session is held; the minutes must also include all roll call votes taken at the meeting." The minutes are limited to these requirements and do not reflect all subject matter that occurred during the Commission meeting. Meetings are audio recorded and kept on file with the MDCR.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Commission Chair Stacie Clayton
Commission Vice Chair Laura Reyes Kopack
Commission Secretary Jeff Sakwa
Commissioner Ira Combs, Jr.
Commissioner Zenna Elhasan
Commissioner Regina Gasco Bentley
Commissioner Denise Grim
Commissioner Portia Roberson

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was called to order by Chair Clayton at 5:01 P.M. Roll Call of the Commissioners was taken by Clerk Dan Levy to determine a quorum. Commissioner Clayton, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Elhasan, Commissioner Gasco-Bentley, Commissioner Grim, Commissioner Kopack, Commissioner Roberson were present. With all Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met. *Commissioner Sakwa joined at 5:05 P.M.*

WELCOME

Chair Clayton welcomed participants to the meeting by way of Zoom web conferencing and Facebook / You Tube livestream platforms.

HOUSEKEEPING RULES FOR MAKING PUBLIC COMMENT

Interim Executive Director Mary Engelman provided instructions regarding Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Move to Approve the Meeting Agenda as submitted.
On Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Grim), the Meeting Agenda was Approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

MOTION: Move to Approve the Minutes as submitted.
On Motion duly made (Roberson) and supported (Combs), the Minutes were Approved. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Tamika Gaines, Detroit – Spoke in support of candidate Nasser Beydoun.
Treasurer Eric Sabree, Detroit – Spoke in support of candidate John Johnson.
Teferi Brent, Detroit – Spoke in support of candidate John Johnson, and also brought concerns regarding demonstrations/protests in Harper Woods.
Darnell Blackburn, Macomb County – Sent correspondence in support of candidate Rhonda Powell.
Kevin Roach, Detroit – Sent correspondence in support of candidate Rhonda Powell.
Ismael Ahmed, Detroit – Spoke in support of candidate Nasser Beydoun.

ADOPTION OF VOTING PROCESS

MOTION: Move to Adopt the voting process as submitted.
On Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Elhasan), the voting process was Adopted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nasser Beydoun: Grim, Elhasan, Combs, Sakwa (4 votes)
John E. Johnson, Jr.: Combs, Roberson, Elhasan (3 votes)
Rhonda Powell: 0 votes
Toni Sellers-Pitts: Clayton, Gasco-Bentley, Roberson, Grim (4 votes)
Alicia Skillman: 0 votes
Felipe Lopez Sustatia: Sakwa, Kopack, Gasco-Bentley (3 votes)
James White: Clayton, Grim, Sakwa, Kopack, Combs (5 votes)

MOTION: Move to offer the Executive Director position to candidate James White.
On Motion duly made (Sakwa) and supported (Kopack), James White will be offered the MDCR Executive Director position.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Clayton – Y
Combs – Y
Elhasan – N
Gasco-Bentley – N
Grim – Y
Kopack – Y
Roberson – N
Sakwa – Y

With a vote of 5-3, Motion carries by majority vote.

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EDUCATION REPORT UPDATE

Chair Clayton provided an update on the status of the Education Report. The Report should be ready for approval and public presentation at the next Commission meeting on September 28, 2020.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Chair Clayton thanked the Department for their work and their patience through this lengthy process; indicated that Mr. White would be offered the Executive Director position this Friday, August 28, 2020; the start date will be September 21, 2020; thanked Sylvia Elliott, Stephanie Lenneman, Mary Engelman and Shawn Sanford, and all others who contributed their time and efforts to this process.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to Adjourn.

On Motion duly made (Roberson) and supported (Combs), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Adjourned at 5:35 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission will convene virtually on September 28, 2020 at a time to be determined.