

## **MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 ~ 9:00 A.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 9:03 A.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, Commissioner Sakwa were present. With all Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met.

#### 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

Special Advisor Sylvia Elliott provided instructions regarding Public Comment.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

**MOTION: Move to Amend the Meeting Agenda by offering Public Comment at the beginning and at the end of this meeting.**

**On Motion duly made (Roberson) and supported (Elhasan), the Meeting Agenda was Amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 27, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

**MOTION: Move to Approve the Minutes as submitted.**

**On Motion duly made (Gasco-Bentley) and supported (Grim), the Minutes were Approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Thornton, Detroit – Ms. Thornton brought concerns regarding the Commission convening their meeting during working hours and the Department's inability to participate unless personal leave time is used, concerns that the Commission withheld the names of the interview candidates, and concerns about the public's ability to contact the Commission directly, and obtaining Michigan.gov e-mail addresses to be made available to the public.

## INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Candidate #1: Toni Sellers-Pitts  
Candidate #2: Rhonda Powell  
Candidate #3: Alicia Skillman  
Candidate #4: James White  
Candidate #5: Felipe Lopez Sustatia

## 30-MINUTE BREAK

*Chair Clayton recessed the meeting for a 30-minute break at 12:00 P.M.*

## MEETING RE-CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission was re-called to order by Chair Clayton at 12:33 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 Sakwa were present. With 7 of 8 Commissioners present, quorum requirements were met.

*Commissioner Roberson re-joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.*

Candidate #6: John Johnson  
Candidate #7: Nasser Beydoun

## DELIBERATIONS

The Commission decided to hold deliberations until the next special meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020.

**MOTION: Move to advance all seven interview candidates forward to vote during the next scheduled meeting.**

**On Motion duly made (Gasco-Bentley) and supported (Roberson), the Commission will consider all seven interview candidates during deliberations on August 24, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.**

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#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no additional public comment.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: Move to Adjourn.**

**On Motion duly made (Combs) and supported (Elhasan), the meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Adjourned at 2:13 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.**

*The next special meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission will convene virtually on August 24, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.*

MINUTES APPROVED AT AUGUST 24, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING.