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STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF GLOBAL MICHIGAN
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Michigan LGBTQ+ Commission Public Meeting
Friday, March 22, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Library of Michigan – 1st floor – Lake Superior Conference Room
702 W Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915

LGBTQ+ Commission Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order.....Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán
- II. Roll Call / Determination of QuorumCommissioner Audra Wilson
- III. Approval of Agenda.....Commissioner Brandon Shamoun
- IV. Opening RemarksExecutive Director and Chief Equity Officer Poppy Hernandez
- V. Office of Global Michigan Update..... Deputy Director Ben Cabanaw
- VI. Commission Chairperson’s Report Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán
- VII. Strategic Initiative Group Updates
 - Legislative Advocacy..... Commissioners Erin Knott and Anthony Williams
 - Community Engagement.....Commissioners Angela Gabridge and Al Gray
 - Strategic Operations..... Commissioners Dr. Renee McLaughlin and Lacey Mandoka
- VIII. New Business Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán
 - 2024 Commission Meetings
 - Executive Committee
 - Strategic Initiative Group Leaders
 - Partnership with Equality Michigan for Advocacy Day
- IX. Language Access Plan Update..... Statewide Language Access Coordinator-Guadalupe Ayala
- X. Public Comments.....
- XI. Announcements.....
- XII. Adjournment



Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM (EST)
Library of Michigan – 1st floor – Lake Superior Conference Room
702 W Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present:

- Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, Chair
- Al Gray
- Angela Gabridge
- Anthony Williams
- Audra Wilson
- Bishop Bonnie A. Perry
- Brandon Shamoun
- Dani Woods
- Diane Kreger
- Kevin Nguyen
- Lacey Mandoka

In-Person Attendance - Office of Global Michigan (OGM) Staff:

- Poppy Sias Hernandez- Executive Director, OGM / Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, Governor's Office
- Banjor Musa, Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Council, Administrator
- Guadalupe Alaya, Statewide Language Access Coordinator
- Patient K. Baraka, State Refugee Mental Health Analyst

Virtual Attendance - Office of Global Michigan (OGM) Staff & Community Partners:

- Ben Cabanaw, Deputy Director OGM/ Michigan State Refugee Coordinator
- Eva Alexander, Strategic Operations Manager for Equity & Inclusion OGM
- Anna Rose Benson, Stakeholder Relations Lead, Michigan Women's Commission
- KT Mandoka, Program Manager for Great Lakes Pride

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán at 10:16 AM EST. Chair then requested for Commissioner Audra Wilson to do a roll call and determination of quorum.

II. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed by Commissioner Audra Wilson, and declared by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Brandon Shamoun and seconded by Anthony Williams. the Commission approved the meeting agenda of March 22nd, 2024, as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

IV. OPENING REMARKS

Executive Director of the Office of Global Michigan & Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer for the Governor's Office, Poppy Sias Hernandez; welcomed the commission to its inaugural open public meeting. ED Poppy Hernandez, followed with an overview of the Commissioner's role and the significance of community representation.

V. OFFICE OF GLOBAL MICHIGAN UPDATE

Ben Cabanaw, Deputy Director for the Office of Global Michigan, and Michigan State Refugee Coordinator, presented an update report highlighting wins for the 2024 year up to date, and providing an overview of the following:

- Office of Global Michigan: Mission and Vision
- Office of Global Michigan Divisions: Equity & Inclusion, Refugee Services, and Commissions Administration
- Office of Global Michigan Commissions: Black Leadership Advisory Council (BLAC), Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs of Michigan (CMEEA), Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan (HLCOM), Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC), Michigan Immigrant and Refugee Council (MIARC), and Michigan LGBTQ+ Commission.
- The work of the Commissions in strengthening connections between communities and the State of Michigan.

- Office of Global Michigan as a branch of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.
- Inclusive Programming and Events: Statewide Language Access, New Refugee Support Center Event in Detroit, MI; and launching the LGBTQ+ Commission and MIARC.

VI. COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, welcomed the Commission with some remarks and provided a report highlighting general administrative updates and milestones, including:

- Assignment of Commissioners to Strategic Initiative Groups (SIGs)
- New Commission's website <https://www.michigan.gov/ogm/commissions/lgbtq-commission>
- New Commission's email address for public inquiries LEO-LGBTQPlus@michigan.gov
- New Commissioners' State of Michigan email address.
- Listening Session Training held on March 12 & March 13, 2024.
- Budget Review.
- 2024 Advocacy Day.
- Collaboration with OGM Administrative Team on statewide community events.

VII. STRATEGIC INITIATIVE GROUP (SIG) UPDATES

Advocacy SIG - Commissioners Erin Knott and Anthony Williams Report:

- Identifying areas for collaboration and intersectionality with other Commissions.
- Announcement of partnership with Equality Michigan for Advocacy Day on April 25, 2024.
- Priority Signature Bills overview.

Community Engagement SIG- Commissioners Brandon Shamoun and Al Gray Report:

- Commission's online presence- need to increase visibility.
- Pride Events List- Review of statewide events and determination of Commission's participation.
- Social media - Outreach efforts, community engagement and online platforms discussion. How to increase visibility.

Operations SIG – Commissioner Lacey Mandoka

- Importance of defining priorities, main goals, structure, guidelines, processes, and initiatives.
- Need to identify current data resources to better understand the LGBTQ+ community needs across the State.
- Need to define the mission and vision statements for the Operations SIG for better outcomes and results on projects, tasks, and initiatives.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Open Public Meetings

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, proposed the following dates and locations for 2024 Open Public Meetings:

- March 22 - Lansing
- May 10 - Grand Rapids
- August 9 – Traverse City
- November- in Detroit

Motion made by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Shamoun. The Commission approved the meeting times and locations on March 22nd, 2024, as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Executive Committee

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, proposed the following commissioners to serve in the Executive Committee:

- Vice Chair, Brandon Shamoun
- Treasurer, Dr. Renee McLaughlin
- Secretary, Audra Wilson
- Trustee, Dr. Tonya Griffith

Motion made by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán and seconded by Commissioner Angela Gabridge. The Commission approved the election of the Executive Committee Board Members on March 22nd, 2024, as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Strategic Initiative Group (SIG) Leadership

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, proposed the following commissioners to serve as SIG Leaders:

- Advocacy SIG, Erin Knott and Anthony Williams
- Engagement SIG, Angela Gabridge and Al Gray
- Operations SIG, Dr. Renee McLaughlin and Lacey Mandoka

Motion made by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán and seconded by Commissioner Bonnie A. Perry. The Commission approved the election of the SIG Leaders on March 22nd, 2024, as presented. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Partnership with Equality Michigan

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, proposed a partnership with Equality Michigan for Advocacy Day on April 25, 2024, in Lansing, Michigan.

Motion made by Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán and seconded by Commissioner Anthony Williams. The Commission approved the partnership with Equality Michigan on March 22nd, 2024, as presented.

Motion carries unanimously.

IX. LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN UPDATE

Statewide Language Access Coordinator-Guadalupe Ayala introduced herself with pronouns she, her, ella, and reviewed the following:

- Services provided in the State of Michigan for those that non-English speakers.
- Support provided to State Departments and Agencies.
- Meaningful Language Access to State Services Act, also known as Public Act 241 of 2023.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

KT Mandoka, Program Manager at Great Lakes Pride.

- Expressed gratitude from a professional and personal standpoint.
- Expressed appreciation for having representation at a government level.
- Extended invitation to commissioners to learn more about the work of Great Lakes Pride in the region.

Anna Rose Benson, Stakeholder Relations Lead, Michigan Women's Commission

- Expressed appreciation for the LGBTQ+ Community.
- Extended the invitation to collaborate with the Michigan Women's Commission.
- Highlighted the importance of recognizing the intersectionality of race and gender identity.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Audra Wilson:

- Invitation to Great Lakes Pride for tri-counties Saginaw, Midland, and Bay City.

Commissioner Lacey Mandoka:

- Invitation to Pop-Up Pride in the Park on June 1st.

Commissioner Al Gray:

- Invitation to Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride in Marquette, MI.

Commissioner Dr. Renee McLaughlin:

- Training for Mental Health Professionals on Affirming Care Provisions Across the Gender Spectrum.
- TransWeek of Visibility on March 31st.

Commissioner Brandon Shamoun:

- Campus Pride Week at Wayne State University from April 1st-5th
- Rainbow Graduation Celebration on April 30th
- President of Stonewall Sports in Detroit, MI – Kickball Season
- * BAM Pride Summit hosted by GVSU on May 3rd

Commissioner Kevin Nguyen:

- Social Work Proclamation in Ann Arbor, MI recognizing March as Social Work Month
- University of Michigan in Ann Arbor's Student of the Year for NASW Michigan
- Completed Masters Program at University of Michigan

Commissioners Angela Gabridge

- MyGen Michigan LGBTQ+ Elder Network- Virtual Townhall on April 25th
- Gallery Opening at Affirmations in Ferndale, MI on April 13th

Commissioner Dani Woods

- Review of Citizens Police Academy- an eight-week program bringing community and law enforcement together

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán, requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

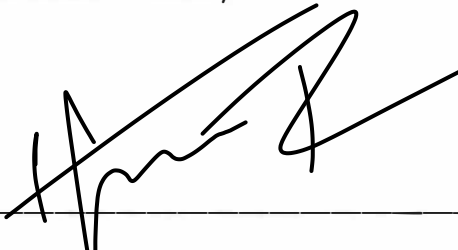
On motion made by Commissioner Brandon Shamoun and seconded by Commissioner Kevin Nguyen.

The Commission adjourned. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.

X 

Audra Wilson - Secretary

X 

Raúl Hernández-Guzmán – Administrator & Chair

Welcoming Remarks from Commission Chair Raúl Hernández-Guzmán

Good everyone,

I am truly honored to welcome each and every one of you to this special gathering, where we come together as a community united in support, celebration, and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community.

Today marks not just a meeting, but a moment of solidarity and empowerment. It's a testament to the strength and resilience of our community, a reminder of how far we've come, and a reflection on the journey that still lies ahead.

In this room, and wherever you may be joining us from virtually, we stand as a diverse tapestry of identities, experiences, and voices. We recognize and celebrate the rich tapestry of our LGBTQ+ family – a community bound together by love, respect, and shared values.

Throughout history, our community has faced adversity with courage and grace, challenging stereotypes, breaking down barriers, and paving the way for progress and equality. Today, we continue that legacy as we gather to discuss, to learn, and to uplift one another.

As we embark on this meeting, let us embrace the spirit of inclusivity, empathy, and understanding. Let us listen with open hearts and minds, honoring each other's unique perspectives and lived experiences. And let us leave here inspired and energized, ready to make a difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals everywhere.

Thank you all for being here today. Your presence, your voices, and your contributions are invaluable as we strive for a more just, equitable, and compassionate world for all.

Let's make today's meeting one to remember. Together, we are stronger.