



**CITY OF YPSILANTI  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, August 24, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Benjamin Elmgren   | Absent  |
| Claudia Pettit     | Present |
| Krista Nordberg    | Present |
| Darlene Scott      | Present |
| John Shuler, Chair | Present |
| Jennifer Symanns   | Present |
| Sue Melke          | Present |
| Theresa Saunders   | Present |
| Martha Valadez     | Present |

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Pettit to approve the agenda.

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

Commissioner Shuler introduced the Commission's newest member Martha Valadez. Commissioner Valadez stated she is excited to work with the Commission.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

– April 27, 2015

Commissioner Shuler submitted grammatical edits to the minutes of April 27, 2015.

Commissioner Symanns stated the third paragraph from the bottom of the third page should read "...based on my experience I would expect police officers to support the County ID". She added that on page four the second line should say "asked" rather than stated.

Commissioner Nordberg added on the last page Felipe Reino is spelled incorrectly.

Commissioner Symanns moved, supported by Commissioner Nordberg, to approve the minutes as amended.

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

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. Joe Golder, 1002 Washtenaw, stated he has had difficulty getting the City to investigate what he believes to be a crime. He stated he contacted Detective Tom Ebert in June 2014 and he never received a response. He stated also in June 2014 submitted a FOIA request to the City for surveys of his property boundaries. He stated there was a mistake with County records which took two years to correct. He stated he had a meeting in which the City Attorney John Barr provided him with a survey completed by the Department of Transportation which was inaccurate. He stated he is disappointed with the elected officials in Ypsilanti, and his property was illegally taken and he would like to be compensated.
2. Nathen Phillips, 509 N. Washington #2, stated he was arrested five to six weeks ago for stealing a lawn mower. He stated one of his accusers attended a party that was derogatory to Native Americans. He said that one of the party members threw a beer at him and he complained to the police and nothing was done. He said he was informed by Officer Smith that if he retrieve his lawn mower and give it to his accusers he would not be arrested, which he declined. He said he was held until 3:00 a.m. in the "drunk tank" which is very cold. He stated his court date is in September, and while he was being detained the officer went to his house and took the lawn mower to his accusers.

Commissioner Valadez moved, supported by Commissioner Melke, to extend audience participation by three minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and time allotted for audience participation was extended by three minutes.

Mr. Phillips stated four years ago he volunteered his time at the Heritage Festival and was eventually asked to be the Native American Advisor and performed an honor dance for several individuals and causes. He stated the following two years he was no longer involved with the event, but he was to regain the position of Native American Advisor again for this Heritage Festival. He stated he was informed that he would be required to pay \$5,000 as well as cost to perform the honor dance however, the festival would provide the space. He said when he informed a city official that person "snickered." He said he also had an issue with the Heritage Festival that after he informed the committee that he was unable to raise the funds needed he would not be provided with the space. He stated the individual who he informed used an expletive to describe the Native American Encampment which degrades the whole Native American people.

3. Anthony Morgan, 612 N. Congress, stated he cannot prove that men in society feel that women are inferior, but there is a great deal of evidence. He said that most people are not aware of the amount of homeless children there are in Washtenaw County but he cannot prove it. He said people are unaware of police presence but he can also not prove that. He said there is a four pronged approach to law enforcement and citizens are enforcing citizens and hold a high standard for justice in the community. He said the community expects police departments to control and keep the public in order, and the community has few tools to enforce the police to operate at a high standard, and police enforcing police to a higher standard is non-existent. He said the latter is why "Stop Bully Cops" began, and he has collect signatures from an online petition which produced hundreds of signatures of individuals who feel that there are problems with the five police agencies operating in Ypsilanti. He stated the Human Relations Commission needs proof that there is in fact an issue. He has had over 70 encounters with police since December 2014. He stated he does not have proof of this data. He said he is currently facing charges by the prosecuting attorney for resisting arrest and interfering with police from an action on June 18, 2015. He said he was arrested at a protest for being in the street while there were 70 other individuals in the street who were not arrested. He stated there was a resolution voted on during the August 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting regarding raising property values. He said if the Council wishes to improve the image of the south side it should remove the bars that surround these gated communities.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- County ID.

Commissioner Nordberg informed that the County ID program has been implemented and it has been successful.

Commissioner Valadez stated the amount of IDs that have been issued is in the hundreds. Ms. Valadez stated a radio station has been demystifying ideas that immigration will be there to deport individuals attempting to be issued an ID. Ms. Valadez stated there are organizations attempting to disseminate information of how to apply. Ms. Valadez said the main concern is with institutions and governments to ensure that the ID will be accepted. Ms. Valadez stated she has been using her ID in other cities such as Detroit and the ID has been accepted. Ms. Valadez stated the program has been positive but there could be more outreach from businesses and other institutions in the County. Ms. Valadez added there is a subsidy program for low income individuals wishing to be issued an ID.

Commission Shuler stated one of the discussions during the last meeting was whether or not the City needed to pass a formal resolution to accept the County ID. He asked Mayor Edmonds and City Manager Lange if they might offer their opinion if Council should draft a resolution, the City Manager provide staff with a directive to accept the County ID, or if that directive isn't already in place.

Mayor Edmonds responded she strongly supports the County ID program however, she is not certain of what would be necessary.

City Manager Lange added he believes Council has already passed a resolution in support of the County ID program.

Commissioner Valadez stated she does not believe a resolution is necessary instead an orientation of processes to city staff.

Commissioner Shuler asked if there is an individual that would be able to provide the orientation to city staff.

Commissioner Valadez responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds added the orientation could occur during a department head meeting or a staff meeting.

Mayor Edmonds asked if there is a "We Accept Washtenaw County ID" sticker that businesses could place in their windows.

Commissioner Valadez replied that was discussed, but it has not been implemented. Ms. Valadez stated the largest inhibitor would be funding.

- Black Lives Matter protests and related topics.

Commissioner Shuler informed the Commission this item was added to the agenda to begin a discussion and for possible recommendations to Council. Mr. Shuler welcomed the members of City Council in attendance.

Mayor Edmonds stated in the community there are many issues related to police, community relations, and brutality. She said there is a local movement regarding Mr. Morgan's arrest. She said the City Attorney informed Council that legal issues are purposely kept separate from Council, but what is in Council's purview are policy issues. She said Council has been scheduling working sessions, to look deeper into certain topics. She said it is her wish to open a conversation regarding police and community involvement, and race relations with the Human Relations Commission. She stated Council is looking for input and guidance from the Commission on how best to move forward with policy decisions.

Council Member Murdock stated City Council is interested in the Police Department providing Council a review on what is happening in the City. He said in that process Council would like to create an understanding of policies in place. He added it might be useful to have a joint session with the HRC during that presentation.

Commissioner Shuler stated it would be useful to hold joint sessions especially to avoid overlap, and possibly hold a forum on the topic. He said to begin the process the Commission could engage in a brainstorm to identify aspects of the issue that need to be touched. He said three main topics that he is considering are those

concerning free speech, police policies, and specific incidents in Ypsilanti that need to be examined. He stated he formed subtopics of what are the rights to free speech, the rights to protest, and the rights of others when individuals are expressing those rights. He said it would be useful to understand case law regarding free speech and rights to congregate. He stated three sub-topics of police policies are: use of deadly force, policy of routine stops of individuals, and body cameras for police officers in Ypsilanti.

Commissioner Saunders stated an issue she brought up when she first came to the Commission was individuals affected by the policies are not asked what their perspective is. She suggested the Commission should have a conversation with that group. She added she is open to how that would be implemented.

Commissioner Valadez stated her reaction to the process is people are being hurt and those individuals are not being heard due to systemic racism in the policies created to discourage people from participating in government. Ms. Valadez asked if the Human Relations Commission's agenda could be amended providing the Commission to respond to comments during public participation. She said that provides people validation that they have been heard. She stated the "Black Lives Matters" has a lot of content locally from Campaign Zero and the Commission should review. She said there are different components: public visibility, disclosure, and trust in local police enforcement, an issue that she has heard several times. She said the Commission should attempt to intervene through accessibility of government information. She stated individual cases can be examined in order to prevent them from happening in the future.

Commissioner Nordberg stated it is unfortunate Mr. Morgan left, and she watched the videos that were provided to the Commission which were very moving. She stated she feels police policies need to be examined to improve what is happening to individuals on the street. She said if the Ferguson report has taught us anything it is what happens before the arrest is the important. She asked why a single individual was arrested during a peaceful protest, and asked if that is a symptom of a greater problem. She stated Ypsilanti can do better, and if there are two stories reported then it is certain that there are many more that go unnoticed. She stated the Commission should hold a forum on this topic and get people speaking about this issue.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Commission needs to begin thinking of policies that it could recommend to Council. She said if a forum is planned there should be a space for people directly affected and those who are doing community work. She stated on a national level individuals are breaking the law simply to be heard. She stated she does not appreciate seeing individuals needing to be on the streets in order to be heard. She stated the forum should include space for those voices which are as equally important as statistics.

Commissioner Symanns stated she is a former police officer and understands it from that perspective. She said she appreciates what the police do with very limited budgets and that there is not extra time for officers to getting to know people. She

stated as an officer she was able to engage in community policing which can be valuable. She stated she sees an opportunity to engage with the police department as an aspect of this examination. She said people form every side of the issue, and find out where the breakdown is, and how it can be improved. She says if this issue is not resolved it ends up being dangerous for everyone.

Commissioner Shuler stated public forums in the past were to educate the Commission about a general topic and inviting those to present insight. He said the key difference is the Commission needs to do homework, before it holds a public forum. He said the police chief should be invited to a meeting to further the Commission's understanding of this issue.

Commissioner Saunders stated she does not think the Commission would be able to tackle all of these issues, and suggested the Commission narrow its focus. She stated the Commission may want to hold a safety meeting for the community, not that the community is not safe, but it is important to understand the perception of residents.

Commissioner Melke stated it is her understanding that forums are a vehicle to present information for the Commission.

Commissioner Symanns stated she would like to examine the material Commission Valadez submitted, and possibly discuss it during the next meeting. She added she would like to review police policies, such as a citizen review committee.

Commissioner Shuler stated a meeting with CoPAC might be useful for the Commission.

Commissioner Valadez stated she understands what Commissioner Saunders is saying but the "Black Lives Matter" movement is directed toward police brutality, racial profiling, harassment, and very concrete issues related to police enforcement. She stated Campaign Zero's local policy agenda is deprioritize harmless offenses such as: disturbing the peace, spitting, loitering, and pass an ordinance to ban racial profiling and establish enforceable protection against it, pass an ordinance to establish administrative teams that will have mental health professionals as primary responders to crisis situations. She said this document could be examined to think through, and see what Ypsilanti is already doing and what else it could do to improve. She stated allowing community members to come forward and present their case empower the community. She stated if the true goal is to have community relations it must be realized there is a power differential between the public and the Police Department. She stated her recommendation would be to allow the police department time to present their recommendations.

Commissioner Symanns agreed, and stated regardless of what the data states the perception of the public is their reality.

Commissioner Shuler clarified his idea was to have the Police Department present current policies to the Commission in order to understand those policies and then hold a forum.

Commissioner Scott stated it can't be assumed the Commission knows how to open this dialogue with the public. She stated she does not believe anyone on the Commission wants to offend a person, but it could be a possibility. She stated if the Commission is going to have this conversation each of its members must be clear of its objective.

Commissioner Melke stated she feels a public forum would provide that information.

Commissioner Scott replied it may, or it may not.

Commissioner Melke stated she does not feel it is wise to hold a forum with the police department and not one with the public because of the possible public reaction.

Commissioner Valadez stated she feels the forum should happen in a timely manner, but in a structured coordinated way, possibly with a facilitator. She said by doing this it will state the Commission is willing to have this conversation and provide a safe place for the presentation of different beliefs.

Commissioner Symanns agreed, and added she would also want to engage with Council on policy development. She stated she is interested in reading the research Commissioner Valadez has already performed as well as some of her own.

Commissioner Valadez stated she would like local policy information for the next meeting, and possibly an ordinance not being applied that could assist in Anthony Morgan's case.

Commissioner Nordberg suggested inviting Anthony Morgan to the next meeting and allowing him time to explain his case, and what the "Black Lives Matter" movement is doing in the City. She stated she understands that they are passionate and organized and said she would like to know more.

Commissioner Melke echoed Commissioner Nordberg's sentiments.

Commissioner Symanns agreed Mr. Morgan should be invited to the next meeting and he should be allowed time to properly explain his perspective.

Commissioner Valadez stated as an activist and an organizer in the community she understands providing a person time to explain their situation is very healing. She stated both individuals who spoke during audience participation are community leaders, and should be allowed to provide their perspective.

Commissioner Saunders asked if Mr. Morgan be invited to the next meeting, or the meeting following in order for the Commission to prepare.

Commissioner Symann stated she would like to gather more information on the topic.

Commissioner Scott stated Mr. Morgan's perspective is a part of the information the Commission needs.

Commissioner Nordberg stated Mr. Morgan has already gathered information that would be useful to the Commission.

Commissioner Valadez stated Mr. Morgan should provide a fifteen minute presentation, but the Commission needs to understand that grassroots groups have low resources, and it should not expect a technical report.

Commissioner Melke asked if the monthly Commission meetings will be the only time the Commission is willing to meet to address these issues.

Commissioner Shuler explained the Commission is constrained by the Public Meeting Act, which states it cannot conduct official business, or meet with a quorum of Commissioners that is not properly noticed. He said it does not preclude the Commission from forming sub-committees to best understand how to what information is most crucial to be presented.

Commissioner Valadez asked if any sub-committees currently operating.

Commissioner Shuler responded no.

Commissioner Nordberg asked if Council was considering forming a working group.

Mayor Edmonds responded she was considering scheduling a working session.

Commissioner Melke asked what is required regarding noticing.

Mayor Edmonds responded every public meeting must be noticed.

Commissioner Melke asked how far ahead of the meeting must it be noticed.

Commissioner Symanns responded 24 hours.

Council Member Anne Brown stated a work group might be helpful, comprised of some Council Members and some HRC members.

Commissioner Symanns asked if the Black Live Matter movement.

Council Member Anne Brown responded there have been discussions about forming a work session and an ad hoc work group that could meet over the course of a few months.

Commissioner Valadez stated she is in favor of the forming a work group. She stated if there is a way to identify members of the Black Lives Matter to be a part of that group it would be helpful. She added if there is way to share ideas online in order to involve more people it might have more of an impact.

Commissioner Melke added she has had experience of working with individuals online and it was successful.

Commissioner Shuler stated in his understanding three work streams are being discussed. He said one item is to understand the Black Lives Matter movement and issues surrounding that movement. Second is to understand policies of law enforcement. And third, open a dialogue with the local Black Lives Matter organization. He asked if there were other work streams the Commission could identify.

City Manager Lange stated the Police Department and City Administration are his direct responsibility. He said the civilians are in charge of the police, and Ypsilanti is not a police state. He stated he has fired a police chief in his 35 year career and hired several others, and he takes that responsibility very seriously. He understands the Commission wants to understand the Black Lives Matter movement, and he agreed that it is extremely important. However, the City has put an extreme amount of effort in addressing these issues. He stated Chief DeGiusti is possibly the best Chief of Police that he has ever worked with. He stated the City's efforts regarding the Parkridge Center and housing have also been substantial. He stated the City has created a police officer for the downtown, and that the school resource officer is an African American woman. He stated there are two sides to every story and he hopes the Commission will take as much interest in the City's efforts.

Commissioner Symanns agreed with Mr. Lange, and stated as a former law enforcement officer she understands there are two sides to every story. She said when she speaks about gathering information about police department policies it is to compare them to the model policies of the Black Lives Matter group. She said she would also like to compare policies of the National Chiefs of Police. She stated it is important to look at data, but it is the perception of people is important because it is their reality. She said what is important to her is to make the community safer for everyone.

Council Member Anne Brown agreed, and stated it is about how the City looks and how the City performs. She added her perspective on the Police Department is much different than it was three to five years ago, when she was racially profiled and pulled over. She stated she knew the Police Chief at the time and called him and found that the officer who pulled her over stopped a number of African American woman driving vans without reason. She stated the Police Chief realized at that point that the officer should be relieved of duty. She stated it is not always about how the Department looks, but it is about how it responds to the citizens and when they are stopped it should be for a good reason.

Commissioner Nordberg stated several years ago the Commission reached out to the Police Department for information on the complaints the department received, and the amount was quite low. She stated the Commission asked the Police Department to develop an easier to use complaint system, and the department could not have been more amiable.

Commissioner Symanns stated from her experience as a former officer she understands departments face complex issues. She added as a former defense tactics instructor she understands use of force issues are very complex. She stated part of the problem is education, and all Police Departments could do a better job in educating its officers, but it is difficult with limited resources.

Mayor Edmonds stated she encourages all citizens that have issues with the City to use the complaint process. She stated there is a one page form that is available on-line and in hardcopy, both at City Hall and the Police Station.

Commissioner Symanns asked the members in Council what a subgroup might look like.

Mayor Edmonds asked what the Commission would prefer.

Commissioner Symanns responded several members of the Commission would be interested in being a part of the work group.

Commissioner Shuler stated the Commission has also directed individuals that have issue with the City, or its staff to file a citizen complaint form, in order for the City to properly address an issue.

Commissioner Valadez stated two very concrete issues were brought up during audience participation. She stated the Commission is still in the dark about the details of the incidents, but the role of the Commission is to facilitate positive relations with the community. She stated it is important to recognize the Police Department and all the good that they do, but it is important to allow people access to the department processes, and there should be no offense taken when those materials are requested. She stated it is the role of the Commission to ensure the public has their voice heard.

Commissioner Symanns stated there are three other Police Departments that operate in the City limits: Eastern Michigan University Police Department, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department, and Michigan State police. She added the Commission is a part of city government, and have the greatest control over the local Police Department.

City Manager Lange stated because of the lack of resources the department was down to 23 sworn officers at one point, which is why the Eastern Washtenaw County Safety Alliance has been incredibly useful. He stated through his 35 year career he has appointed several African Americans to high offices. He added the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and he were given awards by the NAACP, and no one is aware of that

because those are not the stories that are published. He added he has no issues with examining the issue as long as both sides will have their stories heard.

Commissioner Shuler asked if Commissioner Valadez would like the help of another Commissioner to gather materials from the Black Lives Matter organization.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson recommended the first step is to appoint members of the HRC for the work group. She stated that work group should gather all pertinent information, and bring it to both to Council and the HRC. She said a joint meeting of of Council and the HRC should plan the forum. She stated because of time constraints it should not wait until the next HRC meeting. She suggested the work group be face-to-face and not online. She stated Council needs to come together and get to know each other, and that happens best with a facilitator.

Commissioner Shuler responded he was thinking about three work groups, who would then come together with all gathered information. He said this would help to more effectively gather information. He stated a Council Member should sit on each work groups and then come together to share information.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson responded if it is the Commission's will to have three work sessions that's fine, but she suggested one work group comprised of Council Members and Human Relations Commissioners. She stated one group needs to come together tonight and begin working. She added this has been going on for a couple of months and it needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Melke stated she agrees with Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson format.

Commissioner Shuler stated he feels everyone is talking about the same type of format.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Commission is the body that should be performing this work, and when the Commission meets with Council it should already have content to discuss. She stated this should happen before the Commission's next meeting, and during that meeting and the information should be shared with the public. She added the Commission should also allow Mr. Morgan and the Police Department should have the opportunity to present to the Commission.

Council Member Anne Brown asked how Anthony Morgan case might be affected if he were to provide a presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Shuler stated there are two possible issues, those issue specific to his arrest which is following due process and his insight as the leader to the local Black Lives Matter movement which is unrelated to his specific case.

Commissioner Valadez stated Mr. Morgan mentioned a few items that have been outlined in the Black Lives Matter movement. She stated the four pronged approach is something that is being coordinated with the larger movement. She said he might want to speak about that movement rather than his case specifically.

Council Member Anne Brown stated the focus should be broader in that all lives matter not simply the Black Lives Matter movement.

Mayor Edmonds stated there are other local leaders involved with the Black Lives Matter movement in Washtenaw County. She added she has personally invited quite a few of them.

Commissioner Valadez stated the Black Lives Matter movement is so prevalent, and there are so many pieces and it is important to address those specifics. She added contextually if this movement's concerns are identified it will have a broad effect on other demographics.

Commissioner Symanns stated she views this issue is a first step toward a broader issue.

Mayor Edmonds asked if the Commission is ready to make appointments to the work group.

Commissioner Shuler responded in the affirmative.

City Attorney Barr stated there are five Council Members present which constitutes a quorum, and the law indicates if Council meets and discusses things that can have a conclusion it must be noticed. He stated this meeting was noticed for the Human Relations Commission, but not as a joint meeting. He stated discussions are getting very close to coming to a decision. He added if Council and the HRC wish to have a joint meeting please inform the Clerk so that it may be formally noticed. He stated the second issue is the idea of holding a work group electronically. He said the Commission must be careful of certain action it handles electronically, and the Open Meetings Act requires the meetings be held in public to create transparency. He stated he agrees with Mr. Lange that the Police Department is taking a lot of effort, and the officers have a lot of training on how to react to the public. He added every year Eastern Michigan University attracts several thousand young people who have never been away from home, which in the past has created problems. He stated now EMU provides a class for these students at the beginning of the year of how to act when encountering the police.

Mayor Edmonds asked Mr. Barr if it would cross a line if Council nominates its members of the work group during the meeting.

Mr. Barr responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Edmonds stated Council is not able to nominate its members, but suggested that the HRC nominate theirs.

Council Member Murdock stated one thing that can be done is that the City can hold a public work session for the Police Department to explain its policies. He said this work session will take some time, and could be a joint session of Council and the

HRC. He stated he hopes the work session can be scheduled at the earliest opportunity.

Commissioner Valadez stated it seems the Commission has some research to do before the work session. She stated Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson suggested an outline to have a guided conversation, and asked if that would be an opportunity to host the Police Department.

Commissioner Shuler stated his suggestion is for Commissioners Saunders and Valadez to form a sub-committee to collect information on the Black Lives Matter movement. At that point bring the information to the Commission as an educational tool. He suggested Commissioner Symanns gather information from the Police Department and the City Manager's Office regarding steps already taken to address these issues.

Mayor Edmonds asked if those three individuals will be the HRC members of the sub-committee.

Commissioner Shuler responded no, those three Commissioners make up two separate sub-committees. He suggested that he, another Commissioner, and possibly the Mayor engage with representatives of the local Black Lives Matter movement to understand their perspective.

Commissioner Melke stated her understanding is that one group would be formed to work with Council Members.

Commissioner Shuler responded his proposal is three sub-committees gather research over the next two weeks and bring information to the Commission to framework and an agenda for the work that will follow.

Commissioner Symanns suggested the sub-group be appointed to work with Council, and then appoint the sub-committee to avoid duplicating efforts.

Commissioner Shuler stated there is another prong to his strategy, and asked if Council Members would be willing to work in each of those sub-committees.

Mayor Edmonds responded Council cannot take action without having noticed this meeting. She said September 1<sup>st</sup> is the next Council meeting, and her recommendation is to form one group. She said the work group can decide if there are different assignments needed.

Commissioner Nordberg recommended the Commission pass a motion to form a sub-committee on this issue, and ask City Council to take action on the development of a sub-group during the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Symanns asked Mayor Edmonds if she had thoughts on the size of the sub-group.

Mayor Edmonds replied Council's limit would be three members in order to avoid quorum.

Commissioner Nordberg moved, supported by Commissioner Symanns, to create a collaborative work group comprised of appointed HRC members, three appointed Council Members, the public, and the Police Department.

Commissioner Nordberg stated she would be very comfortable allowing the HRC members of the work group to dictate HRC's next meeting agenda. She added what is learned in that work group is probably what the HRC, and other organizations involved, need to learn to move forward with these issues. She added this is simply the beginning of a conversation, and it is not an indictment it's an opportunity to improve.

Commissioner Melke asked what the remainder of the Commission would do regarding this issue.

Commissioner Shuler responded there are four Commissioners that have not yet been appointed to a group.

Commissioner Scott requested to work on Commissioner Shuler's sub-group, to engage with the local Black Lives Matter movement.

Commissioner Shuler asked if there was a sub-group that the remaining Commissioner wished to join.

Commissioner Symanns responded she thinks that can be settled at a later date, and the important thing now is to decide who will work with Council.

On a voice vote, the motion carried and the work group was formed. Commissioner Melke abstained from voting.

Commissioner Shuler asked if there is a particular sub-group that Commissioner Melke wished to be a part of.

Commissioner Melke responded she would provide that answer at a later date.

Mayor Edmonds asked for clarification of who the nominated Commissioners were.

Commissioner Valadez responded Commissioners, Shuler, Saunders, and herself. She asked for clarification if law enforcement and members of the Black Lives Matter movement will be invited to the work session.

Commissioner Nordberg responded she is not certain the terms of the working session has been decided.

Commissioner Pettit stated the discussion is regarding inviting law enforcement and members of the Black Lives Matter movement to the next HRC meeting.

Commissioner Nordberg responded that has been put on hold and allow the work group to direct the next steps.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson stated given the subject matter she recommended either Commissioner Saunders or Commissioner Scott be a member of the work group.

Commissioner Saunders agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Richardson. She stated Commissioner Scott is the senior member of the Commission, and suggested she sit on the work group.

Commissioner Scott accepted the nomination and stated if she is unable to attend Commissioner Saunders would be her replacement.

Commissioner Nordberg asked the Commissioner Shuler step aside to allow Commissioner Saunders to take his place on the work group.

Commissioner Melke stated she does not feel that it the two African Americans on the Commission should be a part of the work group. She said it is important that the other members learn from the Black Lives Matter movement.

Commissioner Pettit responded this is a nomination only for the work group and this information will be provided to the Commission as a whole.

Commission Valadez asked for clarification of the Commissioners who will sit on the work group.

Commissioner Saunders replied Commissioners Scott, Shuler, Symanns, and Valadez.

## **VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

1. Amanda Edmonds, 320 Garland, stated on Wenesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Parkridge Center a forum will be held on how to interact with the police. She said she believes it is being held by a fraternity which will have a panel of several stakeholders. She added a program called Impact will have a forum regarding dialogue between the police and the community. She recommended attending a facilitated seminar on racial dialogue.

## **VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Valadez recommended three agenda items: Creating an agenda section for Commission reaction to audience participation, making boards and commission applications more accessible to disadvantaged communities, and review the discrimination ordinance and look at including language that incorporate indoctrinated community residents.

**VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE**

September 28, 2015

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Melke moved, supported by Commissioner Symanns to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote the motion carried and the meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.