Approved

CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, July 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Krista Nordberg	Absent
Jennifer Symanns	Absent
Theresa Saunders	Present
John Shuler	Present
Tanasia Morton	Present
Sammy Jones-Darling	Present

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones-Darling to approve the agenda.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 27, 2016

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton 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

- Revised Police Complaint Form Approval.

Commissioner Shuler stated he made the corrections discussed in the previous meeting.

Commissioner Saunders asked if it is in the best interest to only be able to submit the form to the Clerk's Department.

Commissioner Shuler responded the form states it can be submitted to several different departments.

Commissioner Saunders suggested the form list the drop-box in order to ensure the complainant is able to stay anonymous.

Commissioner Jones-Darling suggested the form not require a signature to protect the complainant's anonymity.

Commissioner Saunders suggested the form read, "if you wish to maintain your anonymity do not sign here".

Commissioner Jones-Darling added that direction should be included next to the space for the signature.

Commissioner Shuler agreed.

Commissioner Saunders asked if the form should be returned to the Joint Task Force.

Commissioner Jones-Darling responded he has concern regarding how long it has taken for this body to approve the form and policy.

Commissioner Shuler replied the next Council meeting that this item would be able to be approved is August 16th and the next Task Force meeting is August 8th. He said the policy and complaint form could be placed on the Task Force's August 8th agenda with a directive that once approved it should be sent to Council.

- Revised Ypsilanti Police Department Policy 16 Approval.

Commissioner Shuler stated at the end of this document it list attachments, the Professional Accountability form which was amended to Citizen's Complaint Form and the second attachment would be the forms currently used by the Police Department to process complaints.

Commissioner Morton stated the only drastic change she recalls is in the organization of the document and adding a paragraph of how to process a complaint coming from another department within city government.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated once the complaint is transferred from the City Clerk or City Manager the Police Department would then simply follow the policy as is. He stated adding language on how it is transferred should be adequate.

Commissioner Morton responded that process would not cover anonymous complaints.

Commissioner Shuler stated if the complaint is anonymous it might only be anonymous to the Police Department and not necessarily the City Manager or another recipient of the complaint. He said in either case paragraph 2B should suffice.

Commissioner Jones-Darling said if something is submitted anonymously and the police actively or passively investigate who filed the complaint it does not fare well to the public.

Commissioner Saunders said the policy can be explicit of how to handle anonymous complaints or it needs to be removed.

Commissioner Jones-Darling responded if the policy reads "should not attempt to identify the complainant" it should cover that concern.

Commissioner Saunders stated the word "should" implies that an officer could investigate who the complainant is and it should read "shall not".

Commissioner Jones-Darling added the policy should state officers shall not dismiss a complaint submitted by a third party. He added all the gender specific pronouns should be replaced with "they" to make the document gender neutral.

Commissioner Shuler agreed.

Commissioner Morton stated the policy states if another member of the department wishes to file a complaint against another member it should be filed with the Lieutenant or the Police Chief. She added the City Manager should be added as another option to file an internal complaint.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated a term of length is not listed in the policy for how long a complaint should remain on record.

Commissioner Saunders replied she believes it is covered in the statute of limitations.

Commissioner Shuler asked if statute of limitations only applied in criminal proceedings.

Commissioner Jones-Darling replied he does not believe statute of limitations governs how long a complaint remains on record.

Commissioner Saunders stated that question might be best answered by the City Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated if a complaint is against a specific officer should be maintained through the course of that officer's employment plus a year or two.

Commissioner Morton suggested a longer period.

Commissioner Jones-Darling responded five years after employment ends.

Commissioner Saunders agreed but she is not sure what the law states.

Commissioner Shuler stated he is not sure what the Central Complaint File is and will need to clarify with the Chief of Police.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated a note should be made to clarify what the Central Complaint File is and how long a complaint may be kept on file. He said that stipulation can be added to the policy once it has been clarified.

Commissioner Saunders suggested making a part of the recommendation.

Commissioner Jones Darling moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to approve the revised police complaint form and revised Police Policy 16 be approved as amended to be forwarded to the Joint Task Force and through them to City Council.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the Complaint Form and Policy were approved as amended.

- Discrimination Ordinance.

Commissioner Shuler stated when this was initially reviewed the goal of the Commissioner was to add immigration status to the Ordinance.

Commissioner Morton asked if the phrase "immigration status" to the ordinance.

Commissioner Shuler responded the definitions would also need to be amended.

Commissioner Morton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones-Darling to table this item until the August meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the item was tabled.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

- Non-Discrimination Ordinance.
- Attendance Question.
- Task Force update on the examination of a Citizens Review Board.
- Official opinion on a requirement for police officers to reside in the jurisdiction they work.

VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

- August 22, 2016

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Morton moved, seconded by Commissioner Jones-Darling to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.