



APPROVED

**CITY OF YPSILANTI
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017
7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Krista Nordberg	Present
Theresa Saunders	Present
John Shuler	Absent
Tanasia Morton	Present
Sammy Jones-Darling	Present
Amber Fellows	Present

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Nordberg asked that the letter regarding a complaint against an Ypsilanti Police Officer be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to approve the agenda as amended.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

– April 24, 2017

Grammatical edits were made to the minutes.

Commissioner Saunders moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to approve the minutes as amended.

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

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Immigration Enforcement Forum
 - Proposal
 - Timeline

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated the estimates the Commission has received for translation has been expensive.

Commissioner Saunders asked if the forum should be held during the week or on the weekend. Commissioner Fellows replied it should be held on a weeknight to be certain those working in the service industry have the ability to attend.

Commissioner Nordberg suggested holding the forum during the regularly schedule HRC meeting in August. Commissioner Jones-Darling replied he would not be able to attend the August meeting. Commissioner Saunders suggested the September meeting date. Ms. Nordberg replied the forum could be held on August 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner Jones-Darling asked if a translator would be present for the forum. Commissioner Nordberg responded Melanie Harner from informed her WICIR could provide a translator.

Commissioner Fellows asked what documents should be translated for the forum. Commissioner Nordberg responded an explanation of the Non-solicitation Ordinance, "Know your Rights" information, where a person could get help, and healthcare issues.

Commissioner Jones-Darling asked who the proposed panelists are. Commissioner Saunders responded the Mayor. Commissioner Fellows suggested a County Commissioner and a representative of the Washtenaw County ID project. Ms. Saunders asked if anyone from the faith based community should be invited. Ms. Fellows responded it should be kept to governmental entities she asked who could be invited from the local schools. Ms. Saunders responded possible the superintendent of Ypsilanti Community Schools

Commissioner Fellows asked if a member of WICIR would be able to moderate the forum.

Commissioner Saunders asked if there should be an alternate location such as the high school. Ms. Saunders suggested the high school because of a possible large turnout.

Deputy Clerk Hellenga stated he would contact the school to reserve the space.

- Complaint against a Police Officer

Commissioner Jones-Darling asked if the City Manager and Attorney have been notified of the complaint. Mr. Hellenga responded when a complaint is filed electronically it automatically goes to the City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, Police Chief, and him. He added all of Council was written the same letter and will receive it during their meeting tomorrow, May 23rd. Commissioner Jones-Darling stated by ordinance the HRC is required

to be notified by report form the City Attorney. He said the HRC has no other choice to table this matter until it receives the report. Commissioner Nordberg added she hopes City Council will take the initiative in this matter.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated if the HRC is reviewing a lawsuit against the City it would go into Closed Session. Mr. Hellenga responded the City would have attorney client privilege and could go into Closed Session. Mr. Jones-Darling stated if a report is made he would like the City Attorney to be present to advise the HRC on this matter.

Commissioner Jones-Darling moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to table this item to the June Meeting.

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

Commissioner Fellows asked to add the issue of Cross Street Village to the agenda. She stated several residents came to a Council meeting to raise complaint of dramatically increasing rents and problems they are having with property management.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated he believes this is an important issue in the City. He said from this body the City needs to begin examining what it can do within the law to prevent increasing housing prices and gentrification. Commissioner Saunders agreed there needs to be a conversation, but she needs to be more informed.

Commissioner Nordberg stated there are no protections in the state as to cost of rent. She explained if a person is outside of subsidized housing rents are at whatever the market dictates. She said the residents need to be forwarded to legal services. Mr. Hellenga responded the residents have been working with legal services. Commissioner Fellows stated it is still a problem that needs to be examined.

Commissioner Jones-Darling stated there are some things that can be done at the local level and asked if staff could be present during the next meeting. He suggested a joint meeting with the Planning Commission. Mr. Hellenga stated he would request a staff member from the Planning Department be present during the next meeting.

Commissioner Jones-Darling moved, seconded by Commissioner Fellows to add gentrification in the City of Ypsilanti to HRC topics.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and gentrification was made a business item of the HRC.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION/COMMISSION RESPONSE

None

VIII. PROPOSED BUSINESS

— Document Translation for forum

— Gentrification

VIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

— June 26, 2017

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 8:23 p.m.