



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING**  
**6:00 PM - Thursday, November 14, 2024**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Commissioner Doulos

Commissioner Harper

Commissioner Jackson (~~Zoom- arrived at 6:13 pm~~) Motion to remove passed 01/16/2025

Commissioner Layton (Chair)

Commissioner House (Vice-Chair)

Commissioner Munro

Commissioner Myers

Commissioner St. John

Absent:

None

Roll call was taken by Chair Layton.

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. October 17, 2024 Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes**

Commissioner Harper moved to Amend the October 17, 2024 Minutes by removing Item B, 3 from Section VII. Commissioner Doulos seconded the motion.

Yes: (6) Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, St. John, Myers

No: 1 Munroe

Absent: (1) Jackson

Commissioner House moved to Amend the October 17, 2024 Minutes by changing Commissioner Monroe's attendance status to "absent" instead of "present". Commissioner Doulos seconded the motion.

Yes: (4) House, Layton, Doulos, Harper

No: 3 Munroe, Myers, St. John

Absent: (1) Jackson

The Clerk's Office was able to verify that Commissioner Munro was in attendance at the October 17, 2024, by remote access/zoom, under the participant's name of Alexander Munro, as the Commissioner was using her son's zoom account.

Commissioner Myers moved to Approve the October 17, 2024 Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House,

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Commissioner Jackson arrived by remote access/zoom at 6:13 pm but was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

One member of the public made comments.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Human Relations Commission Annual Report**

2024 Annual report was submitted 12/29/2024 by Chair Layton to the Clerk's Office for submittal to City Council.

**B. 2025 HRC Calendar**

Commissioner St. John moved to Approve the 2025 HRC Calendar with meetings held every third Thursday of the month, excluding December. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) None

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**C. Community Forum Series**

- o **Discussion of Scope**
- o **Discussion of completing a community forum series without YPAC**
- o **Vote for Resolution for Community Forum Series for HRC**

Commissioner Harper moved to Approve a Discrimination and Inequity Community Forum Series, focused on Public Health, Housing and Safety in regard to Discrimination. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) None

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**D. Subcommittees**

- o **Establish meeting dates & times**
- o **Create process to invite community participants to meetings**
- o **Assign tasks to subcommittees**

Commissioner Doulos moved to Approve Layton, Jackson and St. John as the liaisons for the Discrimination and Inequity Community Forum Series, focused on Public Health, Housing and Safety in regard to Discrimination. Commissioner St. John seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Munroe, Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) None

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

**E. Amend HRC Bylaws**

- o **Article V, Section 1**
- o **Article V, Section 2**
- o **Article V, Section 4**

Human Relations Commissioners discussed amending HRC Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, 2 and 4.

Article V, Section 1: This bylaw cannot be changed by HRC Commissioners. While HRC is not required by the state of Michigan to adhere to Open Meeting Act (OMA), the City of Ypsilanti City Council requires that all boards and commissions be under the requirements of OMA. This can be viewed being discussed in the July 18, 2024 HRC meeting by City Manager, Andrew Hellenga. This can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Q4HF1JNwR2I?si=sNSgni2pJ1kRvUJS> (time stamp: 7:53)

Article V, Section 2: It was determined that the Commissioners wanted to table the discussion on amending Article V, Section 2

Article V, Section 4: It was determined that the Commissioners wanted to amend Article V, Section 4 to include "Commissioner Feedback", after Public Comment on the agenda. Notice is required to change bylaws, and notice will be given for the next meeting.

#### **F. Discrimination Complaints**

- **Review resident Sigrid Melvin's complaint submitted during City Council public comment October 1, 2024**
- **Review resident Nicole Wimer's complaint submitted to City Attorney in October 2024 -Review City Attorney's memo response to Wimer's complaint**
- **Discuss a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center**
- **Total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021**

Harper moved to Table discuss on a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) Myers, St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) None

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

Harper moved to request Total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021as presented. Myers seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers

No: 0 None

Absent: (0)

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

- Commissioners requesting the total submissions of complaints to City Attorney since 2021:

- Per City Attorney Staff, as of 1/8/2024:

- There have been zero (0) confirmed housing complaints made in the past 21 years.

- There have been zero (0) confirmed housing complaints made since the inception of the new HRC tracking system by the city attorney's office.

The tracking system details include:

1. Case name
2. File number
3. Subject matter
4. Year
5. Outcome
6. Venue

There were 3 instances of discrimination or reverse discrimination since 2021.

Each one was submitted to the CA in a different manner (lawsuit, written complaint, and threat of unfiled lawsuit).

Only 1 was submitted by the person making a written complaint others were litigation related

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES)**

One member of the public made comments.

**IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

St John moved to EXTEND the meeting to 8:15 pm. Myers seconded the motion.

Yes: (7) St. John, Doulos, Harper, House, Layton, Munroe, Myers,

No: 0 None

Absent: (0) None

Commissioner Jackson was unable to vote due to not being present in person at the meeting.

1. Discuss and amend Article V, Section 2
2. Discuss a discrimination complaint form for City of Ypsilanti Form Center
3. Resolution regarding Inaction is Discriminatory
4. Resolution regarding Council Member McLean.

**X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.