



**CITY OF YPSILANTI**  
**REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**  
[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. April 17, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes
- B. May 15, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- C. Discrimination Complaint Tracking System - Provided by City Attorney Barker
- D. **RESOLUTION No. 2025-785, A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**
- E. **RESOLUTION No. 2025-786, Inaction is Discriminatory**
- F. City Attorney Barker Memo request regarding:
  - 1. The definition of probable cause and
  - 2. Confirmation of scope regarding the hosting of a town meeting for the purpose of studying Housing and Equities in the City of Ypsilanti, for the purpose of studying discrimination based on ordinance protected classes; race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight, felony or misdemeanor conviction, to inform, and to aid the HRC on its advising to City Council, and then maybe the creation of resolutions or actions
- G. Subcommittees update by Chair Layton

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- H. Brought forth by Commissioner Kalfayan  
1<sup>st</sup> Draft, Resolution No. [XXXX], **A Resolution Urging that Cuba Be Removed from U.S. List of State Sponsors of Terrorism**

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

- I. Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.



**CITY OF YPSILANTI**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING – ACTION MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**  
**One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**  
[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

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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 Layton  
Commissioner Munro  
Commissioner House  
Commissioner Kalfayan  
Commissioner Harper (arrived at 6:04)

Absent:

Commissioner Myers (excused)

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Kalfayan moved to AMEND the agenda, to bring up the article distributed by Munro at the November 14, 2024, meeting regarding affirmative action and the video shared at the October meeting. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Munro, Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper

No: (0)

Absent: (1) Myers

PASSED

Kalfayan moved to Approve the agenda as amended. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper, Munro

No: (0)

Absent: (1) Myers

PASSED

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 20, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes

Harper moved to APPROVE February 20, 2025, action minutes. Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) House, Layton, Harper, Munro, Kalfayan  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

- B. March 20, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes (~~Meeting canceled/postponed by Chair Layton~~)

Layton asked for a friendly amendment to remove the clerk's note, "Meeting canceled/Chair Layton," under call to order, and to remove the clerk's note under Old Business, item B, which read, " Note: The article was not brought forth by Commissioner Munro at the November 14, 2024 meeting, nor part of any prior agenda, and not previously discussed.

Kalfayan moved to APPROVE as amended the March 20, 2025, Action minutes. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Layton, Harper, Munro, Kalfayan, House  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT - 45 MINUTES TOTAL (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)**

No member of the public made comment.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

ADDED: Discussion regarding the article distributed by Munro at the November 14, 2024, meeting regarding affirmative action and the video shared at the October meeting.

(Note: video added to October 17, 2024, agenda, however the October 17, 2024, meeting was canceled due to lack of quorum, and no business was conducted.)

- C. Discrimination Complaint Tracking System - provided by City Attorney

Note: Resident Complaint form can be found on the city website, under form center and the Human Relations Commission web-page. Link: [Form Center • General Inquiry / Request for Service / Compla](#)

During discussion, Kalfayan motioned to request the City Attorney to define probable cause as used in the HRC ordinance. Harper seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Harper, Munro, Kalfayan, House, Layton  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

- D. Brought forth by Chair Layton-  
Discussion of Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to create local restrictions on funds use for mental health and non-traditional

forms of public safety

And a request for legislature from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**, be approved by the Human Relations Commission and sent to City Council

Harper moved to discuss legislature from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**, be written and approved by the Human Relations Commission and sent to City Council. Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Munro, Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper

No: (0) None

Absent: (1) Myers

PASSED

Harper moved to approve the AMENDED legislature draft from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**, which will be brought back at the next HRC meeting for final approval. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Munro, Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper

No: (0) None

Absent: (1) Myers

PASSED

E. Brought forth by Chair Layton -

Discussion of the City Council of Ypsilanti's failure to act on pressing issues impacting marginalized communities

And a request for legislature from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **Inaction is Discriminatory**, be approved by the Human Relations Commission and sent to City Council

Harper moved to discuss legislature from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **Inaction is Discriminatory**, be written and approved by the Human Relations Commission and sent to City Council. Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper, Munro

No: (0) None

Absent: (1) Myers

PASSED

Harper moved to approve the AMENDED legislature draft from the Human Relations Commission, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **Inaction is Discriminatory**, which will

be brought back at the next HRC meeting for final approval. Kalfayan seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) House, Layton, Harper, Munro, Kalfayan  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- F. Brought forth by Commissioner Kalfayan -  
Discussion on hosting a town meeting regarding housing equity and shelters

Kalfayan moved to discuss hosting a town meeting regarding housing equity and shelters. Harper seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) Kalfayan, House, Layton, Harper, Munro  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

During discussion, Harper moved to approve a motion to confirm with the city attorney the hosting of a town meeting for the purpose of studying Housing and Equities in the City of Ypsilanti, for the purpose of studying discrimination based on ordinance protected classes; race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight, felony or misdemeanor conviction, to inform, and to aid the HRC on its advising to City Council, and then maybe the creation of resolutions or actions. House seconded the motion.

Yes: (5) House, Layton, Harper, Munro, Kalfayan  
No: (0) None  
Absent: (1) Myers  
PASSED

Note: To save the commissioners time during discussions, note that public forums and town meetings would need to be within the scope and authority of the commission as given by ordinance. Sec. 58-35. (2) *To study problems in the city relating to prejudice and discrimination and to make recommendations to the city council and city manager for the elimination of prejudice and discrimination within the community.* (Ord. No. 820, § 4, 5-31-1995, Ord. 1368, 10-20-20)

- G. Brought forth by Chair Layton -  
Discussion on subcommittee formation and scheduling of initial public forums to confirm logistics for each public forum proposed

Layton moved to discuss subcommittee formation and scheduling of initial public forums to confirm logistics for each public forum proposed. There was no second or motion regarding discussion, but the item was discussed.

Note: To save the commissioners time during discussions, note that public forums and town meetings would need to be within the scope and authority of the commission as given by ordinance. Sec. 58-35. (2) *To study problems in the city relating to prejudice*

*and discrimination and to make recommendations to the city council and city manager for the elimination of prejudice and discrimination within the community. (Ord. No. 820, § 4, 5-31-1995, Ord. 1368, 10-20-20)*

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED (3 MINUTES/EACH SPEAKER)**

No member of the public made comment.

**IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Second Draft, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**
2. Second Draft, RESOLUTION No. [XXXX], titled, **Inaction is Discriminatory**
3. City Attorney Barker Memo request regarding the definition of probable cause and confirmation of scope regarding the hosting of a town meeting for the purpose of studying Housing and Equities in the City of Ypsilanti, for the purpose of studying discrimination based on ordinance protected classes; race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight, felony or misdemeanor conviction, to inform, and to aid the HRC on its advising to City Council, and then maybe the creation of resolutions or actions.
4. Subcommittees update by Chair Layton

**X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

- H. Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.

APPROVED:

Submitted by:

Lorrie L. Thomas, Human Relations Commission Staff Liaison



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR HUMAN RELATIONS MEETING**  
**6:00 PM - Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**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 Layton

Commissioner Munro (Zoom)

Commissioner Kalfayan

Commissioner Harper (arrived late/excused)

Absent:

Commissioner Myers (excused)

Commissioner House (excused)

HRC Bylaws, Article V. Section 6 details, A quorum shall consist of a majority of the current voting Human Relations Commissioners. When all 9 voting Commission seats are not filled, a quorum will be no less than four (4) voting Commissioners.

Due to not having four (4) voting Commissioners present, the meeting was immediately adjourned at 6:03 PM.

**III. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. April 17, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- B. Discrimination Complaint Tracking System - provided by City Attorney Barker
- C. RESOLUTION No. 2025-785, **A Resolution Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety**
- D. RESOLUTION No. 2025-786, **Inaction is Discriminatory**
- E. City Attorney Barker Memo request regarding:  
1. The definition of probable cause and

2. Confirmation of scope regarding the hosting of a town meeting for the purpose of studying Housing and Equities in the City of Ypsilanti, for the purpose of studying discrimination based on ordinance protected classes; race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight, felony or misdemeanor conviction, to inform, and to aid the HRC on its advising to City Council, and then maybe the creation of resolutions or actions

F. Subcommittees update by Chair Layton

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

G. Brought forth by Commissioner Kalfayan  
1<sup>st</sup> Draft, Resolution No. [XXXX], **A Resolution Urging that Cuba Be Removed from U.S. List of State Sponsors of Terrorism**

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **IX. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

## **X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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H. **Please click [here](#) to access the City Council Contact Form. This form can be used to submit any comments/concerns you might have about this agenda.**

ALLEN J. PHILBRICK  
JAMES A. SCHRIEMER  
MARJORIE M. DIXON  
DENNIS R. VALENTI  
RICHARD P. PETERSON, II  
W. DANIEL TROYKA  
JOY M. GLOVICK  
ANDREW D. SUGERMAN  
ERIK DUENAS  
MATTHEW C. RETTIG  
MICHAEL C. CROWLEY  
ROBERT M. O'REILLY  
ARMINIA DUENAS  
CHRISTOPHER J. WALLAKER  
CURTISS D. FLEXTER  
ERIN K. MENDEZ  
ERICA R. NEFF  
RANDOLPH T. BARKER  
ALBERT L. BALEWSKI  
CLYDE R. WOODS  
CODY D. BLACK  
SARAH S. TAYTER  
NICOLE M. AJAMI

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JOHN W. CONLIN (1904-1972)  
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Admitted in Michigan and Ohio

July 16, 2025

VIA EMAIL:

Ms. Lorrie L. Thomas  
Deputy City Clerk, HRC Liaison  
One South Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

RE: Human Relations Commission Report  
2025-06

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Section 58-67 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinance provides in relevant part:

*(a) All persons claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory or unfair practice may, by themselves or by counsel, file with the city attorney a verified, written complaint which shall state the details, name and address of the person or entity alleged to have committed the discriminatory or unfair practice.*

...

*(d) After sufficient review and determination, the city attorney shall issue a written opinion to the human relations commission whether probable cause exists to believe a discriminatory practice or practices occurred as alleged by the complainant.*

Consistent with the foregoing ordinance provisions:

The City Attorney's Office has not received any complaints alleging discriminatory or unfair practices since its last report to the Commission on May 12, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

**CONLIN, MCKENNEY & PHILBRICK, P.C.**

July 16, 2025  
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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RTB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randolph T. Barker  
City of Ypsilanti Attorney

RTB/jam



REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION  
May 15, 2025

For: Mayor and City Council

From: Kat Layton, Human Relations Commission

Subject: Resolution No. 2025-785, Requesting the City of Ypsilanti to establish local restrictions on the use of reimbursement funds from the Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to Ensure Allocation Towards Mental Health Services and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety

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SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:

Request for legislature for the purpose of urging the City Council to enact local restrictions on the use of Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage reimbursement funds to ensure they are directed toward mental health services, non-police crisis response programs, and other non-traditional public safety initiatives; and that these funds be allocated toward implementing an unarmed crisis response program, supporting the unhoused population, and expanding community-based mental health services in alignment with the original intent and spirit of the millage; and for the City of Ypsilanti to provide full transparency in the allocation and expenditure of these funds, including an annual report detailing their use, to ensure alignment with voter-approved purposes and the needs of the most impacted communities; and that the City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission calls on the City Council to take immediate action to correct past misallocations of millage reimbursement funds and prioritize their use for mental health services and alternative public safety measures in support of racial and social justice for Ypsilanti residents.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No 2025-785, Requesting that Millage Funds be spent on Mental Health and Non-traditional Forms of Public Safety
2. May 15, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes

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CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL:

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AGENDA DATE: May 15, 2025

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY OF YPSILANTI TO ESTABLISH LOCAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS FROM THE WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH PRESERVATION MILLAGE TO ENSURE ALLOCATION TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND NON-TRADITIONAL FORMS OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**WHEREAS**, in November 2017, Washtenaw County voters approved an eight-year Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage to generate \$12 to \$15 million annually for mental health services and public safety, with a renewal approved on November 5, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the millage allocates 38% of funds to Washtenaw County Community Mental Health, 38% to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, and 24% to cities and townships with their own police force, including Ypsilanti, based on proportional taxable values; and

**WHEREAS**, the stated purposes of the millage funds include crisis services, stabilization, mental health treatment, prevention programs, jail services, and public safety infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, since Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the City of Ypsilanti has received approximately \$375,000 annually in millage reimbursement funds, accumulating over \$2.4 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ypsilanti has allocated significant portions of these funds to police-related expenditures, including police salaries, equipment, operational costs, and capital improvement projects, rather than prioritizing mental health services and alternative forms of public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ypsilanti's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report states that special revenue funds, such as the Public Safety Fund (205), must be restricted to specific programs and projects, and should not be transferred to debt service or capital improvement projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Black residents in Washtenaw County are disproportionately impacted by the criminal legal system, being five times more likely to be arrested, three times more likely to die from an overdose, and comprising over 50% of those experiencing houselessness despite only making up 12% of the county's population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ypsilanti City Council has passed resolutions requesting Washtenaw County allocate funds for an unarmed crisis response program (Resolution No. 2025-008) and toward the establishment of a permanent shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness (Resolution No. 2025-007); and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Relations Commission (HRC), per Section 58-35 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances, serves as an advisory body to the City Council to study discrimination and

make recommendations to promote equity and mutual understanding within the community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission urges the City Council to enact local restrictions on the use of Washtenaw County Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage reimbursement funds to ensure they are directed toward mental health services, non-police crisis response programs, and other non-traditional public safety initiatives; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Human Relations Commission recommends that these funds be allocated toward implementing an unarmed crisis response program, supporting the unhoused population, and expanding community-based mental health services in alignment with the original intent and spirit of the millage; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Ypsilanti shall provide full transparency in the allocation and expenditure of these funds, including an annual report detailing their use, to ensure alignment with voter-approved purposes and the needs of the most impacted communities; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the City of Ypsilanti Human Relations Commission calls on the City Council to take immediate action to correct past misallocations of millage reimbursement funds and prioritize their use for mental health services and alternative public safety measures in support of racial and social justice for Ypsilanti residents.





REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION  
May 15, 2025

For: Mayor and City Council

From: Kat Layton, Human Relations Commission

Subject: Resolution No. 2025-786, Inaction is Discriminatory

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SUMMARY & BACKGROUND:

Request for legislature regarding the City Council of Ypsilanti's failure to act on pressing issues impacting marginalized communities, including but not limited to: The removal of the Planning Commission subcommittee Housing Affordability and Accessibility Report and Recommendations from the City Plan in 2020; The delayed passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance, which would address discriminatory traffic enforcement practices; The failure to advance a resolution in support of drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts, which are critical to public health and safety; The introduction of language referring to people with disabilities and unhoused individuals as a "subsection of the population," which is contrary to the principles of equity and inclusion established in the Human Relations Ordinance; and The refusal to allocate over \$2.4 million from the Public Safety and Mental Health Millage reimbursement funds toward mental health and social services, despite the ordinance's recognition that systemic discrimination affects access to resources.

For City Council to commit to immediate and measurable action, including: The expedited passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance; The introduction and passage of a resolution supporting drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts; The removal of language that dehumanizes people with disabilities and unhoused individuals from all city documents and resolutions; and The commitment of Public Safety and Mental Health Millage funds to mental health and social services as part of an equitable approach to public safety; and A request to amend Sections 58-76 and 58-77 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances to hold public officials, city staff, and commission members accountable for discriminatory actions and to remove existing protections that shield them from personal liability in cases of discrimination.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 2025-786, Inaction is Discriminatory
  2. May 15, 2025, Human Relations Commission Meeting Action Minutes
- 

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL:

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION DATE: May 15, 2025

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY COUNCIL INACTION AS DISCRIMINATORY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ypsilanti recognizes that prejudice and discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, disability status, familial status, educational association, source of income, height, weight, and criminal conviction history pose significant threats to peace and public welfare, as affirmed in Section 58-31 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Relations Ordinance mandates that the City Council and the Human Relations Commission proactively address discrimination through patterns of action or nonaction that cause social tensions, disparities, or harm, as outlined in Section 58-36; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has failed to act on pressing issues impacting marginalized communities, including but not limited to:

- The removal of the Planning Commission subcommittee Housing Affordability and Accessibility Report and Recommendations from the City Plan in 2020;
- The delayed passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance, which would address discriminatory traffic enforcement practices;
- The failure to advance a resolution in support of drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts, which are critical to public health and safety;
- The introduction of language referring to people with disabilities and unhoused individuals as a "subsection of the population," which is contrary to the principles of equity and inclusion established in the Human Relations Ordinance; and
- The refusal to allocate over \$2.4 million from the Public Safety and Mental Health Millage reimbursement funds toward mental health and social services, despite the ordinance's recognition that systemic discrimination affects access to resources; and

**WHEREAS**, per Section 58-70, no governmental body may adopt, enforce, or allow policies that result in discriminatory effects, including those that create unequal opportunities for marginalized groups in housing, employment, or public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, per Section 58-35, the City's Human Relations Commission is tasked with recommending policies that prevent and rectify patterns of discrimination, including those perpetuated by inaction; and

**WHEREAS**, inaction by the City Council on these critical matters constitutes de facto discrimination by failing to remedy systemic inequities and by disproportionately harming vulnerable communities in Ypsilanti;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of Ypsilanti recognizes its failure to act on these matters as a form of institutional discrimination;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council commits to immediate and measurable action, including:

1. The expedited passage of the Driving Equality Ordinance;
2. The introduction and passage of a resolution supporting drug-checking services and other harm reduction efforts;
3. The removal of language that dehumanizes people with disabilities and unhoused individuals from all city documents and resolutions; and
4. The commitment of Public Safety and Mental Health Millage funds to mental health and social services as part of an equitable approach to public safety; and
5. A request to amend Sections 58-76 and 58-77 of the Ypsilanti Code of Ordinances to hold public officials, city staff, and commission members accountable for discriminatory actions and to remove existing protections that shield them from personal liability in cases of discrimination.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the City of Ypsilanti affirms its duty to uphold the Human Relations Ordinance by actively working to eliminate systemic discrimination and by ensuring that public policy reflects the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion.

DRAFT



# DRAFT WORKING COMMITTEES FOR THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TO DISCUSS AT UPCOMING SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING

## 1. Policy and Systems Change Subcommittee

Focus: Addressing and influencing local policies, systems, and institutional practices. This subcommittee would encompass advocacy, legislative review, and working with HRC to support city staff and council on policy recommendations, with a focus on systemic change to combat discrimination and promote equity.

- **Activities:** Analyzing local and state policies, proposing legislative changes, drafting resolutions, partnering with legal or policy experts, and advising on governance reform.
- **Combined Work Areas:** Anti-Discrimination Policy Advocacy, Housing Policy Reform, Local Governance Accountability, Data Collection for Policy Initiatives.

## 2. Community Engagement and Education Subcommittee

Focus: Building relationships within the community, educating the public, and promoting awareness of key issues related to human rights and equality. This subcommittee would foster collaboration across diverse groups, organize public forums, and lead educational initiatives on relevant topics.

- **Activities:** Organizing events, public forums, workshops, educational programs, and facilitating dialogue among marginalized communities and government bodies.
- **Combined Work Areas:** Community Outreach, Public Education, Event Planning, Public Safety Education, Media and Communication Campaigns.

## 3. Equity and Access Subcommittee

Focus: Ensuring marginalized communities have equitable access to resources, services, and opportunities. This subcommittee would address barriers faced by historically underserved groups, advocate for expanded access to housing, mental health services, employment opportunities, and more.

- **Activities:** Assessing gaps in access, working with service providers, conducting outreach to underserved communities, and advocating for equitable distribution of resources.
- **Combined Work Areas:** Economic Equity, Mental Health and Wellness, Crisis Response and Public Safety Access, Equal Opportunity and Anti-Bias Initiatives.

## **A Resolution Urging that Cuba Be Removed from U.S. List of State Sponsors of Terrorism**

**WHEREAS:** President Biden or any future President of the United States has the authority to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list by executive order, and to recommit to the normalization of relations with Cuba begun by the Obama-Biden administration; and

**WHEREAS:** For the past 62 years, the United States has imposed an economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba that prevents most engagement and trade with the United States, and punishes other countries that engage with Cuba; and

**WHEREAS:** The consequences of this embargo continues to inflict daily hardships and deprivations on the Cuban people creating shortages of basic necessities like food and medicine, and severely restricting international financial and trade opportunities. It prevents Cuba from obtaining vital medical equipment and supplies, and even impedes humanitarian aid responses to catastrophic events like Hurricane Ian which devastated both Florida and Cuba, thus harming the Cuban people who President Biden's administration claims to support; and

**WHEREAS:** The United Nations in 2017 estimated that this embargo had cost the Cuban economy \$130 billion, averaging more than \$2 billion each year; and

**WHEREAS:** The United Nations General Assembly voted to condemn the U.S. embargo against Cuba, for the 30<sup>th</sup> time, on Nov. 3, 2022, with 185 of 193 nations decisively voting in favor, and only the United States and Israel opposed; and

**WHEREAS:** The Trump administration imposed 243 new sanctions upon Cuba, including restrictions on Cuban Americans who send remittances to families and businesses in Cuba. These sanctions contribute to a mass migration of Cubans, creating U.S. border security concerns; and

**WHEREAS:** Former President Trump arbitrarily reinstated Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism less than a week after the January 6<sup>th</sup> attempted coup, reversed the Obama-Biden administration's 2015 decision to remove this status after an exhaustive review by the U.S. State Department. Cuba does not satisfy any criteria for inclusion on this list; and

**WHEREAS:** Cuba's arbitrary designation has subjected them to further sanctions and international financial restrictions that limit the nation's ability to carry out critical financial transactions, including those needed to advance efforts to combat the COVID pandemic and improve its economy; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, 117 members of the U.S. Congress called for the removal of Cuba from this list noting in a letter; "a policy of engagement with Cuba serves U.S. interests and those of the Cuban people,"

**Therefore:**

**Be it RESOLVED** that the City of Ypsilanti strongly urges President Trump and Congress, each federal representative in its jurisdiction, to call on the federal government to remove Cuba from the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism; and

**Be It Further RESOLVED** that the City of Ypsilanti urges our congressional delegation to pass legislation that will eliminate those aspects of the embargo that have been codified into law; and remove all sanctions against Cuba by the United States. Allow the peoples of the United States and Cuba to travel and trade freely between the countries.