



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

March Commission Meeting
March 2, 2026 | 12:00 PM
Metro Conference Room
2310 Parnell Avenue Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Meeting called by: Statutory Monthly Meeting
Type of meeting: Commission Meeting on the first Monday of each month.
Note taker: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director

Metro Commissioners: Tabitha Ervin, Chair; Aisha Arrington, Vice Chair; Tony Burrus; John P. Gardner; John McGauley; Larry Wardlaw; and William Zemaitis, Jr.

Agenda: Call to Order
Roll Call of Commissioners
Reading of Minutes
Office Report
Old Business
New Business
Concerns/Comments from the Public
Adjournment

Call to Order/Roll Call: 12:01 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Ervin (in-person)
Arrington (remote)
Burrus (in-person)
Gardner (in-person)
McGauley (in-person)
Wardlaw (in-person)
Zemaitis (in-person)

Other Persons Present: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director
Lakisha Woods, Staff Attorney
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant

- February 2nd meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Office Report

EEOC

Employment Case Processing (10/1/25 – 9/30/26)

Intakes (by 9/30/26): 120 (contract number) 30 (current status)

Contract number of case closures by 9/30/26: 99

- 83 No Probable Cause Cases
- 11 Settlements (\$62,560.00)
- 2 Withdrawals
- 1 Lack of Jurisdiction
- 2 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

Housing Case Processing (7/1/25 - 6/30/26):

37 Cases closed for Contract

- 6 HUD Settlement
- 3 Lack of Jurisdiction/Withdraw/Admin
- 26 No Reasonable Cause
- 1 Withdraw after Resolution
- 1 Reasonable Cause
- 0 Judicial Closures

25 Pending (Open being investigated)

Attended Events/Outreach:

February 2, 2026: Director Quintana attended the Race Card Project press conference at the Fort Wayne Urban League.

February 5, 2026: Director Quintana attended the Mayor’s Commission on Domestic Violence, Rape, and Sexual Harassment monthly meeting.

February 16, 2026: Director Quintana conducted antiharassment training at Ivy Tech and Staff Attorney Woods attended.

February 17, 2026: Director Quintana attended the United Front keynote titled “Leading From Where You Are.”

February 18, 2026: Director Quintana attended the Women’s Fund and United Front luncheon.

February 23, 2026: Director Quintana attended the Community Foundation BEST Session on Homes and Places.

February 25, 2026: Senior Investigators Eanes and Sorg, and Director Quintana attended the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies quarterly meeting.

February 26, 2026: Director Quintana met with a Northeast Indiana Human Resources Association representative to discuss possible collaboration.

February 23-27, 2026: Investigators Boeck, Morrow, and Kemp attended the International Development and Planning LLC fair housing webinar training.

February 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026: Throughout the month various staff attended the February Fair Housing Series.

Personnel Issues:

Investigators Boeck and Morrow will start on a full caseload and taking house cases.

Budget/Calendar of Events:

Admin Hernandez reviewed the current budget and calendar of events and answered questions from commissioners.

Legal Update/Matters:

Mediations: There was one mediation conducted in January and this mediation was successful.

Staff Attorney Woods reviewed a proposed rule from HUD that would allow strict time limits and work requirements as a condition for rental subsidies and answered questions from commissioners.

Director Quintana discussed Senate Bills 285 and 76 and their potential impact on the community and Metro's processes. She will continue to monitor developments and keep the Commission informed of any changes that may be necessary.

New Business:

- **HUD 2025 Funding Update**

There is no confirmed date for receipt of the 2025 HUD funding. However, based on recent conversations with our HUD representative, Director Quintana expressed hope that the funds will be received within the next 30 to 60 days. She will continue to keep the Commission informed.

- **February Fair Housing Series**

Director Quintana talked about the outcome with the series and stated she's heard a lot of positive feedback. Commissioners that attended also shared positive feedback and expressed support for Metro staff presenting the series at schools and other organizations as a training opportunity.

- **2026 Fair Housing Summit- April 22, 2026**

The save-the-date announcement has been published, and the Eventbrite registration page is expected to go live on March 10.

- **SEE HUD Funding**

Approval was received from HUD to use the remaining SEE funds in the amount of \$2,944.12 for technology purchases. A request was made for Commission approval to proceed. A list of the items to be purchased will be shared with Commissioners via email.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Burrus

Second: Commissioner Wardlaw

Motion approved unanimously.

- **Commissioner Onboarding**

The onboarding process for Commissioner McGauley is ongoing, with one session remaining.

Current Case Age: 144.47 (dual and metro only cases)

Old Business:

Concerns From the Public:

Meeting Adjourned at 12:47 p.m.