

RICH GLOVER, Chairman
HAITHAM FAKHOURI
RACHEL ZUCKERMAN
WAFA DINARO
CARMEN KENNEDY-ROGERS



MAUREEN MILLER BROSNAN
MAYOR

33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154-3097
(734) 466-2290 Fax (734) 466-2108

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 – 7 p.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Rich Glover, Chairman
Haitham Fakhouri
Rachel Zuckerman
Wafa Dinero
Carmen Kennedy-Rogers
Kris Crandall

Josh Sabo, HRC Liaison

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the October meeting of the HRC was approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the August meeting of the HRC were approved unanimously.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

a. New Member – Kris Crandall

i. Rich Glover introduces Kris Crandall, Mayor Brosnan's newest appointment to the Human Relations Commission. Kris is a teacher in Plymouth-Canton schools.

b. Presentation from Livonia Housing Director Brandie Isaacson

i. Livonia Housing Director Brandie Isaacson made a brief presentation to the HRC outlining her department's responsibilities and also asked for the HRC's advice as it relates to completion of her department's citizen participation plan.

RICH GLOVER, Chairman
HAITHAM FAKHOURI
RACHEL ZUCKERMAN
WAFD DINARO
CARMEN KENNEDY-ROGERS



MAUREEN MILLER BROSNAN
MAYOR

33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154-3097
(734) 466-2290 Fax (734) 466-2108

- ii. Ms. Isaacson first detailed that the Department is working on its five-year consolidated plan right now. It includes an overview of the Department's programs, which include rehabilitation loans, minor home repair grants, assistance for first-time home buyers, utility payment assistance, mental health supports, neighborhood improvement grants, domestic violence prevention programs, and support of Section 8 housing.
- iii. The City's plan includes a citizen participation plan, which Ms. Isaacson is looking to further develop. Typically, this process has involved holding a public Housing Commission hearing and also putting ads in local papers. This has not generated the type of feedback and engagement the Department is looking for. She noted that without greater input, the Housing Department continues to largely replicate the previous five-year plan.
- iv. Ms. Isaacson asked the HRC for ideas to expand the citizen participation plan, asking what the Housing Department can do to better reach out to Livonia residents.
- v. HRC member Wafa Dinero asks Ms. Isaacson about any partnerships with outside organizations or third-party groups that the Housing Department may be part of. Ms. Isaacson responds that there is a consortium of departments within Wayne County, which the Livonia Housing Department works with. Five years ago, this group conducted a survey, Ms. Isaacson said. However, the City of Livonia needs to do a Livonia-specific survey now.

RICH GLOVER, Chairman
HAITHAM FAKHOURI
RACHEL ZUCKERMAN
WAFI DINARO
CARMEN KENNEDY-ROGERS



MAUREEN MILLER BROSNAN
MAYOR

33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154-3097
(734) 466-2290 Fax (734) 466-2108

- vi. HRC Member Rachel Zuckerman asks Ms. Isaacson to zoom out and describe what the Housing Department's goals are. Ms. Isaacson notes the three objectives of the Community Development Block Grant program, which are to increase low and medium priced housing, to reduce blight and to provide community services. The Housing Department as a whole administers several programs. Ms. Isaacson notes that CDBG is just one portion of that. The City has three facilities, including our public housing program – Mack Towers. Then we have family housing, public housing – public housing, rent is based on 30% of income. City owned affordable housing – Silver and Newburgh village. Bond-financed 1976 and 1992. We provide low, flat rents to Livonia seniors who are low to moderate income. Rent ranges from 500-625. Our community development program has a lot of programs encompassed within that. First time home buyer program. We work with the county. Providing down payment assistance up to \$14,999 which is more than the surrounding neighborhood. Housing Department programs also include the transportation and commodity foods programs.
- vii. Ms. Isaacson also notes that one of the things she is interested in moving forward is making sure that the City can offer families training or classes on budgeting. In addition, she would like to be able to expand transportation options to those beyond seniors. She would also like to bring back the MSU extension program that holds classes on cooking with commodity food items.
- viii. HRC Commissioner Carmen Kennedy-Rogers asks about the inclusion of the word “slum” in the housing plan. Ms. Isaacson notes that that is a technical term used by HUD, but the City of Livonia will not include it in its application moving forward. Ms. Kennedy-Rogers also suggests holding focus groups that help solicit feedback from people directly.
- ix. Ms. Zuckerman notes that in her experience working for MDHHS, housing is a big driver of health outcomes. She is excited about the idea of a participation program, but also in learning more about what the community needs and wants. Ms. Isaacson notes that the forthcoming Census, a market study, and a needs assessment will all play a role in driving the plan going forward.

RICH GLOVER, Chairman
HAITHAM FAKHOURI
RACHEL ZUCKERMAN
WAFI DINARO
CARMEN KENNEDY-ROGERS



MAUREEN MILLER BROSNAN
MAYOR

33000 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154-3097
(734) 466-2290 Fax (734) 466-2108

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Reports from subcommittees
 - i. Research and Data
 - ii. Outreach and Communications
 - iii. Racial Justice Forum
 - iv. Education

The Research and Data, Outreach and Communications, Racial Justice Form, and Education subcommittees each reported out on their work thus far. The Research and Data subcommittee is looking at next steps, like meeting with the Mayor, to discuss some of the research they have done. The Outreach and Communications team is looking at a video programming highlighting Livonia's diversity and inclusivity in a positive light. The Racial Justice Forum group is still looking at dates for a future event. The education group is finalizing the application for its 2020 essay contest.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Non-Discrimination Ordinance

Representatives from Equality Michigan, among other groups, speak to encourage the HRC to make a recommendation that the City adopt a non-discrimination ordinance to make a statement of the cities' values in the face of homophobia and hate.

VII. AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

