

**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021  
Via Zoom**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Glover. All members of the Commission were present except for Haitham Fakhouri. Josh Sabo, the Mayor's Office Liaison to the HRC, was also present. A quorum of the HRC was present.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda of the May 11, 2021 meeting was approved unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report.

**V. New Business**

Due to the presence of the guests and their time constraints, Chair Glover moved the section New Business up in the agenda.

**United Way of Southeastern (UWSEM) Michigan 21-Day Equity Challenge**  
[www.UnitedWayEquityChallenge.org](http://www.UnitedWayEquityChallenge.org)

Guest Presenters from UWSEM: Andre Ebron (Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and Kyle DuPuc (Director of Policy, Advocacy & Government Relations)

Mr. Ebron shared an overview of the purpose of the 21-Day Equity Challenge; May 21st - June 18th. Topics include: personal racial and social identity bias and privilege, race relations in the history of Metro

Detroit, racism, and inequity and housing, healthcare, Childcare and Education talks about gender, LGBTQ are a plus community, and disability inequity. It also instructs and advises individuals on how to be a better ally and develop racial equity. Starting May 21, participants will receive an email prompt every weekday with articles, videos, charts and infographics on issues related to equity. Participants should plan to spend at least 15 minutes a day engaging with the material.

Mr. Ebron thanked HRC and the City of Livonia for participating. The vision is for Livonia citizens to start the journey as individuals and then explore ways to come together as a community to host small group discussions.

Mr. Ebron invited HRC members to sign up to become a roundtable facilitator for the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. One City One Book – Guest: Toni LaPorte**

The Livonia Public Library along with the Livonia Library Commission is hosting the One City, One Book project. The 2021 themes are identity, belonging and inclusivity. *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle is the first book.

Mayor has requested that dates for the One City One Book events are moved closer to the start of the 2021-2022 school year (August 2021).

Desiree Kelly (Detroit Artist) will have worked displayed at the Art Gallery at the Bennett Civic Center Library (June 1st - June 30). There will be a scholarship contest for high school students in June.

Events include: Driving through the Jim Crow era, Underground Railroad event with Greenmead, outdoor movies for kids/families, HRC Let's Talk event (September) program, jazz concert, and a genealogy program with library staff. Closing event will be with Kevin Boyle (the author).

Dates are still being confirmed. When all is confirmed, dates and information will be shared.

Mr. Josh Sabo identified that the adjusted timeline is in alignment with Livonia Public Schools, Clarenceville Schools and Madonna University. The Mayor would like for this experience to be held on an annual basis.

Information/Publicizing: City Communications Department;  
Information shared with schools, news paper, email blasts, signage, etc.

In the future, there is a potential opportunity to align the One Book One City scholarship contest with HRC annual essay contest for high school students. The librarian who is responsible for teen material is responsible for the scholarship contest. Mr. Sabo and Ms. Carmen Kennedy-Rogers agreed that there should be alignment between the two efforts since they have similar themes of identity, equity, and belonging.

## **b. Updates from our subcommittees**

### **i. Non-Discrimination Ordinance**

Mr. Sabo said that plans are still moving forward. Remains a priority. Over the summer will be finalized. Community conversations to be held in early June as a goal set by the Mayor.

### **ii. Research & Data**

There have not been discussions about conducting an additional survey. Ms. Rachel Zuckerman emphasized that the information collected so far is important and recommended that a data driven approach/process should be established to determine HRC's next set of goals. Thought partnership on next steps is welcomed. Chair Glover identified that it is a good time to decide the purpose of HRC in conjunction with the purpose of HRC set forth by the Mayor. Chair Glover asked each HRC member to identify three next steps for the group and email to him in the next week.

Ms. Zuckerman identified the importance of recognizing and raising awareness in Livonia (ie: Juneteenth, Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, Black History Month, Pride Month, etc.). Mr. Sabo discussed the City is exploring where it is in the equity journey. The non-discrimination ordinance is a serious step in the right direction for broad protection for groups and individuals across the community.

Ms. Zuckerman identified HRC should determine roles, scope, goals, and priorities. How does Livonia include many different voices in a systematic way? Mr. Sabo identified that theoretically HRC is the "funnel" to provide

outreach to the community and deepen connection and communication between community and the City Government departments. .

Chair Glover identified that the HRC website is a solid start to HRC having a voice and presence. Coming out of COVID-19 pandemic will provide additional opportunities to be present and more active.

### **iii. Outreach & Communications**

J. Sabo identified the 21-Day Equity Challenge participation can be part of this work. He stated there are several applications: HRC member participation, City employees, broader community, and social media platforms

Ideas: Individuals can post messages or record messages/reflections on a frequent basis

### **iv. Racial Justice Forum**

Wafa Dinaro has been in communication with Steve Spreitzer, Michigan Round Table for Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Dinaro and Mr. Sabo will coordinate future dates to meet with Steve Spreitzer.

### **v. Education**

It was identified by Ms. Zuckerman and confirmed by Ms. Kennedy-Rogers that it is important for HRC to determine scope and goals to determine the alignment of working with school partners, especially with the goals of DEI.

## **VII. AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION**

Linda Curry (Member of League of Women Voters). Members are joining, listening and learning during a variety of community meetings in Northwest Wayne County. Report to each other and make special notes as to what aligns with the League of Women Voters. Ms. Curry appreciated what the HRC is doing and to keep up the good work.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION IS JUNE 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in person. The meeting will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor gallery at City Hall at 7 p.m.

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