

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday October 7th, 2020, 6:30 pm
Location: Zoom Webinar ID: 882 3060 2076**

Commissioners Present:

Frederick Brown
Jenifer Tibbets
Bret Nilles
Chris Stoner
Okpara Rice
Danielle Brazant
Selita Jansen
Kim Eiler
Renaef Forsyth-Christy

Commissioners Absent:

Dave Baumler
Kent Jackson

Staff/Other Present:

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion
Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven, Executive Director
Mike Kitsmiller, Marion Police Chief

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Brown, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Guest Speaker-Chief Kitsmiller

Marion Police Chief, Mike Kitsmiller presented and discussed Marion PD response data. Chief shared news about a contract and a long-term partnership with Foundation 2 regarding a mental health liaison program. He anticipates a full-time resource working alongside staff by January 1st. Commission expressed gratitude for the department's commitment to the issue and is in full support of the measure. Commission appreciates the chief's partnership on civil rights matters.

IV. Public Response

There was no public response.

V. Director's Report

Staff continue to work remotely. The director hired a new investigator and is looking to refill the vacant senior admin assistant position. The Department is inundated with housing complaints. However, have not received any intake or inquiry for Marion since July.

Outreach and education activities:

1. a presentation making the case for a community of belonging and a presentation in honor of Supreme Justice, RBG
2. Civil Rights virtual book study discussing "So you want to Talk about Race" and "How to be Anti-racist"
3. Partnership with United Way on a community conversation around equity challenge and focusing on next steps, is planned for the second week of November

Commission discussed the president's executive order combating Race and Sex Stereotyping that is going to be effective November 21st.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Rice moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Tibbets, motion passed.

VII. Report from Chair

None

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. *Executive Committee*- Commissioners met on September 26th to set the agenda.
- b. *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison* - Renae Forsyth-Christy
Commissioners are hosting 90 minutes critical conversations every Wednesday at 6 o'clock. Pre-registration is required.
- c. *Communication and outreach Committee* -Commissioner Stoner
Commissioner will work on drafting an e-mail to the Mayor in support of the mental health liaison contract.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. History Makers Gala. Commissioners congratulated and celebrated Commissioner Rice accomplishments
- b. Community Equity & Inclusion Survey
Results are back will be shared with the commission for analysis

X. New Business

a. **Derecho Housing Impact**

Commissioner Tibbets noted that the Overflow shelter is at capacity.

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy shared news that the Iowa Association of Realtors is taking applications offering renters and homeowners assistance for those impacted by the derecho. Grant can go towards rent or repairs.

XI. **Good of the Order**

Commissioners Rice shared news about a resolution renaming the Squaw Creek
Commissioner Tibbets emphasized putting out a post about voting and the
governor's executive order signed on August 5th restoring voting rights for about
50,000 Iowans.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Rice moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner
Stoner, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 at 6:30 pm Via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltahir, City of Marion