



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

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Wednesday, April 25, 2018

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

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#### Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order by Council Member Marcou at 5:15 p.m.*

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Steven C. Johnson, Jacqueline Marcou, Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Brandon Perrine  
**Excused:** 2 - Vacant 1, Vacant 1

#### Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by McDermid, to approve the April 25, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.**

#### Agenda Items:

- [17-1318](#) Complaint filed by Genean Thomas vs. City of La Crosse Housing Authority  
-Update on status of complaint  
*(Note: The Board may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1) (a) regarding deliberating a case which is the subject of a quasi-judicial body. Following any closed session, the Board may reconvene in open session.)*  
**Attachments:** [Request received 9-28-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)  
[Letter from Genean Thomas 11/7/17](#)  
[Quote for Services from Godfrey and Kahn \(Genean Thomas\)](#)  
  
*Mayor Kabat provided background on the HRC's purpose/goals, etc.*  
  
*Commissioner Johnson inquired if the complainant would be filling within the timeline/deadline for an ERB or HUD complaint. The chair noted it is 1 year with state and/or HUD. The chair will confirm this information.*  
  
*Commissioner McDermid inquired about having factors/benchmarks for probable cause. She is concerned about spending money with Godfrey and Kahn and then not knowing what the outcomes would be. She noted the HRC may need to stick with advocacy until we figure out what the judicial role might involve.*  
  
*Sarah Fortune, attorney for the Housing Authority from Hale Skemp, urged the group to send this to HUD who acts within 100 days which would lead to a resolution or an official right to sue. The Housing Authority is governed by them. Fortune noted the*

*difference between HUD and ERB is HUD does not have to go to the Admin. Law (Judge) phase and can enforce directly.*

*Following the motion, Fortune aslso inquired if this is the conclusion of the HRC action which was confirmed.*

*The chair noted relative to setting aside money for filing a complaint with HUD, helping a complainant could be offered.*

*The chair noted the need to build the infrasturcture to deal with complaints at the HRC.*

**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by McDermid, to recommend the complainant refer the item to ERB or HUD, and the complainant discuss the matter with Legal and Planning with the complainant arranging a meeting. The motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.**

2. [17-1537](#)

Complaint filed by Patricia Thomas vs. City of La Crosse Housing Authority  
-Update on status of complaint

*(Note: The Board may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1) (a) regarding deliberating a case which is the subject of a quasi-judicial body. Following any closed session, the Board may reconvene in open session.)*

**Attachments:**    [Request received 11-27-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)  
[Request received 12-4-17 from Housing Authority attorney](#)  
[Letter from Patricia Thomas 1/23/18](#)  
[Quote for Services from Godfrey and Kahn \(Patricia Thomas\)](#)

*Mayor Kabat provided background on the HRC's purpose/goals, etc.*

*Commissioner Johnson inquired if the complainant would be filling within the timeline/deadline for an ERB or HUD complaint. The chair noted it is 1 year with state and/or HUD. The chair will confirm this information.*

*Commissioner McDermid inquired about having factors/benchmarks for probable cause. She is concerned about spending money with Godfrey and Kahn and then not knowing what the outcomes would be. She noted the HRC may need to stick with advocacy until we figure out what the judicial role might involve.*

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**A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by McDermid, to recommend the complainant refer the item to ERB or HUD, and the complainant discuss the matter with Legal and Planning with the complainant arranging a meeting.**

The motion carried 5-0 by voice vote.

## **Adjournment**

**A motion was made by McDermid, seconded by Johnson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

### **NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY**

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*