

City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

*City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

5:15 AM

Council Chambers

Human Rights Commission

The meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):
<https://stream.lifefizecloud.com/extension/2091040/c5d52e74-4bb5-4c01-b9aa-3fbf8677ebf4>.

However, members of the public may still go to City Hall Council Chambers to speak on an item.

Members of the public wishing to speak at the meeting during public hearing, should call: +1 (877) 422 8614,, 2091040#, follow this link: <https://call.lifefizecloud.com/2091040> , or go to the City Hall Council Chambers.

Agenda items approved for public hearing by the committee are open to public comment. For anyone entering City Hall, social distancing is enforced and face masks are required.

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:15

Roll Call

Rodger Christians is replacing Justice Weaver as a member of the Human Rights Commission.

Present: 7 - Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Justice Weaver, Brandon Perrine, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Rhonda Staats, Kemmesha Thomas

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Maye-Cates, seconded by McDermid, that these minutes be approved. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [20-1275](#) Adoption of Human Rights Commission Equity Statement

Attachments: [Equity Statement Draft for La Crosse HRC September 2 2020.docx](#)

*McDermid asked to include housing status in the equity statement as well as use stronger language in the point about interrupting racism. Thomas also asked to include religious and spiritual background to the statement.
Staats to make those changes.*

A motion was made by Maye-Cates, seconded by McDermid, that this Resolution be APPROVED AS AMENDED . The motion carried by voice vote.
- 2 [20-1244](#) Resolution on City of La Crosse Racial Equity Team.

Amendment to edit the resolution to include a monthly update for the HRC to inform them on the work this team is doing.

A motion was made by Perrine, seconded by McDermid, that this General Item be APPROVED . The motion carried by voice vote.

3 [20-1245](#)

Create a community-wide education opportunity to inform the local population about the strategic priority..Body

- Discussion on sponsoring community education events around fair housing and landlord-tenant law
- Comments on other existing community education initiatives

Doing a virtual education event on fair housing and landlord tenet law which the public could attend.

This year's focus is on ending racism and there were questions as to how this fits into that focus. Acknowledgement that this could be appropriate if the focus was on racism and injustice in the housing market.

Discussion on if the training should be focused on the general public but landlords should be welcome. What is the possibility of two separate sessions. Implicit bias and how to weed this out of housing decisions needs to be the focus of the training.

Hoping to revisit this item and discuss more in-depth.

This item was tabled until November.

4 [20-1246](#)

Communication with school district on previously adopted item 20-0959 "Recommendation of suspension of negotiations and gathering more input on the impact of School Resource Officers" ..Body

Copy of changes proposed by the La Crosse Policy Department attached, including change of uniform and change in mission statement and trainings

Attachments: [SRO Letter to School District and Board.pdf](#)

Perrine mentioned that the letter sent out by the police department did not quite address the recommendation made by the Human Rights Commission.

The commission would like to hear what the intent of the SROs is and if the intended outcomes were realized.

Recommendation to invite the police chief to answer the HRC's questions.

A motion was made by McDermid, seconded by Weaver, that this resolution will be discussed with the police chief at the next meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

5 [20-1321](#)

Key take-always from Town Hall Meetings, next Town Hall Meeting

Key takeaway was impressive community engagement.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Maye-Cates, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:21. The motion carried by voice vote.

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, with as much advance notice as possible.