



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Monday, February 17, 2025

6:00 PM

Grandad Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/85617764451?pwd=mhKvI5Rcl5HgoAb9nlv6Qcvjpl3WLJ.1>

Meeting ID: 856 1776 4451

Passcode: 526779

Join by phone: +1 507 473 4847

Call to Order

Bakalars called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - A Xiong, Mac Kiel, Gretchen Guinn Paquette, Claire Bakalars

Approval of Minutes

Paquette motioned to approve the minutes, Bakalars seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [25-0045](#) Annual Code of Ethics Policy Review.

Attachments: [City of La Crosse Code of Ethics Policy](#)

The commission has reviewed and agreed to the code of ethics.

- 2 [25-0130](#) Discrimination Complaint - Zen Forest Johnston v. Wedgewood Commons - Determination whether the complaint alleges sufficient facts that if true, relief could be granted and therefore whether complaint is actionable.

Staff shared that commissioners had all read the complaint and Johnston could add any further information. Johnston added that they notified Wedgewood that they were no longer interested in renting and got clarification on Wedgewood's additional screening for the their landlord whose last name was also Johnston. Lawyer for Wedgewood, Cueto, said familial status does not apply to single people and source of income does not apply to student loans since loans are not income. Cueto said the code allows asking about marital status, and doing background check to ensure

landlord was a nonbiased source and that Wedgewood could ask for a cosigner.

Johnston said application form did ask for marital status and did not think it was relevant. They felt that student loans and student status were closely related and that's why they clicked both. Cueto said checking for marital status could be related to additional sources of income.

Bakalars made a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1)(a). Following any closed session, the Commission may reconvene in open session. Paquette seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The commission reconvened in open session.

The commission found that the complaint does not have sufficient facts where relief could be granted in the instances of marital status, lawful source of income, familial status, or student status.

Adjournment

Bakalars adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.

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.