



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

5:15 PM

Eagle Room

This meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/82011961171?pwd=QDLnaJmMpwhO1JkQl8qqqKY6vR3ucu.1>

Meeting ID: 820 1196 1171 Passcode: 873475

Join by Phone: +1 646 931 3860

Call to Order

Northwood called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - A Xiong, Kimberly Cable, Rosanne Northwood, Marissa Sutherland, Kerrigan Trautsch

Approval of Minutes

Cable motioned to approve the Minutes, Trautsch seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1 [26-0265](#) Discrimination Complaint - Nakia Lor v. James Owens

Attorney Wertheimer stated that the hearing is not within 25 business day deadline in the municipal code. There was not quorum for the hearing's original date. The Commission then must determine whether it has "legal competency" and Wertheimer provided case law background on that. Cable did not see a date stamp on the complaint and asked how we know when the 25 has passed. Staff goes by when the Clerk notifies the Commissioners of the complaint, usually the same day or next business day it is received. Cable did not feel that the delay in the hearing affects the complaint.

There were no speakers for the public hearing; neither the complainant nor the respondent were present. The discrimination did take place within 180 days. Trautsch considered the complaint more relevant to customer service rather than discrimination. Cable concurred.

Cable motioned that the HRC has legal competency on this case, Trautsch

seconded. The motion passed by a voice vote. Xiong recused herself.

Cable motioned that the complaint does not allege sufficient facts the complaint is not actionable, Sutherland seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

2 [26-0443](#) Discrimination Complaint - Melissa Fixmer v. Patricia Nuttall

Staff outlined process for complainant and respondent to speak. Fixmer provided an overview of the complaint. Northwood double checked that Fixmer lives in La Crosse. Her doctor is based in Onalaska. Fixmer requested ESA accommodation mid-lease. Fixmer stated that Nuttall requested her attorney accept liability for damage caused by the ESA and cosign the lease. Fixmer and roommates are all on the same lease. Fixmer stated that the ERD has put her complaint on hold until the City makes a determination. Wertheimer shared Wis. Stats. 106.50. Fixmer stated that roommates had been in support of her having an ESA but changed their minds.

Wertheimer can't advise Nuttall on legal matters. Nuttall did not learn about the meeting until the night before and will provide her own evidence when she is able to put it all together. Staff will look for proof of email notification. Respondent would have 20 days to respond to complaint if the complaint alleges sufficient facts. Northwood verified Nuttall's contact information listed in the complaint.

Northwood stated that the discrimination occurred within 180 days and in the city of La Crosse. The discrimination is based on disability, age, and student status. Staff reminded the committee meetings are regularly the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Northwood convened the meeting in closed session.

Northwood reconvened the meeting in open session.

Trautsch motioned that the complaint alleges sufficient facts that, if true, the complaint is actionable, Cable seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

3 [26-0114](#) Discrimination Complaint Form Revision

Attachments: [Current Form](#)
 [Draft Revised Form](#)

A motion was made by Trautsch, seconded by Cable, that this discussion be REFERRED to the next meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

4 [26-0320](#) Discussion on Human Rights Commission's Powers and Duties

Staff went over Sec. 22-23(2). Outside of discrimination complaint, the commission has opportunities for education and outreach. The Commission has money in the Attorney's budget for independent hearing examiners. Outreach about fair housing discrimination could be funded through the Community Development Block Grant. Staff will ask about the process for requesting these funds. Past examples include fair housing brochures. Cable suggested improvements to the website to let them know what the HRC does. Next steps may include a discussion on the content of educational materials such as brochures. Staff could update the website along with the updated complaint form so they are in sync, such as FAQ and How-to--which could be in the form a video. Staff will ask how funds can be spent and who approves it.

Adjournment

Northwood adjourned the meeting at 6:34 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, with as much advance notice as possible.