



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Human Rights Commission

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Tuesday, July 21, 2020

5:15 PM

LifeSize Virtual Meeting

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#### Special Meeting

In efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Human Rights Commission's meeting will be conducted through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed by clicking this link (or typing the URL in your web browser address bar):

<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/1271327/e7506959-fe5d-44ac-805c-9016fb33bd90>

If you wish to speak on an agenda item, you can do so as part of the virtual meeting. Contact the Planning & Development Department at the email or phone number below so we can provide you with the necessary information to join in. Meetings are also open for attendance in person. 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.

Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing [kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:kuhlmanl@cityoflacrosse.org), using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Planning & Development Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601. Questions, call 608-789-7361.

#### Call to Order

Turner called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Julie McDermid, Brandon Perrine, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Rhonda Staats, Chauncy M. Turner

**Excused:** 1 - Nese Nasif

**Absent:** 2 - A Xiong, Justice Weaver

#### Agenda Items:

- 1 [20-0952](#) Fair Housing Complaint - Patricia Osley

**Attachments:**    [Complaint](#)  
                              [Munson Realty Letter](#)

*Tenant settle eviction in small claims court and is now out; the eviction proceeding is separate from the fair housing complaint, though. Current landlord was not aware of prior landlords promise for rent; property maintenance company provided notice regarding compliance with tenancy. McDermid recommends Osley work with a housing advocate, such as Independent Living Resources, to learn about tenants rights and what would warrant a complaint.*

**Staats motioned to dismiss, McDermid seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

2    [20-0959](#)

Recommendation/statement regarding school resource officers and defunding the police

*Alex Rodriguez suggested hearing more from impacted parties, such as concerned students and parents. HRC could serve as a forum for those concerns. The Commission needs more information about why School Resource Officers (SROs) are needed and what their duties are.*

**McDermid motioned to make a statement recommending suspending negotiations until more input can be gathered on the impact of School Resource Officers, Perrine seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.**

3    [20-0960](#)

Discuss Comprehensive Plan Update

*Jack Zabrowski (zabrowskij@cityoflacrosse.org) presented. Turner mentioned town hall meetings on discrimination and bias and suggested getting directly into communities. Maye-Cates suggested an HRC Facebook page to get input. Commissioners also suggested getting resources from Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) and setting up a focus group with Zabrowski.*

4    [20-0962](#)

Respond to needs of the homeless during the pandemic

*There is a reduced capacity at shelters due to physical distancing; most places where homeless people would go during the day are closed; there is no sanctioned encampment site. There may be a potential increase this winter.*

5    [20-0964](#)

Consider Commission's staffing needs

*No specific requests from the Commission at this time.*

## Next Meeting / Agenda Items

## Adjournment

**McDermid motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 pm, Perrine seconded. The motion carried by a 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](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*