



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Human Rights Commission

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Tuesday, June 2, 2020

5:15 PM

Teleconference

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#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

#### Roll Call

Also joining the meeting were Jason Gilman, Mayor Tim Kabat and Police Chief Shawn Kudron

Motion by Brandon, Second by Nese to move #3 to the top of the agenda. On voice vote, motion carried.

**Present:** 6 - Julie McDermid, Brandon Perrine, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Nese Nasif, Rhonda Staats, Chauncy M. Turner

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

#### Approval of Minutes

No motion to approve minutes.

#### Agenda Items:

1. Revisit strategic plan and consideration an possible action on updates/revisions

The chair asked for anyone to make suggestions on updating the strategic plan.

2. Discuss meeting about city's Comp plan.

Chauncy asked Jason Gillman for clarification on the Comprehensive Plan process and Jason provided an overview, noting he hoped the Human Rights Commission would provide a significant role both in an inclusive process and in addressing policy related to inclusivity, equity, justice, transparency... Jason asked the HRC for constructive criticism of the document.

Nese noted there are several semi-urgent tasks at hand; The Comp Plan process review, the Mayor's questions, and each's informal work on the strategic plan. Nese asked if subcommittees could be established to work on these issues. Jason noted he can provide Lifesize video teleconferencing information for the subcommittees. Brandon asked that we establish committees now.

### 3. Updates and announcements

The Mayor had provided the following questions to the Commission to contemplate and provide public input on:

1. How will you use your office to work with the community and create the change and justice you say you support?
2. How will you ensure transparency in the planning process and how will community members be invited to take part?
3. What is your plan to address systemic racism in our community?
4. How will you continue to protect La Crosse resident's right to protest?
5. How will you increase transparency surrounding the trainings LCPD go through?

Discussion ensued about how police training is conveyed to the public and the level of transparency. The Mayor noted the successes of the City website and its partnerships such as with the Diversity Council who has helped steer initiatives. The Mayor encouraged the HRC to work with Chief Kudron to convey specific community recommendations. Chauncy noted the HRC can provide a calming voice to get information to the public on actions and processes being worked on. The Mayor suggested the HRC's message (answers to the questions) could accompany the Mayor's message. Chief Kudron noted the PD staff is working on a transparency page on the PD website including a social media statement. Julie discussed her experience at the protest that was held at Powell Park and noted the lack of African American leaders at the event and that we need to make sure our African American leaders have an opportunity to contribute to the conversation, not just white leaders. Jonathan asked Chauncy to come up with a list of our African American leaders. Jonathan also asked that the HRC use more direct methods of initiating change, such as Mayoral proclamations or resolutions that are followed by action and that we can't get bogged down over-thinking everything. Jonathon also suggested there needs to be change in the financial sector to help minority homeowners. Nese noted that while the HRC's intentions are good, we need to get away from the idea we are the voice of the voiceless. The "voiceless" are not voiceless; they can speak and need to be afforded the opportunity. Nese also referred to UW-L's Chief Hill's statement of solidarity and Chief Kudron confirmed he had talked with Chief Hill about it.

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourn at 6:35 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](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*

In an effort to keep members of the public, City staff and Council Members as safe as possible from the spread of COVID-19, the committee meetings will be conducted through video conferencing.

The meetings can be viewed using the following link:

<https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/2091040/c5d52e74-4bb5-4c01-b9aa-3fbf8677ebf4>

Members of the public who would like to provide comments on any agenda item are encouraged to submit them in writing prior to the respective meeting. Written comments should be submitted to Jason Gilman at [gilmanj@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:gilmanj@cityoflacrosse.org), dropped in a drop box outside of City Hall or mailed to the City Planning Department, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601.