



500 CENTER AVENUE, BOX 779, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56561

MOORHEAD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES - Draft

**Tuesday, May 26th 7:00 PM
Moorhead Public Library Meeting Room**

Members Present: Octavio Gomez - Chair, Diane Wray-Williams - City Council Liaison, Dorene Neeland, Lyndi Williams, Sel Nygard, Dorene Neeland, Nate Aalgaard, Michael Carbone

Members absent: Cassandra Hedman - Vice Chair, Miguel Balderas, Evan Thomas,

Others Present: Andrew Bushaw, MHRC Staff Liaison, Police Chief Ebinger, Sgt. Swenson.

1. Chair call to order (7:05 pm).
2. Roll Call/Introductions.
3. Agenda Approved. May Minutes Approved.
4. Citizen to be Heard
 - a. Linda Martinez – Discussed her experiences with being a parent to a Latino youth in the Moorhead Public School system. Feels that there is discrimination and stereotyping towards Latino youth by school administrators as well as police officers associated with the school.
 - b. Eugene Dumont – Discussed his feelings about police discrimination against people of color in Moorhead.
5. Reports of the Chair, Officers, Commissioners and Committee
 - a. Reports – Activities since last meeting.
 - i. HR Concern Report by Staff – Staff Liaison contacted the Minnesota Human Rights Commission in reference to Greg Maddox concern. Was told that employment discrimination based on perceived homelessness was not a valid basis for a concern because homelessness is not a protected class. Does not fall under public assistance because it was not specifically stated “public assistance” in the interview.
 - ii. Candidate ID process has been initiated by Mayor Voxland. Notice was in last Sundays paper and Staff encourages commissioners to help with search.
 - b. Reports – Upcoming Activities/Updates
 - i. Mujeres Unidas – Fiesta de Familia May 29th – Gomez and Carbone will table at this event.

- ii. Pangaea – Wed 12:30 at CDR – Gomez will attend this meeting to represent MHRC.
- iii. PEPP Event – Check in for 10 year anniversary of Civil Rights Report.

6. Officer Liaison.

- a. Police Chief Ebinger – Will be available for any questions or comments from the HRC and sees a need for an open line of communication between the two entities. Feels that the City of Moorhead has a mechanism for the review of police misconduct and it is within the internal affairs dept of the MPD, not the Human Rights Commission. Feels that, by not sending any citizen concerns directly to the Moorhead PD, the MHRC is doing an injustice to all citizens. He stressed that the tools available to the HRC are very limited and has no investigative power. He mentioned that there are outside entities available to citizens to investigate the Moorhead PD. Also mentioned these tools are not often used and that is because they are not needed. He is offering Sgt. Swenson to the MHRC in whatever capacity they decide to utilize him. “We don’t wait for a citizen to complain, we want the commission to be an ally”. Also stressed his credentials in working with a diverse community. “I don’t marginalize anyone. I come from a place where I was the minority, and cops don’t last long without respect.”
- b. Carbone commended him for his efforts and thanked him for coming to speak. The only conflict is that if an officer is present in a meeting where concerns are being heard, their presence might be intimidating. Nygard and Gomez concurred.
- c. Aalgaard spoke on his experience with Fargo Human Relations Commission and their police liaison and how he didn’t ever get the feeling it was problematic in any way.
- d. Commission agreed that Sgt. Swenson would have a role but wanted to discuss before making that final.

7. Vision Hawk Access Procedures –

- a. Chief Ebinger spoke on Vision Hawk recording handing practices. Follow state statute on data practices in regard to those recordings. If the recordings are evidence, they follow normal guidelines for evidence if it is a pending case. If it is not involved in a pending case, the driver of the vehicle may procure a copy in accordance with state data practices. All “use of force” and “pursuit” tapes are reviewed and archived as policy. If there is no case pending or internal investigation open, the tapes are archived for 60 days.
- b. Tasers also have cameras and the same policy applies.
- c. Relevant Policy: MN Statute 626.9517, MN Statute 13.03, Moorhead Police Dept. General Order “Audio and Video Recording”.

8. Meeting Outside Council Chambers

- a. Staff Liaison Bushaw stated that Becky has gone through the calendar and identified two or three meetings during the year where the HRC will not be able to meet in council chambers
- b. Wray-Williams would prefer to meet in basement of City Hall when this occurs, other commissioners concur
- c. Bushaw will find put out at least a 6 month schedule for meeting locations.

9. Form Budget Committee

- a. Carbone, Octavio, Staff Liaison Bushaw will meet to put together a budget proposal. Former Chair Williams will be approached about also meeting to discuss this.
 - b. Wray-Williams feels that a simple and clear budget is preferred.
- 10. Vice Chair Elections – Gomez nominates Carbone. Commissioners approve. Carbone new Vice Chair replacing Hedman.
- 11. Other Business
 - a. PEPP Fest – Romkey Park 4-7, June 6th.
 - b. Carbone – June 16th forum on homelessness in the basement meeting room of Moorhead Public Library. Carbone will be presenting.
- 12. Adjourned – By Chair (8:45 pm)