



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF ASHEVILLE

May 20, 2021, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Current Board Members: Tanya Rodriguez (Chair), Brandon Oliver (Vice-Chair), Tiffany Flunory De'Bellott, Davidson Jones, Daniel Young, DeLores Venable, Ivan Melchor, Chris Winebrenner, Melanie Noyes, Veronica Coit, Susy Chandler, Will Overfelt, Alfred Green, Emma Nichole Worthy, Kim Roney (Council Liaison)

Mission: The purpose of the Human Relations Commission of Asheville is to promote and improve human relations and to achieve equity among all citizens in the City by carrying out the City's Human Relations Program. The HRCA will prioritize racial equity and will work with city government and partner with communities, and outside agencies, in an effort to encourage and ensure diversity, fairness, equity and inclusion throughout the City. In furtherance thereof, the HRCA should endeavor to identify and assist in addressing all forms of individual, institutional and community discrimination through education, advocacy, and policy recommendations.

Call to Order

- Land Acknowledgement, Welcoming of Members, Staff and Public,
- May 20, 2021 Agenda – Review and Approval
- April 2021 Minutes - Review and Approval

New Business

- Appoint new Secretary - Melanie Noyes
- HRCA to consider inviting a rep from the (fairly) newly formed APD Community Engagement Division to present to us.

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/news/asheville-police-departments-community-engagement-division-takes-shape/>

Working Group Updates – Latest Agendas

- ● Houseless Working Group - updates and findings
 - ○ Recommendation item 1 (link)
 - ○ Recommendation item 2 (link)
- Reparations Working Group - updates and findings
- ● Community Outreach Working Group - updates and findings
- Community Advocacy Working Group - updates and findings
 - Recommendation item 1 (link)

Staff Updates

- Update on progress for Director of Equity and Inclusion
- Community concerns and complaints

Unfinished Business

- Discuss/vote potential meeting time change to 2 hrs
- Discuss/vote where in the meeting to give space for public comment and how much time for public comment?
- Discuss potential retreat dates
- Discuss/vote options for MOU with CPAC to get in motion or off table
- Congratulations to Commissioner Young for putting into motion with his individual capacity the covering of graduations costs for students at Asheville High School

Future Agenda Items

- Training on process of allocation of minority city contracts
- Training in City mandated Equity and Inclusion process
- Collaboration with City to create a complaint form for residents to city
- Accountability pipeline for complaints process for City of Asheville for city employees and resident complaints
- LGBTQ discrimination protections and complaints process
- ADA Compliance and complaints process

- Creation of volunteer mentorship program to support returning citizens
- Health Equity
- Statewide HRC meeting in Asheville next quarter
- Public Safety
- Fair and Equitable Housing
- Environmental/Climate concerns

Community Announcements

Public Comment Next Meeting: TBD

Adjournment

For More information on the Human Relations Commission Asheville, please contact Board Liaison at:

kimroney@avlcouncil.com; or the Staff Liaison at RWhite@ashevillenc.gov

Important Documents

- [Living Asheville Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [HRCA Ordinance No. 4663](#)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_qPopqG8BP3Dg5aN4WhoqcZUiQ7OMmWM/view
- [Agenda and Documents](#)
<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/departments/city-clerk/boards-and-commissions/human-relations-commission/>
- [Equity and Inclusion Assessment March 2021](#)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/shared-with-me?ths=true>
-
-
-

Houseless Working Group Recommendation Item 1

We, the aforementioned members of the Human Relations Commission of Asheville, henceforth known as HRCA, stand in solidarity with the residents of Asheville and the houseless community

affected by inhumane encampment removal, hereby offer a formal recommendation to the Asheville City Council.

We, the aforementioned members of the HRCA, strongly recommend that the Asheville City Council swiftly remove the following Ordinances/City Codes Articles, City Code Chapter 12, Article III, Section 12-51, and Section 12-52, immediately ceasing encampment removals on city property. In addition, the aforementioned members of the HRCA recommend the Asheville City Council redirect ordinance enforcement and Federal Homeless Assistance funds to provide or improve sanitation receptacles at known encampment sites.

We the aforementioned members of the HRCA recommend these amendments be implemented 60 days from today, in order to prevent residents and visitors in and of Asheville from potential and/or continued health and public safety issues, and so that we may all move forward with good faith efforts supported by the Peoples of Asheville, our partners in the region, and Members of Asheville City Council, to make the City of Asheville a more equitable and inclusive place for all.

Signed by,

Houseless Working Group Recommendation Item 2

We, the aforementioned members of the Human Relations Commission of Asheville, henceforth known as HRCA, stand in solidarity with the residents of Asheville, The HRCA Houseless Working Group, and the Houseless community affected by inhumane houseless encampment removal preceding an event of inclement weather that was witnessed world wide on February 1, 2021 in the City of Asheville. We, the aforementioned members of the HRCA hereby offer a formal recommendation to the Asheville City Council.

We, the aforementioned members of the HRCA strongly recommend for the Asheville City Council to swiftly and decisively accept and implement amendments to the following City Ordinances/City Code Articles: City Code Article 12-51 introduce and implement sub section (D), City Code Chapter 16, Article 1, 16-1 introduce and implement sub section (E), City Code Chapter 16 Article 1, 16-2 introduce and implement sub section (C), City Code Chapter 11, Article 1, Section 11-17 introduce and implement sub section (C), to Asheville City Ordinances/Asheville City Codes as follows: This Article is prohibited from enforcement in the event of inclement weather, three days prior to inclement weather and three days after inclement weather. Inclement weather as defined as: the existence of rain or abnormal climatic conditions (whether they be those of hail, snow, cold, high wind, severe dust storm, extreme high temperature or the like), by virtue of which it is either unsafe and/or unreasonable for unhoused individuals to be exposed to this weather by way of encampment removal.

We the aforementioned members of the HRCA recommend these amendments be implemented no later than 30 days from today, in order to prevent residents and visitors in and of Asheville from potential and/or continued health and public safety issues, and so that we may all move forward with good faith efforts supported by the Peoples of Asheville, The Buncombe County Commissioners, and Members of Asheville City Council, to make the City of Asheville an equitable and more inclusive place for all.

Signed by,

We, the aforementioned members of the Human Relations Commission of Asheville, henceforth known as HRCA, stand in solidarity with the City of Asheville in the need for a full refurbishing of the Martin Luther King Center and hereby offer a formal recommendation of items that need immediate attention and repair to the Asheville City Council.

List of recommended items that need immediate attention and repair are as follows:

New refrigerator

New stove including a hood

Ice machine

Flat top grill

Deep fryer

Hot dog cooker

Microwave

Hood

Popcorn maker

Ice box for the soda

Paint for the restrooms

Floor mats consection stand

\$4500 equipment

We, the aforementioned members of the HRCA strongly recommend that the Asheville City Council swiftly and decisively accept and implement the directives included in this recommendation to be completed in a manner that allows for a safe, sanitary, energy efficient, kitchen, community area, and outdoor facilities before the date of June 10, 2021, in order to ensure the City of Asheville is free from potential and/or continued health and public safety issues, in such a vital and important community center. And so that we may all move forward with good faith efforts supported by the Peoples of Asheville, The Buncombe County Commissioners, and Members of Asheville City Council, to make the City of Asheville an equitable and more inclusive place for all.

Signed by,

