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City of Detroit
Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 5:00 PM
CAYMC 13th Floor Auditorium

Scribe: Commissioner Mendoza

- Call to order and roll call began at approximately 5:30 p.m.
- Attendees:
 - Chair Ross
 - Vice Chair Harris
 - Commissioner Olvera
 - Commissioner Mendoza
 - Commissioner Carter
 - Commissioner Singh

Approval of Minutes

- Chair Ross announced that the minutes from the May meeting will be provided at the September meeting.

Commission Subcommittee Reports/Updates

- Attending commissioners provided updates on their assigned regions.

CRIO Department Director Report and Law Presentation

- Deputy Director Griggs: Provided an update on department operations.
- Law Department: Conducted a refresher presentation on the open meetings act and took questions.
 - Director Zander: Noted that the presentation would be available on the OneDrive platform.

HRC Operations, Bylaws, and Elections

- Commissioner Mendoza: Volunteered to complete the July meeting minutes and requested access to the post-meeting video to ensure accuracy. CRIO noted it would be available.
- Director Zander: Confirmed that the HRC is not currently operating under known bylaws.

- Law Department: Advised on options to proceed with elections given Chair Ross' recent announcement about his role as Chair in August.
 - It was noted that the commission could temporarily "suspend" any current operational functions to avoid a lapse in leadership.
- Commissioner Mendoza: Made a motion to suspend existing operating guidance to avoid a lapse in leadership, expressing concern about future quorum as both the bylaws and elections have been pending without clear timelines.
- Chair Ross: Noted that Commissioner Wright led the bylaw committee and suggested waiting until the next meeting to review the bylaws.
- Chair Ross and Vice Chair Harris: Expressed their desire to have eight commissioners (two more than the required quorum) for elections.
- Commissioner Mendoza: Mendoza's motion was denied. Detailed next steps for bylaw adoption and elections are pending.

Unfinished Business

- Commissioner Term Dates: Awaiting a formal consolidated document regarding term expirations.
- City of Detroit Attorney Report on HRC Powers

Closing Remarks

- Chair Ross: Suggested reviewing and adopting the bylaws at next meeting (August.) Dates for committee elections remain undetermined but should occur after bylaw adoption.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Bill Ross, At-Large, Chair
 Bruno Olvera, At-Large
 Charlotte Wright, D1
 Dr. Carter, D5

Bishop Harris, D3, Vice Chair
 Patricia Cole, At-Large
 Annie Mendoza, D2
 Suneil Singh, D6

Dr. Paul, D7, Secretary
 De'Rone Buffington, At-Large
 Marloshawn Franklin, D4