



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Commission on Human Rights

---

Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
5:30 PM

Regular

Conference Room 1A  
701 E Broadway  
Columbia, MO

---

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Meera Sood called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

#### II. INTRODUCTIONS

Present:

Amanda Hinnant  
Liz Townsend Bird  
Penny Kuhns-Knarr  
Meera Sood  
Stephanie Yoakum  
Paige Lubbering  
Astrid Villamil

Staff:

D'Andre Thompson  
Kristin Mengwasser  
Chrishama Butler  
Sylvia Avula

Members of the Public:

Jennifer Savage  
Kris Flemming

Excused:

None

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Stephanie Yoakum moved to approved the agenda. Liz Townsend Bird seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes from 11 06 2024

**Attachments:** [11 November 06 HRC Meeting Minutes-Draft](#)

Stephanie Yoakum moved to approve the draft minutes from 11 06 2024. Meera Sood seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

#### Approval of Closed Meeting Minutes 11 06 2024

**Stephanie Yoakum motioned to approved the Closed Meeting Minutes. Meera Sood seconded the motion.**

**Yes:** 6 - Hinnant, Sood, Yoakum, Lubbering, Kuhns-Knarr and Townsend Bird

**Abstain:** 1 - Villamil

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2024

Staff explained the reason for the postage budget item not being used during the 2024 fiscal year. The expectation moving forward is that the postage code for the Commission on Human Rights will be utilized for the postage budget amount and will work with the City Manager's Office to monitor the postage budget. This will ensure postage cost are covered either way.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### Guest Speaker – Jennifer Savage (The Food Bank of Northeast & Central Missouri)

Jennifer Savage shared more about the new Food Bank Market and programming that is now going on in the new space. The Commissioners requested that Human Rights rack cards be shared with the Food Bank Market to bring awareness about the commission with community members. The Commissioners mentioned tabling at community events in the near future to increase visibility of the commission.

### Appoint HRC Representative for CPRB

Penny Kuhns Knarr motioned to appoint Stephanie Yoakum to the Citizen's Police Review Board for a year appointment (November 1st 2024 to November 1st 2025). Paige Lubbering seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

### Discuss value of listening session

Amanda Hinnant mentioned wanting to discuss the value of the Commission on Human Rights Listening session since over the years there has been difficulty in determining how effective the listening sessions have been. Penny Kuhns Knarr mentioned that there are more opportunities for community members to learn about the commission since the complaint form has been revised to be easier to complete therefore more people are encouraged to participate in the listening session and provide their thoughts. Stephanie Yoakum mentioned narrowing the subject matter has helped in the past which could support the effectiveness of the listening session. Astrid Villamil mentioned that the commission could look at different ways to approach connecting with the public without abandoning the concept of the listening session. The commission mentioned potentially wanting to host a workshop at the Food Bank to share more about the commission in 2025.

## VII. REPORTS

### CPRB

Stephanie Yoakum mentioned that the CPRB has not met since the last meeting in October. There are currently positions open for the CPRB, so until appointments are made the CPRB cannot meet the appropriate quorum to perform their duties.

#### Other Reports

No other reports at this time.

### VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

No additional general comments at this time.

### IX. MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

**Meera Sood motioned to go into closed session at 6:10 p.m. Amanda Hinnant seconded the motion.**

**Amanda Hinnant moved to come out of closed session at 7:24 p.m. Meera Sood seconded the motion.**

**Yes:** 7 - Hinnant, Sood, Villamil, Yoakum, Lubbering, Kuhns-Knarr and Townsend Bird

### X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting January 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

### XI. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Hinnant motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Meera Sood seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

**USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit CoMo.gov/upload. (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)**