

**CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI
MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION TASK FORCE
MARCH 18, 2021**

A meeting of the Blue Springs Human Relations Commission Task Force was held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Warren Haynes presiding.

Pursuant to Jackson County Executive Order dated November 18, 2020 and any subsequent amendments and Phase 2.5 of the Eastern Jackson County Recovery Plan limiting public gatherings, the Task Force members participated in this meeting via video-conference and telephone to ensure safe social distancing measures were taken as provided in Sections 810.020(1) and 810.020(4) RSMo. The public was able to attend via telephone conference.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE	Dr. Warren Haynes, Chair Richard Mitchem (joined at 7:00) Nichlaus Stephens	City Councilmember Galen Ericson City Councilmember Kent Edmondson City Councilmember Susan Culpepper
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Rachel Williams - Absent

Also present were City Attorney Jacqueline Sommer, Police Chief Bob Muenz, Captain Jeff Sargent, and City Clerk Sheryl Morgan.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER	Chair Dr. Warren Haynes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
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CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM	City Clerk Sheryl Morgan confirmed a quorum of the Task Force was present.
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES	City Clerk Sheryl Morgan advised she made a correction to the February 25, 2021 Minutes previously distributed with the Agenda clarifying that not all members of Task Force were present, but confirming a quorum of the Task Force was present. Member Culpepper moved to approve the Minutes of the February 25, 2021 Task Force meeting. Motion seconded by Member Ericson and carried unanimously.
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MISSOURI COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS	Kristy Lambert, Legal Counsel for the Missouri Commission on Human Rights (MCHR) presented an overview of Commission and the Missouri Human Rights Act, as well as information on other local HRCs. Ms. Lambert outlined the categories protected by discrimination under the Human Rights Act. Ms. Lambert reviewed the assistance the MCHR can provide to local HRCs. A copy of Ms. Lambert's presentation will be shared with the members of the Task Force and the Human Relations Commission, and is attached to these Minutes for reference.
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DISCUSSION WITH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEMBERS	Blue Springs Human Relations Commission members in attendance were Gino Bueno, Courtney Yount-McGinnis, Lucas Taylor and Leslie Gleason.
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Dr. Haynes asked the Task Force to consider for a future meeting whether the Public Safety umbrella was the best place for the HRC to reside?

Chair Haynes asked the current members of the HRC to also consider the following three questions and to send the responses prior to the next meeting:

- Are there any issues of great urgency that need to be addressed?
- In order to take advantage of the most promising and unexploited opportunities, what needs to occur?
- What are you doing well as an HRC?

HRC Acting Chair Gino Bueno shared his experiences with the current HRC structure and management.

Due to the time, Dr. Haynes suggested the HRC members attend the next meeting and share their thoughts on the three questions posed, as well as other input they would like.

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION**

City Attorney Jacqueline Sommer reported on her discussion with the Major Ed Turner who serves as the Advisory Member of the Independence Human Relations Commission. Turner stated the Independence HRC is experiencing some of the same issues as the Blue Springs HRC has encountered. They are reorganizing the HRC to include other organizations and had training by the Mid-America Regional Council. The Independence HRC has a Heritage Festival and their Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration which is run by another organization but the HRC assists. Major Turner believes the HRC should not be under the Police Department; they are currently under the umbrella of the Assistant City Administrator and stated strong leadership is needed for success.

NEXT MEETING

The Task Force members agreed to schedule the next meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Council, Task Force Chair Haynes moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Member Ericson and the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

**BLUE SPRINGS HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION TASK FORCE**



Dr. Warren Haynes, Chair

ATTEST:



Sheryl Morgan, City Clerk