

MINUTES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
October 20, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Third Floor Council Chamber, City Hall

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Members' Term Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>End of Current</u> <u>Term of Office</u>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Dr. Jennifer Jackson	(10-00)	10/08/22
	Rusty Summers	(16-03)	10/08/21
	Michael Jasper	(18-01)	10/08/22
	Sean Connors	(01-00)	10/08/23
	Terri Lowdon	(12-07)	10/08/23
	Bridget Supple	(13-06)	10/08/21
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Hamilton Henderson	(11-05)	10/08/21
	Theo Williams	(06-04)	10/08/22
STAFF PRESENT:	Bryan Carter, City Attorney		
	Ben Williams, Recording Secretary		

Item #1 Call to Order

Summers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: McGaughy – absent, Henderson – absent, Jackson – present, Jasper – present, Connors – present, Lowdon – present, Summers – present, Supple – present, Williams – absent. Quorum is present.

Item #2 Approval of Minutes

Lowden moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting. Supple seconded the motion. All approved.

Motion passed.

Item #3 Old Business

Item #3a. Inclusion of public accommodation in mediation assistance

Jasper discussed the possibility of including mediation assistance for public accommodation. Carter reminded the Commission that the City Council will hold a work session on Monday, October 26 to discuss the topic. Carter stated that the City Council is anticipating a presentation from the Human Rights Commission on the conversion therapy ban and on mediation assistance for public accommodation. The Commission discussed

the need to send information to Jackson for the creation of a slide show presentation that can be presented to the City Council.

Item #3b. Conversion therapy ban ordinance

- Joseph Cox expressed support for the conversion therapy ban, stating that he is a PLPC (Provisionally Licensed Professional Counselor) and graduated from the University of Kansas. Cox described conversion therapy and cited APA findings on conversion therapy. Cox stated that 18 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico have conversion therapy bans and cited national organizations that are opposed to conversion therapy. Lowdon inquired if Cox was aware of any peer-reviewed study that would show conversion therapy as being good for minors. Cox responded that he was not.
- Roger Brumley spoke in opposition to a conversion therapy ban. Brumley discussed the definition of conversion therapy and stated that the definition given in the ordinance was subjective and vague. Brumley stated that the ordinance is unneeded due to existing legal authority. Brumley cited cases which he claimed make the conversion therapy ban unconstitutional.
- Summers moved to limit discussion to three minutes per person. Jackson seconded. Motion Passed.
- Jeremy Fresting spoke in opposition to the conversion therapy ban, describing it as nebulous. Fresting inquired about whether the term “practices” includes counseling or general conversations. Jasper responded that if counseling seeks to change that person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression then it is banned.
- JR McMillan Inquired about whether medical professionals can provide disclosures to medical patients considering a gender change. Supple responded that the medical professional would be able to disclose the information on risks. Lowdon stated that the ordinance would not prohibit a doctor for giving someone all the pros and cons to someone regarding a gender change procedure. McMillan stated opposition to the conversion therapy ban, stating he believes that the ban is asking medical professionals to put their world views and understanding on gender aside and that it asks people not to share what they hold to be true.
- Calvin Haynes spoke in opposition to the ordinance. Haynes stated that a therapist should be able to investigate all sides of the issue. Jasper stated that you can discuss it but you can’t attempt to change it.
- Kent O’Dell inquired about how seeing a psychiatrist functions. Supple invited Cox to respond to O’Dell. Cox described therapy and the professional’s role in therapy. Cox commented on how therapy can be hurtful if used inappropriately.
- Jeremiah Bradford spoke in opposition to the ordinance, stating that unless the Commission can specify what practices are banned, then the ban is unwarranted. He inquired whether the members of the commission have considered all the studies that showed the negative impact on children who are encouraged to pursue measures of gender re-identification and gender changes. Bradford stated that he has studies that show the latter leading to high suicide rates.

Item #3c. Related old business

None.

Item #4 New Business

Item #4a. Related New Business

None.

Item #5 City Staff Update

Carter asked that commission members who plan to attend the work session on October 26 contact him because a notice will need to be issued if a quorum of the Human Rights Commission attends.

Item #6 Public Comment

David Mason asserted that churches are coming up as a target to be fined and penalized for their work and the Commission is looking for a hammer to penalize religion. Jasper stated that Mason is inaccurate because none of the Commission's actions apply to churches.

Pat Jones asked Cox if anyone under the age of 18 ever asked him about religion. Cox responded that he had prayed with someone.

Item #7. Future Agenda Overview

Carter stated that there would be a report on the two items discussed at the work session. Carter stated that the annual election for chair and vice chair would also be on the next agenda.

Item # 8. Adjourn

Lowden made a motion to adjourn. Supple seconded. No members opposed the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Ben Williams, Recording Secretary (Legal Assistant)