

City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its fifth meeting of the year on June 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at City Council Chambers, 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33609.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

John Perry Tomika Cole Brian Frey
Trevor Rosine

CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Betina Baron Carl Brody Chris Calder
Maurice Foster

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

J. Perry, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Roll Call was conducted, with all board members in attendance, except for Anthony Carswell and Ashley Roberts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Vice-Chairman invited the Board members to review the minutes from the May 12, 2021, board meeting. T. Rosine **moved** to accept the meeting minutes, with one clerical correction and one clarification to be made for the record regarding the case review. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

REGULAR REPORTS

Supervisor's Report

Maurice Foster, Human Rights Investigator Supervisor, began by stating that six cases have been closed, with four more in conciliation. M. Foster said the TOHR is in the last phase of the HUD contractual obligation, and the goal is to close out all remaining cases by June 25th, 2021. He continued by saying representation from the disabled community still needs to be addressed by the Board. The Determination and Board decision notifications for the previous case has been sent to the CP and RP. M. Foster stated that the focus for TOHR this past month has been clearing out old cases. M. Foster concluded by stating a Public Accommodations case will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting, and the case will be sent to the board members prior.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

C. Brody provided the Board with proposed case review procedures in order to have standard practices in place. He then asked the Board for a motion to officially approve the procedures. C. Brody continued by explaining the procedures in detail. T. Cole added that members who are sworn in do not need to be sworn in by a notary. M. Foster acknowledged that it is still unclear if the Board only reviews “Cause” finding cases, or also “No Cause”. C. Brody emphasized that these Board Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are under control of the Board, and changes may be made at any time when the Board feels the need to amend them.

B. Frey asked that a time limit be put into place under Section V, para (f). B. Frey moved to make changes to Section V, para (f) to read “may present a three minute, sworn statement. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

T. Rosine **moved** to approve the procedures, with aforementioned changes. Motion was **seconded** and passed unanimously.

M. Foster informed the Board that TOHR will send out a mission statement amendment to better align with Mayor Castor’s mission statement. J. Perry moved to table the discussion for another meeting. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Frey asked M. Foster what Board outreach looks like from his point of view. A discussion ensued, acknowledging that knowledge beforehand of events is vital to successfully conduct outreach. M. Foster stated that HUD has funding for outreach, so acting on it is important. Social media, pamphlets, and advertising are some ways to find success with outreach. M. Foster informed the Board that TOHR will update the pamphlets. T. Cole mentioned having shirts identifying them as Human Rights Board members, or simply “City of Tampa, Office of Human Rights” would be great to help citizens identify them at events, stating that she often wears her Hillsborough County Human Rights Board T-shirt to events. M. Foster said he will look into the budget to see if we can get T-shirts made.

T. Rosine brought up televising the Board meetings. Discussion was had on whether to televise. Sensitivity of cases, and the possibility of citizens feeling too visible might prevent them from coming forward or speaking frankly. No motion was made.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

T. Rosine reminded all that June was Pride Month.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 6, 9:00 AM, at City Council Chambers.**

ADJOURNMENT

B. Frey **moved** to adjourn, motion was **seconded**, and passed unanimously.

Board adjourned at 10:27.

Respectfully Submitted,

C. Calder
Secretary