



**Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission  
February 18, 2016  
Central Library, Milwaukee WI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

**Commissioners: Jason Rae, Rob Smith, Supreme Moore, Martha Love, Rev. Willie Brisco, Lukischa Ramos, and County Executive's Representative. Nate Holt**

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair Rae at 3:41 p.m.
2. Group welcomed new Commissioner Rob Smith and went around and introduced everyone.
3. Chair's Report: The website is live and with Danielle's help, we will continue to expand it and the presence. Also reported on our MATC resolution that was passed and sent to the County Board. Commissioner Moore reported that legislation on the issue passed by IGR Committee and County Board, now with the County Executive. Nate Holton reported there are 3 re-ups coming to the MATC Board (Ali, Wilson, & Perez). Commission expressed interest in providing feedback on candidates.
4. Update on Office of African American Affairs (Holton) – Provided overview Report and First Phase Action Plan from Executive's Office.
  - a. 300k to start Office, Grant Writer Position, and 1 million stimulus (based on land sales), awaiting funding. Next steps: Workforce development mapping, public meeting
  - b. Martha Love- Question re average wage that Milwaukee County EE's are making, entry level... to be followed up on.
  - c. Will be on agenda of Finance Committee (open meeting) in March 2016, was delayed to allow breathing room, community to weigh in, some issues over where office will be located.
5. Strategic Planning 2016
  - a. Commissioners began discussing topics for consideration in 2016.
  - b. Commissioner Brisco raised issues of racial inequity, systemic racism, sacred conversations as potential focus
  - c. Commissioner Love discussed Evenwel v. Abbott SCOTUS Case, re redistricting & voter eligibility, could lead to serious minority disenfranchisement. Commissioner Love has paperwork to share on state-wide impact. Believes this should be part of our focus.
  - d. Commissioner Rae suggested that voter participation/education regarding democracy- who has rights, what changes are coming, voter ID laws as a Commission focus.
  - e. Commissioner Smith would like to see Commission working to change narrative re: what are Human Rights issues, pushing a broader agenda and



educating/elevating a discourse that positions certain issues as Human Rights issues, i.e. voter disenfranchisement.

- f. Chair Rae suggested a Democracy Event/Summit, which could bring people together:
  - i. Discussion followed on whether one event is enough, should we use Freedom Day as catalyst, moving to event in Summer, and some push closer to November.
  - ii. Commissioner Bailey suggested that we envelop community human rights issues within a campaign to promote civic duty and awareness, including voter engagement.
  - iii. Commissioner Moore: Civic duty doesn't end with a vote. Wants to make sure that we emphasize that point as well.
  - iv. Chair Rae will do some work and follow up with the Commission soon.
6. Additional Items
  - a. Website Updates - Commissioner Bailey & Chair Rae to work on revisions to the Commission's website to include headshots, biographies, and more.
7. Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.