



HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION

TROY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 6:15 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 S. Market Street

AGENDA

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | S. Holycross |
| II. | Roll Call | K. Feltner |
| III. | Approval of May 18, 2023 Minutes | motion/second/roll call vote |
| IV. | Approval of Revised Operating Guidelines | motion/second/roll call vote |
| V. | Date & Time of Mandatory Meeting (first quarter of 2024) | S. Holycross |
| VI. | 2023 Projects | S. Holycross |
| | a. Ohio Historical Marker Update | |
| | b. Approval of African-American Historical Sites Brochure | motion/second/roll call vote |
| VII. | Commission Member Comments | |
| VIII. | Public Comments | |
| IX. | Adjourn | |

Next Meeting: TBD

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Feltner, Holycross, Keller, Major, Severt.

Presiding Officer: Chairperson Sonia Holycross

Others Attending: City Staff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:16 p.m. by the Chairperson's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Feltner, seconded by Mr. Major, the March 16, 2023 minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

2023 PROJECTS UPDATE: Regarding the Ohio Historical Marker application, Ms. Holycross stated that the application had been submitted and the Commission would be notified on the progress. As for the map of the sites related to the local African-American history, the information included in the HRC's May 18, 2023 meeting packet has been obtained from the Troy History Museum and the Troy Local History Library, and the City staff is working on drafting a brochure with the map and information on each site. The Commission also discussed creating a website where this information would be placed, and also creating an audio guide.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Severt noted that the Juneteenth event planning process was in the final stage, the last planning meeting was scheduled for May 23, Juneteenth posters had been delivered to downtown businesses, and the door hangers would be distributed in the neighborhoods around McKaig & Race Park on June 10.

Mr. Feltner shared data of suicide rates in the United States, Ohio and Miami County, and added that it should be discussed what the HRC can do to raise awareness about Mental Health in the community, and if working with the Troy City Schools can be an option to help establish a student group who will help with the positive mental health initiatives. Ms. Holycross mentioned that the Commission is an advisory board and advising Mayor regarding the subject can be discussed.

In response to Mr. Major's request, Chief McKinney explained Troy Police Department's vision and mission statement update process; mentioned how Troy Police Department handles calls related to suicide; how great of a resource Tri-County Mental Health is; that suicide calls are down by 4% in the city limits; and added that Troy High School SRO will be incorporating in the curriculum police interaction class put together by the State Government.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were provided.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



OPERATING GUIDELINES

ARTICLE I - Name

The commission shall be known as the Troy Human Relations Commission, hereinafter referred to as 'HRC.'

ARTICLE II – Duties and Purpose

Pursuant to Chapter 135 of the “Codified Ordinances of Troy, Ohio,” the HRC shall be an advisory board of City of Troy (henceforth, ‘City’) residents and stakeholders. The goal of the HRC shall be to promote inter-group relationships within the City, including but not limited to those relationships which involve age, race, physical or mental handicaps, poverty or sex as a basis for distinction. Activities of the HRC to achieve that goal may include:

- a) Researching current opportunities to enhance inter-group relationships within the City, including but not limited to those relationships which involve age, race, physical or mental handicaps, poverty or sex as a basis for distinction.
- b) Advising and cooperating with the Mayor, Council, and Public Service and Safety Director with respect to any potential issues which have bearing on the community involving prejudicial practices or incidents based on age, race, physical or mental handicap, poverty, or gender.
- c) Enlisting the cooperation of governmental agencies, as well as all racial, religious, ethnic, educational, business, community, civic, labor, fraternal and benevolent groups, associations and societies and all constructive community forces and talents to abate unfair practices and,
- d) Monitoring along with the City administration the resolution of any complaints related to discrimination based on age, disability, poverty, race, and gender. Monitoring shall mean ensuring that all complaints are forwarded to the appropriate governmental body for investigation, recognizing that the conclusion of said investigation may be confidential.

ARTICLE III – Members

The HRC shall be governed solely by its members, with business conducted by a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. Members shall consist of between ~~five~~ (5) and nine (9) members as appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Troy City Council. All members shall be residents of the city and/or within the Troy City School District.

The Mayor shall automatically remove a member ~~shall be automatically removed~~

~~by the Mayor from the HRC if he or she, has three (3) unexcused absences within one year twelve (12) consecutive months, has three (3) unexcused absences, or six (6) unexcused absences within his or her a term, on the Commission (6) unexcused absences from meetings of the HRC, its committee, or a combination thereof. By a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all members, the HRC may excuse a member for just cause, which shall be defined as When some member of the HRC may be unable to attend meetings, by reason of illness, vacation, or absence from the city, or for other reasons, and if the absent member is absent for a just cause, a motion should be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote and entered on the minutes, excusing such member.~~

Additionally, a member may be removed by either the Mayor or by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the HRC members for conduct that is disorderly, detrimental to, or reflects negatively on the duties, objectives and work of the HRC. In such cases listed in this paragraph, no removal shall occur without either the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the HRC members or by the Mayor and until the delinquent member has been notified of the charge against him or her and has had an opportunity to be heard.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

The officers of the HRC shall include a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary. Officers shall hold office for a period of two (2) years, with election occurring at the first meeting in January of each odd year.

No officer shall hold the same position for more than two (2) consecutive terms. A vote of a majority of all members is necessary for election. All elected officers and members shall serve without pay. Vacancies shall be filled by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

The duties of the Chairperson shall be to notify members in accordance with Article V below, develop the HRC meeting agendas and conduct the meetings. The duties of the Vice Chairperson shall be to perform the duties of the Chairperson in his/her absence. The duties of the Secretary shall be to record the minutes of all meetings.

ARTICLE V - Meetings

The HRC shall conduct a mandatory meeting during the first quarter of each calendar year. Other meetings may be called as necessary upon request of the Mayor or two-thirds (2/3) of the members. Any members may initiate a request for a meeting. All meetings of the HRC shall be public and ~~regular meetings~~ shall be conducted at a date, time, and place to be determined by the HRC, ~~no less than once every three (3) months, unless specifically cancelled due to lack of business or quorum.~~

Within the first quarter of each calendar year, the HRC shall update the list of initiatives, adding, deleting or modifying said list according to progress, interest, and

completion.

Members shall be notified at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to meetings. ~~Other meetings may be called by the Chairperson or by written request to him/her by a majority of the members for a special meeting. Such petition shall state the purpose of the special meeting requested, suggest the date and the place of the meeting, and shall allow at least five (5) days to notify the membership.~~ For the purpose of conducting business, a quorum shall be defined as fifty one percent (51%) of the voting members. To be counted as 'in attendance', a member may participate in a meeting only by his/her physical presence, unless the Ohio Revised Code provides otherwise.

ARTICLE VI– Voting

Each member in attendance at any meeting shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Except when otherwise provided, all voting in the meetings of the HRC shall be by voice vote unless a roll call is demanded by three or more members. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to approve an action item.

ARTICLE VII – Committees

The HRC may convene ad hoc committees from time to time for the purpose of further discussion and/or consideration of possible recommendations to the HRC regarding proposed initiatives, as well as to report, as deemed necessary by the HRC, on the status of any initiatives so approved by the HRC.

Only a member of the HRC shall be the chairperson of any committee appointed by the HRC. Other committee members shall be appointed by the committee chairperson, subject to approval by the HRC. Committee members may include HRC members or any interested outside parties. All appointments to HRC committees shall be limited to the specific purpose and by mutual agreement of the officers and the appointed committee member.

It shall be the duty of the chairperson or designated secretary of each appointed committee of the HRC to provide written reports of the meetings and progress updates on initiatives to the HRC at least one week prior to the following regular meeting of the Commission. Reports shall cover the work performed and conclusions reached by the committee. The committee members shall approve reports before submitting them to the HRC. In addition, if deemed necessary by the HRC, the committees may give brief oral reports at the Commission's regular meeting.

The HRC may designate a member or members to serve on other boards and committees. A vote of a majority of all members is necessary for the nomination and election of the designee.

ARTICLE VIII – Robert’s Rules of Order

The latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, as of the date of the approval of these Operating Guidelines, shall be followed with respect to any question not herein specifically provided for.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments to Operating Guidelines

The Operating Guidelines may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all voting members provided the amendment has been advertised as an agenda item. An Operating Guidelines review committee may be appointed by the Chairperson at least every two (2) years to review and recommend amendments to the operating guidelines if any amendments are needed. The review committee shall automatically dissolve upon the approval/disapproval of its recommendations by the membership.

ARTICLE X – Acceptance of Operating Guidelines

By signing below, the Chairperson and Secretary of the Troy Human Relations Commission assert that the Operating Guidelines outlined above have been approved and accepted by roll call vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the HRC members.

Chairperson

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Secretary

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



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Chairperson

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Secretary

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Proposed Dates and Times for 2024 Mandatory First Quarter Meeting

- Thursday, January 18, 6:15 p.m.;
- Thursday, February 15, 6:15 p.m.; or
- Thursday, March 21, 6:15 p.m.



July 13, 2023

Sonia Holycross
Troy Human Relations Commission
100 S. Market Street
Troy, OH 45373

RE: OHIO'S BLACK CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS / RIVERSIDE CEMETERY'S CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS Ohio Historical Marker

Dear Sonia:

CONGRATULATIONS! The Ohio History Connection and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation are pleased to report that your application has been selected to receive a grant that will fund the cost of a standard Ohio Historical Marker (up to \$3,765). Any additional expenses accrued for your marker (due to extra text or artwork) will be invoiced to you at the time you sign-off on the final text. This letter will serve both as your confirmation of the Pomeroy funding and your marker's acceptance into our program.

Sometime between November 2023 and November 2024 our staff will be working to review sources and finalize your marker text. We strive to ensure historical accuracy, economy of language, readability, and relevance for readers of your marker today and in the future. While the Ohio History Connection reserves the right to revise the submitted marker text we promise to keep you involved throughout. We will notify you when your marker moves into editorial and you will be given a chance to review changes, answer questions about research, and generally be a part of our process.

Once the final version of your marker text has been mutually agreed upon, you will be asked to sign and date a copy of that text for our records. This is the text that will be submitted to our production company and be placed in your permanent marker file. Please note that you will not be invoiced until we ask you to sign-off on the final text. Marker orders will not be placed until we have a signed final marker text and payment in full.

I see by your application that you hope for a marker dedication on July 18, 2024. We will do our best but please be aware that our production company, Sewah Studios, has been experiencing longer than normal production delays since the pandemic. *Please do not confirm your dedication date until your marker is safely delivered.*

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions in the coming year. We all look forward to working with you to make your Ohio Historical Marker a reality.

Sincerely,

Laura

Laura Russell, Historical Markers Coordinator

12. St. James Church, 702 Sherman Ave.
Formerly St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, St. James Church is the oldest operational congregation serving Troy's African-American community. The church was founded in 1837 by freed slaves, and originally met in a schoolhouse at Main and Oxford Streets. They moved to the present location in 1851.



This 1854 map shows an area on Franklin Street, now Sherman Avenue, labeled "African Church"



Signs at the gazebo in McKaig & Race Park

13. Signs at McKaig & Race Park, 822 McKaig Ave.
In 2022, the City of Troy's Human Relations Commission, with the support of local historians and volunteers, installed two new signs at the gazebo in McKaig & Race Park honoring the accomplishments and contributions of five African-American leaders. The signs discuss the work of Charles R. Ross, a civil rights activist and Troy's first Black City Council member; Perlema W. and Grace L. Sewell, local philanthropists and advocates of racial equality; Charles R. Sharett, Jr., Troy's first Recreation Director and a proponent of fair housing and equality; and Lucille K. Wheat, an activist who promoted diversity hiring and integration in education and housing.

Riverside Cemetery, 101 Riverside Dr.
14. Soldiers Circle, Section 11
Riverside Cemetery opened in 1867, two years after the Civil War ended. More than 20 African-American men who served during the war are buried here, mostly in the "Soldier's Circle." The burials reflected the separation that persisted between the races. The circle is divided between a 'colored half' and a 'white half.' About 3,000 Black men from Ohio fought for the 54th and 55th Massachusetts (Colored) Regiments, challenging prevailing prejudices about the fitness of African-American soldiers at the time.



Riverside Cemetery records

15. Robert Kenney's Grave, Section 7
Robert Kenney, a member of the local African-American community, tragically died while attempting to save five people who were in the Nineveh area at the time of the 1913 flood. In 1914, Kenney, along with a fellow rescuer Raymond Harrison, were posthumously awarded the Carnegie Hero Medal for their bravery. In 2023, the Troy Local History Library, using research by local historian Judy Deeter and funding from several donors, unveiled a grave marker at Robert Kenney's grave, the first to ever be placed there.



Kenney's grave marker, installed in 2023

For more information, visit:

Troy Local History
Library
100 West Main Street

Museum of Troy History
124 East Water Street

TROY
HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION

Troy, Ohio
African-American
Historical Sites

Troy's Underground Railroad Stops

During the era of slavery, the Underground Railroad was a network of routes, places, and people that helped enslaved people in the American South escape to the North. Although Ohio was a free state, laws against assisting runaway slaves from nearby Kentucky and Virginia, and rewards paid by southern slave owners for the return of escaped slaves, made true freedom difficult for formerly enslaved people. This secret system of safe houses passed through West Milton and north through Troy.

1. Asa Mayo House, 11 N. Walnut St.

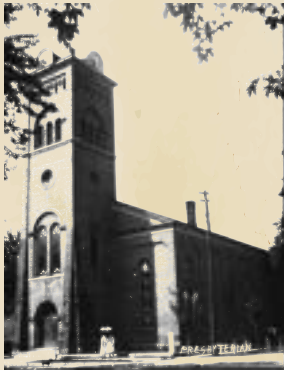


Asa Mayo's house in 1966

This Greek Revival-style house was built in 1841 by Asa Mayo, a prominent merchant. It is rumored that this house, one of the largest of Troy's surviving mansions, served as an Underground Railroad station.

2. Richard Brandiff-Dye-Corner-Gillis House, 210 E. Main St.

Richard Brandriff built the house in 1847. He was a Methodist preacher, a well-known abolitionist, and a druggist, grocer, and dry goods merchant, as well as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. The basement connected to an underground tunnel that led across the street.



First Presbyterian circa 1890



A secret hiding place, discovered behind a false wall

3. First Presbyterian Church, 20 S. Walnut St.

This church was home to many abolitionists and has some of the most definite proof of Underground Railroad activity in Troy, including a tunnel, an inactive pump that was used to pump air into the tunnel, and a hole in the wall along the tunnel that the enslaved people would crawl through. Even after the Civil War, many people did not want to reveal their assistance, so the hiding place created in the basement of the church was hidden behind a false wall and only revealed several years ago.

4. Robert McCurdy

Robert McCurdy immigrated to Troy from Germany in 1824. He was a schoolteacher and a worker on the Underground Railroad. In 1842, he taught in a small building, which stood behind the Presbyterian Church on South Walnut Street, and then, in a private house at South Plum Street located in the rear of 206 West Main Street. Mr. McCurdy was described as a man of broad education and an excellent teacher.

5. McCampbell House, 21-23 W. Water St.

The McCampbell house is believed to have been constructed in the 1840s. John M. McCampbell was a boarding house proprietor, who also operated a tannery and currier business from this house. A room adjoining the cellar was said to be a hiding place for slaves, and Mr. McCampbell is said to have supplied shoes for runaways. Tannery work would have been a common occupation for African-American people and escaped slaves could have passed through the property unnoticed.



The McCampbell house in 1966

6. Tullis Farm, 138 S. Ridge Ave.

This house was once the home of John Tullis, who worked as a merchant, justice of the peace, postmaster, and editor of the Troy Times newspaper. For a time, Mr. Tullis worked as a bookbinder, and had a large wagon built with drawers set in such a way as to leave a hiding place in the center. As he traveled the country, he is believed to have found opportunities to help fugitives escape to Canada.

7. McKaig-Galbreath House, 406 S. Ridge Ave.



The McKaig-Galbreath House in 1966

Sources:

Miami County of Ohio Underground Railroad, Rachel Ann Minnich and Vita Marie Saluke, 2007;
The Mystery of Ohio's Underground Railroads, Wilber Henry Siebert, 1981;
The History of Miami County Ohio, W.H Beers and CO., 1880

Other African-American Historical Sites

8. Canal Repair and Loading Basin, Walnut & Canal Sts.

This intersection sits where a canal basin once stood in the 1800s and where canal boats were repaired and had cargo loaded and unloaded. Freight was carried into and out of warehouses from Cincinnati to Toledo and then to Detroit and Canada. For enslaved people, the only sure way to obtain their freedom was to escape to Canada, and several canal boat captains were active in the Underground Railroad and allowed escapees to hide on their boats. African-American communities along the way provided shelter and instructions.



The Miami-Erie Canal in an 1871 Atlas of Miami County

9. Old Miami County Courthouse, 112-118 W. Main St.

The third Miami County Courthouse was built here in 1841 and served as the county's courtroom until 1888. In the courtroom, individuals caught harboring or aiding enslaved people to evade capture were tried as the federal law of the day said that enslaved people were not people, they were property, and by helping one escape, a person was being deprived of his "property". For said crime, one could be fined or imprisoned, or both.



An 1834 "Manumission of Black Persons"

The courthouse was also used for the registration of African-Americans. During the so-called Black Laws of 1804 and 1807, until their abolition in 1849, any African-Americans entering Ohio were required by law to state their intent to settle in the county of "choice," provide any papers proving their freedom and post a \$500 bond. Additionally, the representative of the Randolph Freed People most likely came to this courthouse to register. The Randolph enslaved people acquired their name from John Randolph, a plantation owner in Charlotte County, Virginia, and a Virginia Congressman. At his death in 1833, he freed his 400 slaves as part of his will. Randolph's brother disputed the will, but after thirteen years of legal battles, the court granted the enslaved people their freedom.



Nineveh in the 1913 flood

10. Nineveh

At the beginning of the 20th century, Nineveh was a predominately African-American community located along the north bank of the Great Miami River, near the current location of the North Market Street Ballfields. Although little is recorded about the community there, several businesses existed at the turn of the century. There exist records of the Cortez Smith Livery Stable, a pool hall, and a temporary ticket office for the Springfield, Troy and Piqua Electric Railway.

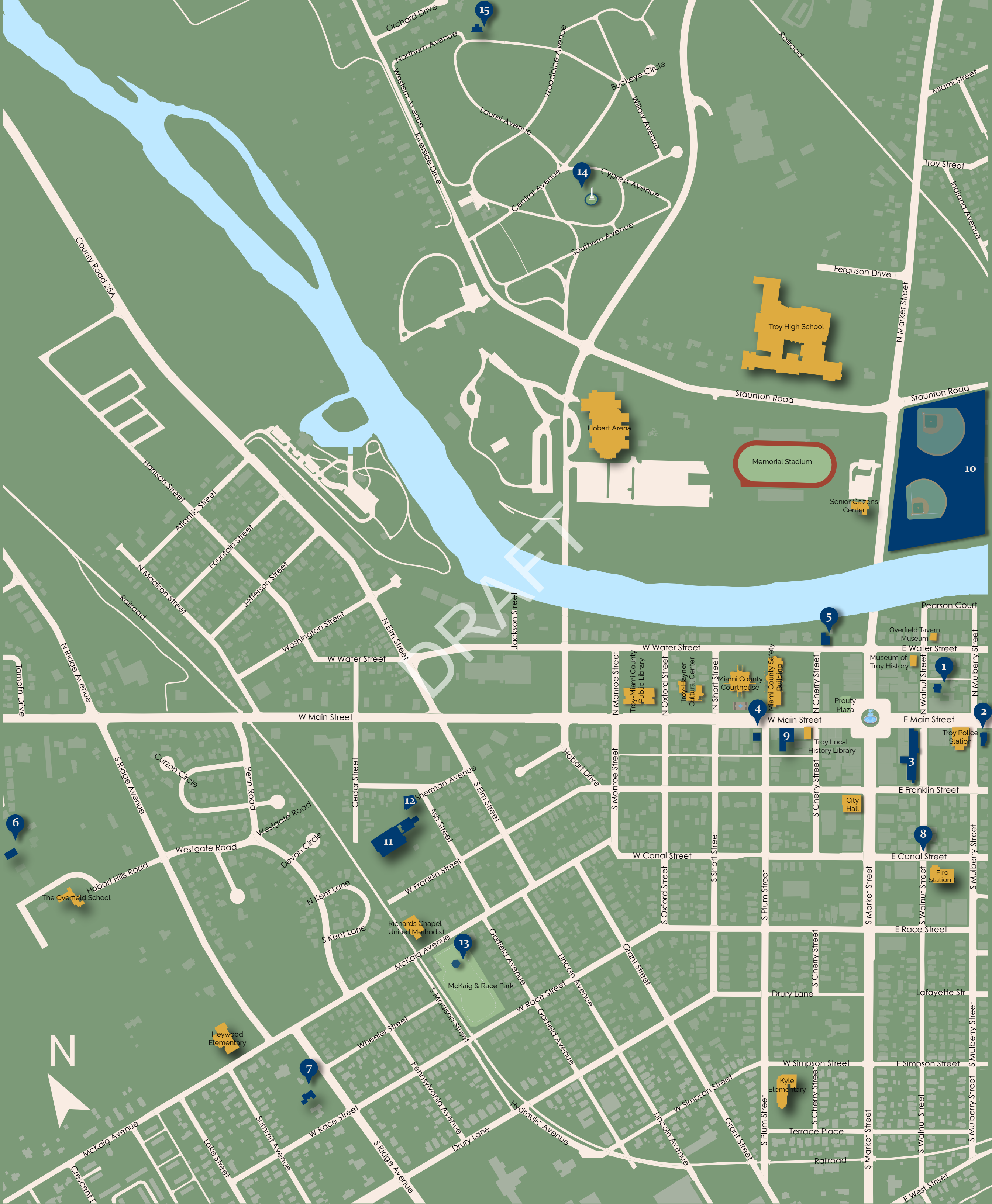
The neighborhood was prone to flooding, forcing people to flee their homes, including during a major flood in March 1898. Fifteen years later, the Great Flood of 1913 destroyed the community, killing five.



The Lincoln School was a one-room schoolhouse attended by African-American students

11. Lincoln Community Center

The Lincoln Community Center is built on the foundation of the Lincoln School, which African-American students attended from 1865 to 1874. After 1874, with the passing of the Arnett Bill by the state legislature, the Board of Education allowed African-American students to attend Edwards School. In 1916, the Miami Athletics, a local semi-pro football team, asked the Board of Education to allow the team to use the building as a dressing room and the grounds as a practice field. In the following year, a group of citizens asked the board to turn the grounds over to the community for a playground and meeting place. Today, the Lincoln Community Center provides opportunities for people of all ages and races to participate in a wide range of programs and athletics.



N



TROY
OHIO



Shawn O. McKinney
Chief of Police

TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

	Previous Month	Present Month
Misdemeanor Arrest	173	101
Felony Arrest	53	27
Number of Calls	1995	1927

# Written	# Paid	Amount Paid
145	98	\$2,760.00

	Miles Driven	Gas Consumed	Average M.P.G.
Patrol Cars	21598	1740.5	12.4
Un-marked Vehicles	6138	403.6	15.2
Total	27736	2144.1	12.9

FORMAL COMPLAINTS:
1

USE OF FORCE:
4

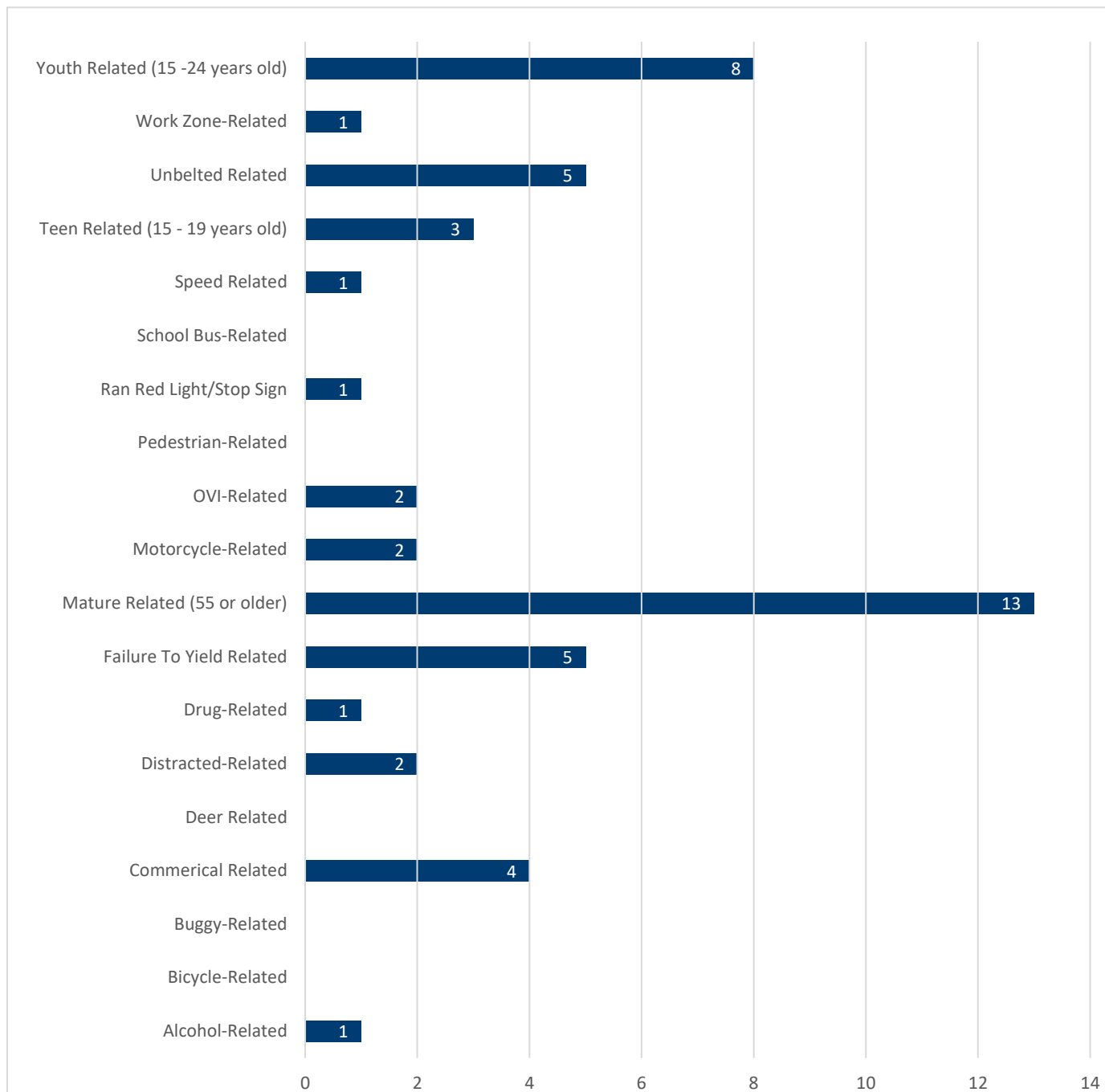
Traffic Stop Demographics			
Race/ Sex	Total Traffic Warning	Total Traffic Citation	% of Warnings
Black Male	30	16	65.2%
Hispanic Male	6	6	50%
White Male	152	56	73%
Black Female	8	4	66.7%
Hispanic Female	6	4	60%
White Female	128	55	69.9%





TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SEPTEMBER 2023 ACCIDENTS AND ANALYSIS

CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCES



SEVERITY OF ACCIDENT	
Minor Injury	3
Injury Possible	2
Property Damage Only	28
Serious Injury Suspected	1
Total	34

DAY OF WEEK						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6	5	3	5	2	3	10

TIME OF DAY				
Time	%		Time	%
12-12:59 AM			12-12:59 PM	8.8
1 - 1:59 AM			1 - 1:59 PM	8.8
2 - 2:59 AM			2 - 2:59 PM	2.9
3 - 3:59 AM			3 - 3:59 PM	11.8
4 - 4:59 AM			4 - 4:59 PM	5.9
5 - 5:59 AM	2.9		5 - 5:59 PM	14.7
6 - 6:59 AM	2.9		6 - 6:59 PM	
7 - 7:59 AM	8.8		7 - 7:59 PM	5.9
8 - 8:59AM	8.8		8 - 8:59PM	2.9
9 - 9:59 AM	2.9		9 - 9:59 PM	
10 - 10:59 AM	2.9		10 - 10:59 PM	
11 - 11:59 AM	8.8		11 - 11:59 PM	



TROY
OHIO



Shawn O. McKinney
Chief of Police

TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT TO COUNCIL

- On September 5, 2023, a 90-year-old female with possible memory issues was reported missing by her family. We entered her license plate number into the Flock System, which then alerted in Huber Heights. Huber Heights PD then located her within an hour and a half of the initial call to our Dispatch.
- On September 5, 2023, an officer used the Flock system to confirm the location of a male suspect who threatened to kill the female victim. The involved parties were previously known to each other and had a long-standing disagreement with each other. The male was charged with aggravated menacing.
- September 22, 2023, after Montgomery County Sheriff's office contacted officers about the crash in their jurisdiction, the Troy officers contacted the owner in Troy. The owner reported the car stolen. Flock cameras were checked and the vehicle was located leaving Troy. The case remains open with no suspects.
- September 27, 2023, Pataskla, Ohio Detectives came to Troy because a vehicle belonging to a subject with several felony warrants for child endangering from Pataskla was observed by our cameras. She was located at a hotel in the area of W. Market St. and I75. Upon her arrest, both drugs and drug paraphernalia were located.

