

MINUTES OF HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

A regular session of the Human Relations Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Villalobos, Holycross, Major, Lewis

Presiding Officer: Chairperson Sonia Holycross

Others Attending: City Staff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting commenced at 6:05 p.m. by the Chairperson's call to order.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Major, May 15, 2025, minutes were approved by the Commission unanimously, having no corrections or additions to these minutes.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting will take place in November, with an exact date to be determined.

BLACK CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING CEREMONY:

Ms. Holycross shared that the historical marker unveiling ceremony was a success and thanked the organizations, staff, and historians involved in the program.

Ms. Holycross mentioned interest in pursuing other historical markers and encouraged citizen involvement in suggesting other figures or locations that may be suitable for commemoration. Ms. Holycross stated that the Miami Valley Veterans Museum is creating a photo wall honoring veterans and honoring first responders, and she encouraged residents to visit and contribute to the project.

NEW INITIATIVES:

Ms. Holycross discussed ways to support the Beloved Community Planning Team, which includes the MLK Walk planning team. The Planning Team will meet on August 26 and has expressed interest in recruiting new members. Ms. Holycross will share minutes from that meeting with the HRC members.

Mr. Major expressed interest in reaching out to pastors to bring interested faith leaders together, as the Council of Churches has been disbanded for some time. Ms. Holycross suggested having a subcommittee meet prior to the next HRC meeting, and Mr. Lewis and Mr. Major agreed to lead that subcommittee.

Ms. Holycross asked citizens interested in joining the HRC to email Mayor Robin Oda or fill out the board application form on the City of Troy website.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joanie Gutermuth of 720 Windsor Road shared interest in serving on a committee to assist with the Beloved Community / faith leader connection projects. She is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. She also thanked the HRC members for highlighting some of the exhibits and services for veterans at the Miami County Veterans' Museum.

Police Chief Shawn McKinney shared data on traffic stops by race in the City of Troy. He said that most officers have been trained on cultural diversity and racial issues through their police academy training, and all officers have received Blue Courage training on community-oriented policing. In addition, the department prohibits racial profiling and other forms of bias-based policing. He also shared information on which offenses can result in a traffic ticket given at the discretion of an officer, and which offenses result in mandatory ticketing. He highlighted individual cases. In May, June, and July 2025, a higher percentage of stops for white males resulted in discretionary tickets compared to Black males.

Mr. Major asked about a mis-timed stoplight on County Road 25A, and Chief McKinney offered to contact the Miami County Engineering Office to discuss the issue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.