



**MAYOR’S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**  
**Minutes**  
 May 13, 2019

Present: Chair Kym Young, Stephan Witherspoon, Jerel Benton, Pat St. Germaine, Rani Gill

Excused: Natasha Lancour

Also Present: Tom Dalbec, DC Sheriff and Jeremy Browen, Carpenters Union

**1. Chair Young opened the meeting.**

**2. Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2019 Meeting.**

Motion by Benton, seconded by Young, to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

Young wanted it noted that her health is declining and it is very important to recruit new members. She is asking each Commission Member to bring forward a name of a perspective member to be considered.

**3. Douglas County Sheriff Dalbec invited to talk about the Jail.**

Witherspoon wanted to share his concerns regarding his visits to the Jail when he visits an inmate. There seems to be no protocol as to how the visits are conducted.

Dalbec advised to get ahold of Leslie Walker, Program Coordinator for the Jail. She will be able to lay the groundwork.

Jerel Benton is a Reverend and needed access to visit and comfort the inmates. Dalbec said that should be no problem.

Another concern from St. Germaine was how women who came in on opiates when they are pregnant dealt with. Dalbec said he would get the correct information and report back.

Douglas County also houses inmates from St. Louis County when they don't have enough space.

**4. Vandalism at Northern Lights School.**

No update. It was noted that there is a teacher of color at this school and hopefully they will start incorporating cultural events in school.

*Council  
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**5. Recommendation on proposal to make MLK day a paid City holiday.**

The Human Resources Committee for the City did not pass the recommendation. It will be brought up again later.

**6. Recommendation by CCC to remove Columbus Day and replace with Indigenous People's Day.**

Motion by Young, seconded by Benton to remove the language. Motion passed.

**7. New Members ?**

Geraldine Castilla Carbonell

Patricia Staine

Benton said he is looking for somebody else from UWS.

The goal is to have 9 members on the Commission.

Jeremy Brown introduced himself. He is a Representative of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. He handed out a Community Benefits Policy Implementation Guide adopted by the City of Duluth. The purpose of this Policy is to generate maximum economic and workforce benefits and also to encourage women and persons of color. They will be considered if they are homeless, custodial single parent, criminal record of conviction, etc. Applicant has to have a good attitude and the willingness to learn on the job. They will need transportation. No action.

**8. Upcoming Training: RAW as facilitators.**

Young mentioned training for the Commissioners. Also initiate training for City employees. School District has one coming up, try and incorporate more people of color. This will be a recommendation to the Mayor.

**9. Any other business.**

Young requested a Proclamation for Juneteenth Day. One will be provided.

**10. Next meeting Monday, June 10, 2019 @ 4:00 pm, in Room #300.**

**11. Adjournment.**

Motion by Witherspoon, seconded by Benton to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rani Gill

Chief of Staff to the Mayor