



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Indiana Civil Rights Commission
Conference Room
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, in person at the Indiana Civil Rights Commission Conference Room, and virtually via Zoom for Government. The meeting was called to order at 10:49am.

Roll Call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Julie McGuire (State Representative), Commissioner (Vice Chair) Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Via Conference: Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Proxy Dept. of Health), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Others in attendance: Gabriel Kramer, Cultural Commissioner Coordinator

Chair Jones established a quorum at 10:53am.

Chair's Report: Chair Jones gave the floor to new Commission member, Julie McGuire (State Representative) so she could introduce herself. The Chair discussed creating a fundraising subcommittee to develop a plan to support commission initiatives. Chair Jones asked for a motion to create a fundraising subcommittee. Commissioner Richard Okello approved the motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Damein Jones. The floor was opened for discussion and Chair Jones addressed **(below in bold)** the following items:

1. How will funding be utilized? **Funding will be utilized to align with the strategic plan.**
2. Do the subcommittee members have to consist of commissioners? **Subcommittee members do not have to be a commissioner.**
3. Is the budget cost based on the strategic plan? **Yes, the budget includes all the programming in the strategic plan.**

Rollcall vote occurred as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner Julie McGuire (A), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Y). The vote passed with seven approvals and one abstention. Participation of the fundraising subcommittee will be discussed further at the October 16, 2024, meeting.

After the vote, Chair Jones asked who would like to participate on the fundraising subcommittee. Commissioner Tori Williams stated that she will serve on the fundraising subcommittee. She followed by stating, she doesn't have fundraising experience but does have grant writing experience and is willing to learn the other skills needed for fundraising.

Commissioner Williams suggested that Erica Sanders, Founder of You Yes You! Project should be a participant on the subcommittee. Commissioner Williams stated, she has fundraising experience and would be a great help to the subcommittee. Also, Commissioner Williams mentioned that she would be willing to contact Ms. Sanders and inquire about her interest. Chair Jones responded, she didn't know if Commissioner Williams was going to call or email Ms. Sanders about her participation on the subcommittee but asked that she be copied if she was going to send an email. Chair Jones followed by saying, that way she can communicate with Ms. Sanders regarding the meeting schedule.

Commissioner Julie McGuire asked if the Commission had a list of organizations that they work with to email and asked if they would be interested in participating in the subcommittee. Chair Jones responded and stated the Commission does have a list and that's a great idea. Commissioner Richard Okello asked Chair Jones is it her preference for the Chairperson that leads the fundraising subcommittee be a commissioner? Chair Jones responded that she did not have preference on the Chairperson for the committee. Gabriel Kramer informed the Commission that Alexis Gonzalez, Director, Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs stated the Chairperson for the subcommittee must be a commissioner.

Under the Chair's Report, Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello provided an update on the grant program informing the Commissioners that the program launched on September 2, and the information was sent in the meeting packet. Commissioner Okello encouraged Commissioners to share the information with their external networks and on social media. Commissioner Okello ended his report stating the grant program closes on November 4. There were no questions following Commissioner Okello's report.

Chair Jones mentioned that if any Commissioner has attended an event and taken a photo(s), please share it with the Commission so it could be posted on the ICSSBM's social media pages and in the annual report. The Chair asked that all photos be sent to Director Virgil Giles.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Vice Chair Okello moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from August 21, 2024. Commissioner Damein Jones approved the August 21, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lamar Sykes. Rollcall vote as follows: Commissioner Damein Jones (Y), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Y), Commissioner Julie McGuire (A), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Y), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Y). The vote passed with seven approvals and one abstention.

Review and Approval of the Financial Report: The August Financial Report was not prepared by the September 18, 2024, meeting. The August Financial Report will be presented at the October 16, 2024, meeting.

Director's Report: Director Virgil Giles mentioned that he has updated the sponsorship packets and will give them to Gabriel Kramer for completion. In addition, Director Giles stated that Gabriel informed him that draft copies will be available next Tuesday (9/24). Director Giles informed the Commissioners that they will receive draft copies of the sponsorship packets for their feedback. There were no questions following Director Giles report.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business: There was no new business addressed.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Kesha Rich announced the Indiana Department of Administration Division of Supplier Diversity on October 11, 2024, will conduct its 16th Annual Business Conference and B2Bold Expo. Commissioner Dave Rozzell updated Commission members on his involvement in the Indianapolis Coalition on Educational Equity.

There being no further business, the September ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 11:24am.