

City of Lansing Human Relations & Community Services Advisory Board Meeting Summary

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Time of Meeting: 5:30 PM
Place of Meeting: Foster Community Center
200 N. Foster, Room 211
Lansing, MI 48912

Attendance: Ron Embry, Sean Gehle; Glenn Lopez, Melissa Horste; Dr. Versey Williams and Dr. Thomas Woods

Staff: Interim Director Delvata Moses, Amy Crank, and Renee Morgan Freeman

Others: Keith Goodwin, OCA

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ron Embry at 5:35 p.m.

Roll Call

A quorum was established with a majority of board members present.

Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Woods moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by M. Horste. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Woods moved to approve the minutes of May 26, 2026. Seconded by M. Horste. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Chair Embry acknowledged Keith Goodwin, and he was asked to introduce himself. Mr. Goodwin is from the Detroit area, attended Cooley Law School and is a new addition to the Office of the City Attorney. Members extended a welcome.

Communications

None

Interim Director's Report

Interim Director Moses announced information on the upcoming Housing Resource Fair, being held on Wednesday, June 24th at Union Missionary Baptist Church. It is a free event hosted by Ingham County and HRCS Housing Ombudsman will conduct the Housing and Tenants Rights session with Legal Services. There will be many resources on hand.

Five of six people from Causeway Bay were transitioned into housing. The sixth person was picked up by their family. The HRCS Critical Services Team worked diligently and aggressively to achieve this accomplishment.

HRCS received three responses to the Street Outreach RFP (Ingham County, Advent House and Essential Blessings). Scoring was conducted by the contract management critical services teams. HRCS is working through the review process and the awardee will be announced soon.

Progress is being made on the two HRCS Advisory Board vacancies. R. Embry and M. Horste are being reappointed. A person is being vetted, and another is going before the City Council Committee on City Operations.

K. Coleman will attend the HRCS Advisory Board July meeting to provide a robust update on NOVA. A Nova Housing (Pods) Initiative Community Update press release was issued on June 11. D. Moses referenced we have contracted with expert consultants who were selected through the city's Sole Source process. They are working on engineering site plans and architectural designs. Meetings are still being held with those involved. HRCS Advisory Board members shared brief comments.

A. Crank provided a Contract Management Team report. The team is writing contracts for the 95 programs to be funded. The process is being conducted earlier, which is attributed to council approving the budget sooner, there are now four contract team members instead of three and the team is trying to proactively complete contracts in advance to accommodate the anticipated workload that will be required for Nova. Grantee training for the FY26_27 awardees will be held in person in September at the Child and Family Charities. General fund application training for the 27_28 grant cycle will be held via Zoom in October.

Chair Embry recognized a later arrival and permitted them to share their two-minute public comment. Mr. Fredrick McLaughlin commented that he would appreciate it if serious action and attention be given to public and affordable housing. Pricing is too high and there is too much local, state and federal taxation. Homeowners, banks, insurance companies, developers, contractors, realtors and pensions are benefiting rather than renters and the poor. Also, the levels of zoning should be addressed.

Chair Embry suggested that Mr. McLaughlin place his concerns in writing and address them to the Lansing City Council.

Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

HRCS Advisory Board Members (6/8): Ronald Embry/Chair (2nd Ward), Sean Gehle (MAL), Melissa Horste/Vice Chair (MAL), Glenn Lopez (1st Ward), Versey Williams (3rd Ward), Thomas Woods (MAL), Vacancy (MAL), Vacancy (4th Ward)

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