

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.
DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019
TIME: 4:00 P.M.

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Mission of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is to promote
a community of harmony and respect for the rights and dignity of all.*

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

Commissioner Ensley, Vice Chair: 3/18 – 3/21
Commissioner Learmont: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Friesen: 3/18 – 3/21
Commissioner Leming-Salisbury: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Erickson: 5/19 – 3/20

Commissioner Schirber: 3/17 – 3/20
Commissioner Turman: 3/19 – 3/20
Commissioner Lopez-Cortez: 3/19 – 3/22
Commissioner Moren, Chair: 3/18 – 3/21

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 31, 2019 Meeting

FINANCIALS:

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

This is an opportunity for anyone from the public to address the Commission with comments, concerns and accolades.

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Indigenous People's Day
- Consider collaborating with and sponsoring "Colored Lines" production.
- Review Commission presentation to Council on August 26th.
- Nibi Walks – Minnesota Humanities Center
-

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss mission statement and review options regarding presentation requests
- Interfaith Discussion

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

ADJOURNMENT:

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Conference Room 2B, Grand Rapids City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Learmont, Schirber, Moren, Lopez-Cortes, Erickson, Turman, Ensley, Friesen, and Leming-Salisbury.

Staff: Lynn DeGrio

Presenter: Ed Horsmann

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Moren called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

SETTING AGENDA:

Requested additions to agenda:

- Discuss attendance policy
- Article from Blandin Foundation

Motion by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury, second by Commissioner Schirber to approve the agenda with additions. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION

Ed Horsmann provided information to the Commissioners regarding Muslims, practices of female genital mutilation, the Quran, Religious Motivation for Violence of Islamic Extremists, and Fast Facts on the Crusades.

The written information provided will be distributed to Commissioners for review and discussion at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Correct spelling of Lopez-Cortes was noted.

Motion by Commissioner Ensley, second by Commissioner Lopez-Cortes to approve minutes for the June 26, 2019 Regular Meeting as amended. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCIALS:

The Commissioners reviewed the financials that were provided in the agenda packet.

Motion by Commissioner Schirber, second by Commissioner Erickson to approve the financials. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ACCOLADES:

Commissioner Schirber noted that he mentors two Native American men and believes that the Bovey Police Department have harassed them. He indicated that he will be contacting the State of Minnesota with a complaint.

CIRCLE OF HEALING:

Commissioner Ensley states that she attended the last meeting and thanks to County Commissioner Burl Ives, they have leads on big grants. He has referred them to John Connolly for a \$50,000 grant that could help pay for the Ball Club playground and basketball court. There is no further update at this time.

BIG VIEW UPDATE:

Commissioner Moren notes summer film series, “America Divided” consisting of eight (8) sessions has continued. There will be an event on September 10, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Proposed Budget for 2020: Members reviewed draft proposal put together by the budget committee. Commission Chair Moren has been asked to attend the City Council Worksession on August 26, 2019 to present budget request and update on commission activities. Following review of draft, it was determined that the 2020 budget request be forwarded to the City Council.

Motion by Commissioner Friesen, second by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury to approve budget for 2020 at \$7,500 and forward recommendation to City Council for consideration.

- 2) Indigenous Peoples Day: Members request a progress report to be made at the next regular meeting on August 28, 2019 with a request for additional funds up to \$1,500.

Commissioner Friesen left at 5:27 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

“Colored Lines” - per Commissioner Lopez-Cortes, the production is in Phase II. This will be brought back to the Commission at the August meeting to vote on an amount. Question was asked whether a contribution could be made for the film company if it is not a non-profit.

Nibi Walks – Minnesota Humanities Center – Doug indicated that attendees must go to the training in August to participate in September.

Motion by Commissioner Leming-Salisbury, second by Commissioner Schirber to sponsor Haven Pride Event in the amount of \$500. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Blandin Foundation Article – Discussion was held on article written by Kathy Annette, President/CEO of the Blandin Foundation.

Attendance Policy: Chair Moren indicated that the attendance at the meetings has not been enforced. Commissioner Lopez-Cortes inquired about an attendance sheet and offered to create one to be used at future meetings.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Discuss possible collaboration and sponsorship with “Colored Lines” production, a community awareness program and possible funding.
- Nibi Walks – Minnesota Humanities Center
- Interfaith Discussion

CALLS/COMPLAINTS/INQUIRIES:

None. Commissioner Leming-Salisbury indicated that she will not be at the next meeting, as she will be in Belgium; however, she would like to Skype.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn DeGrio, Acting Recorder

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING AUGUST 31, 2019**

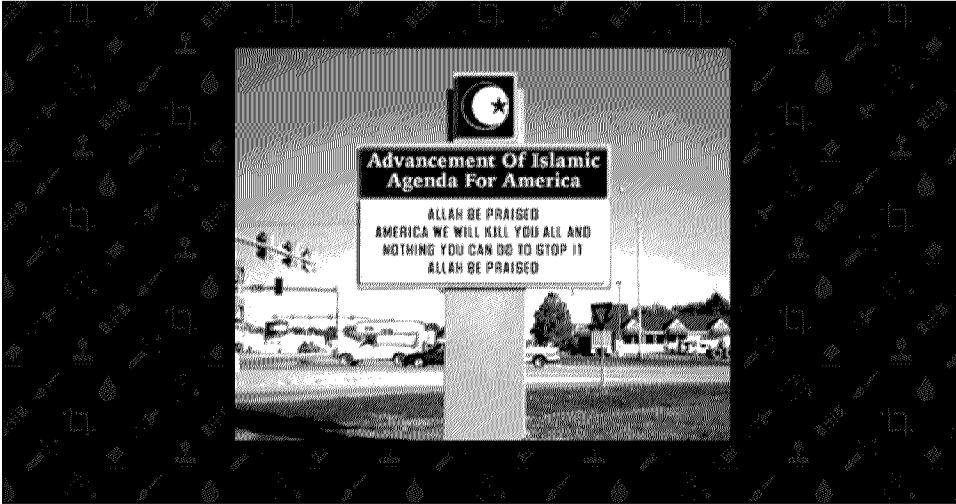
	<u>Actual 8/31/2019</u>
Human Rights Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 5,000
Haven Community Event Sponsorship	500
Indigenous People's Day (encumbered)	500
Big View Events Sponsorship (encumbered)	1000
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
	-
Grants Received	-
Balance Available,	\$ 3,000

‘Advancement of Islamic Agenda for America’ Sign

A photograph seemingly captures a sign bearing an ominous threat from an Islamic group.

DAVID MIKKELSON

- PUBLISHED 21 AUGUST 2014



Claim

A photograph shows a sign bearing an ominous threat from the group "Advancement of Islamic Agenda for America."

Rating



False

Origin

A photograph of an outdoor sign has been identified in social media postings as belonging to a mosque (or some other Islam-associated administrative building) with the cumbersome title of "Advancement of Islamic Agenda for America." The sign advertises to viewers that organization's ominous threat "AMERICA WE WILL KILL YOU ALL AND NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT," bracketed by invocations of the exaltation "ALLAH BE PRAISED":

This photo was posted on Facebook, with a description saying it was a sign outside of a Dearborn Michigan Mosque. I suspect it is a case of hateful photo shopping! Can you verify if this photo is legit?

Neither the sign nor the organization is real, however. The photograph was a fake created using the **Church Sign Maker**, a web site that allowed users to create realistic-looking images of church signs bearing messages of their choosing:

Ever seen those signs in front of churches with the moveable letters? Ever wanted to rearrange the letters to make your own church sign? Well, now you can. Choose a design below, add your text, and a personalized church sign photo will be created for you! Save it, send it to a friend, put on your website, or use it however you like. Enjoy!

Note: these church signs aren't real, they don't exist in the real world. You'll be making a fake photo of a church sign.

In this case the "Advancement of Islamic Agenda for America" sign was clearly an altered version of the Church Sign Maker's "**Classic Design #5**" offering (as indicated by the identical nature of the two signs' sizes, shapes, and background objects in their photos):

