



Human Relations Commission Minutes

December 11, 2025 4:00 PM

Independence Utilities Center
17221 E. 23rd Street S. Conference Room 117
Independence, Missouri 64057

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Helen Hurley called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. Meeting was conducted at the Independence Utilities Center at 17221 E. 23rd Street S. Members present were Chair Helen Hurley, Vice Chair Lupe Moe, Secretary Mara Bradford, Nina -Woodson Falls, Charline Gray and Virginia Hudson. Councilmember Bridget McCandless, and staff liaison John Mayfield and Police Department Liaison Michelle Sumstad were also present

OLD BUSINESS

1. MLK AWARD DISCUSSION

Chair opened the floor to nominations for the MLK Award. Nina Woodson-Falls nominated Mr. Brent Schondelmeyer. Lupe Moe seconded the motion.

The City of Independence has received a nomination from the Independence Rotary Club by Celeste Maddocks. The criteria for the MLK award is for an individual. After discussion Nina-Woodson Falls amended the motion to consider this nomination at the next meeting and to give the Rotary Club the opportunity to nominate an individual. Lupe Moe seconded the motion. Amendment was approved 6-0. Nina Woodson-Falls moved to approve her motion as amended. Lupe Moe seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

Mara Bradford made the motion to authorize city staff to spend \$150 out of the Human Relations Commission budget for the MLK Award. Lupe Moe seconded the motion. Motion

carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. LOOK AHEAD TO 2026

Members discussed upcoming events in 2026 such as Juneteenth. Members discussed how the Independence Square being used as a 2026 World Cup park and ride location may impact this event. Members suggested communicating with the Juneteenth committee on alternative locations and celebrations.

Members discussed the 2026 Skateboard Competition. Members asked City staff to look into having this event on Saturday, September 26, 2026 at Hill Park. City staff will provide an update at a future meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mara Bradford made a motion to adjourn. Lupe Moe seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.