
**Berea Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: August 27, 2025

Location: Randy Stone Room, Berea City Hall

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at **5:59 PM** by **Felecia Ballard**, filling in for Chair **Sharyn Mitchell**.
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II. Roll Call

Present:

- Felecia Ballard
- Susie Harris
- Mim Pride
- Janel Lakes Davenport

Absent:

- Sharyn Mitchell

Welcome to Visitors:

- Alysia Mora – Room in the Inn
 - Melissa Mora and Jose Mora – Parents of Alysia Mora
 - Laurie White – Room in the Inn
 - Charlie Wilton – Treasurer, Room in the Inn
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III. Approval of Minutes

- **July 23, 2025 Minutes** approved.
 - Motion by **Susie Harris**, seconded by **Mim Pride**.
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IV. Treasurer's Report

- Report accepted by **common consent**.

- **Current expenses: \$0.00**
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V. Guest Presentations

A. Alysia Mora – Room in the Inn

- Organization founded in 2019.
- Focus: Providing shelter and meals to unhoused individuals.
- **Season runs from Jan 1 – March 15.**
- Guests are transported nightly from **Union Church** to **Motel 6 (Exit 77)**.
- Services include:
 - Hot meal every evening
 - "To-go" food bags
 - Essential item distributions (donated by the community)
- Needs:
 - Underclothes, small toiletries, rolling suitcases, large outerwear, shoes
 - Donations accepted at Union Church
 - Community encouraged to participate via **Meal Train** (sign-up to provide meals)
- Key Stats:
 - Local housing shortage: **~2,500 units**
 - Nationally unhoused: **~700,000 people**
 - Estimated cost to shelter one individual per night: **\$45–\$50**
 - Minimum wage in Madison County is below the poverty line

B. Michael Herrington – Madison County Tenant's Union

- Was unable to attend the meeting.
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VI. Unfinished Business

1. **John G. Fee & Janice Blythe Awards**
 - Newspaper ad to run on **September 4** and **September 11**.
 - Plan to distribute to local **schools** and **churches**.
2. **Abolish Slavery Resolution**
 - Tabled for next month's meeting.
 - Reference materials are available on the organization's website.
3. **City Hall Conference Room Access**
 - Shawn has arranged a tour for **Tuesday, September 2, at 8:00 AM**.
 - Discussion needed on:
 - Website updates
 - Phone directory issues
 - Clarification of where complaints are routed (currently go to Zinnia)
4. **Community Engagement**

- **Mim Pride** encouraged members to attend local **School Board** and **City Council** meetings to stay informed.
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VII. New Business

- **Janice Blythe Award**
 - Search for a photo of **Janice Blythe**.
 - Identify award recipients for **2019–2023**.
 - **John G. Fee Award**
 - Confirm list of recipients since **2019**.
 - **Planning for October Meeting**
 - Discuss potential guest speakers at **September meeting**.
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VIII. Announcements

- **NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet**
 - **Date:** September 20
 - **Tickets available** from Mim Pride
 - **Telford YMCA Black Achievers Program**
 - **Kickoff Event:** September 27, Farristown Ignite Campus
 - **Fee:** \$50 application (County will cover \$40 for students attending county schools)
 - More information available on the **Telford YMCA** website
 - **Room in the Inn Fundraiser**
 - **Date:** September 13
 - **Location:** First Christian Church
 - **Time:** Begins at 6:00 PM
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IX. Comments

- None
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X. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by **Mim Pride**, seconded by **Susie Harris**.
 - **All in favor.**
 - Meeting adjourned at **6:59 PM**.
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Action Items

- **Send press release** regarding award nominations to **county school counselors**.
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