

Racial & Ethnic Equity Commission  
Draft Minutes of Meeting  
March 16, 2023, 6:00 pm Kenosha County Admin Building

**Committee Members Present:** Elizabeth Garcia, Daniel Gaschke, Brian Thomas, Justin Crosby  
Excused:

Others Present: John Franco, John Poole

6:01 PM

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call** –Commissioner Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

6:01 PM

**2. Review of Minutes-** January 19, 2023: Delayed until next meeting

6:01 PM

**3. Citizens Comments –**

**Megan Gundlock** 1212 Pleasant Prairie- She recognized Elizabeth Garcia and her presence and showing up and it is noticed and appreciated.

**Howard Moon-** 7817 7<sup>th</sup> ave- “Shame on you” he feels the recent appointments are a shame. Recommends the Committee understand they are working for the entire community and they are very disturbed. Strongly suggests turning the nominations over to the NAACP.

**Lydia Spotswood-** 6903 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave- Spoke at EC prior to the action on the report sent by the REEC. No data on mandatory arrests. No data in the report regarding Latinos in criminal justice system. Lack of Latino data is a statewide problem, provided information to County Board members. Would like to change the way we compile data in the form of Latinos, White, Black.

**Marita Huff-** 7939 39<sup>th</sup> Ave- Hands out comments to Commission. Encourages commission to keep going. She explains disparities within life.

6:17 PM

**4. Discussion of Vacancies on REEC-** Supervisor Thomas would like to table everything on the agenda besides Items 5 and 9. Supervisor Gaschke would like to speak about topic 9 as well. Commissioner Crosby would like to talk about the vacancies. He feels it’s disappointing that the members from the beginning are not here still; he feels it is disheartening. He feels like the Commissions future is in the air. Supervisor Gaschke states tomorrow is the deadline for the 3 newest vacancies position to be filled. Commissioner Garcia really hopes the people in the room or that keep coming to the meetings apply for the vacant positions. Supervisor Thomas states that next week’s Executive Committee meeting the 2 newest REEC appointees will be either approved or not. The vacant 2 positions may not be filled until June at the earliest. Potentially, April 5<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting will approve the 2 newest appointed members to REEC.

6:27 PM

**5. Discussion of presentation of REEC Arrest Report to Executive Committee 2/23-** Supervisor Thomas discusses the report for the Commission. Once the Commission has more than 4 members, they would like to review those numbers and reference solely Kenosha County Law Enforcement data in depth. He would like to restore some of the confidence the community needs. Commissioner Garcia would like to revert back to people versus numbers. She states the Commission has done a lot of good work, met a lot of interesting people, and helped a lot of the Community. She would like to report to the Executive Committee the work they have been doing and the meaningful impact they've actually made within the community.

6:37 PM

**6. Discussion of February 8th Listening Session-** Tabling until next meeting

6:37 PM

**7. Discussion of January Housing Summit at Shalom Center-** Commissioner Garcia attended the January Housing Summit and met an individual that applied to be on the Commission. There are 73 documented families within Kenosha that are unhoused. She learned of services outside the City of Kenosha, there's a lot of good work being done out in the County. She would like to have someone from the Sharing Center come to a meeting to discuss the work they are doing for the Community. Kenosha is apart of Chicago Housing market versus Milwaukee. There is not enough housing in Kenosha for the people that need homes.

6:41 PM

**8. Discussion of Housing Strategies and Procedures –** Tabling until next meeting

6:41 PM

**9. Discussion of March 2023 Report to Executive Committee-** Supervisor Thomas states the report should remain very simple and reformulate the data/links within the report. Supervisor Thomas would like to focus on Education as the next topic. He states that kids that are truant, do have assigned Social Workers to provide support for their families. There were 1300 habitually truant kids in High School last year. There are over 50% of chronically absent (1 out of 10 days) kids in Elementary School. Supervisor Gaschke is in agreeance to reformat the last report, but also advise the Executive Committee of the hardships the Commission has faced in the last few months. Supervisor Gaschke, Commissioner Garcia, and Supervisor Thomas will be in attendance at the Executive Committee meeting.

6:48 PM

**10. Kenosha Action Roadmap to Inclusion, Equality & Equity Report-** Tabled until next meeting.

**11. Future Scheduling:** April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

6:50 PM

**12. Adjourn-** Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Peralta**