



**August 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Hooker Conference Room, City Hall
5:00 p.m.**

The Bloomington/Monroe County Human Rights Commission met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026, in the Hooker Conference Room of Showers City Hall.

Commissioners Attending: Sharon Baker, Kathleen Bensberg, Stephen Coover, Lauren Henderson (on Zoom), Amy Jackson, Emma Williams, Lilliana Young.

Staff Attending: BMCHRC Liaison Michael Shermis, BMCHRC Assistant Annabelle Vosmeier, Senior Assistant City Attorney Anna Holmes.

Public Attending: Vivian Akinwekomi.

Call to Order

1. Chair Emma Williams brought the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of July 20, 2026 Meeting

1. Coover moved to approve the minutes from July 20, 2026. Young seconded. Approved by roll call vote, 7-0.

Presentation: Katie Bensberg, Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

1. Commissioner Bensberg gave an informational presentation on the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which guarantees accommodations at work for pregnancy and related medical conditions.

Report from Staff

1. **Pridefest:** Vosmeier will staff Pridefest this Saturday, August 22, as Shermis will be out of town. Commissioners Baker, Bensberg, and Young will volunteer.
2. **United Against Hate Week:** Commissioners discussed potential educational opportunities to host for United Against Hate Week, which will take place in October.
3. **Legal Help:** Community members come to BMCHRC staff with legal issues that would be best served by free legal help or a free legal clinic. In addition to options at Indiana Legal Services, Williams and Henderson will explore what options the law school currently offers.
4. **Commissioner Training:** Holmes told commissioners about mandatory Boards and Commissions training, where they will learn about expectations for their role as well as

meet those serving on other boards and commissions. She encouraged them to sign up for the upcoming round of trainings.

5. **Open Door Law:** Holmes explained that group or reply-all emails between commissioners would be a violation of the Open Door Law. In future, staff will send all material to commissioners as a BCC.

Reports from Commissioners

1. None.

Open Cases

1. Bensberg's race/national origin discrimination in public accommodations case. Received an initial response and sent a follow-up requesting more substantial responses and scheduling interviews.
2. Baker's pregnancy discrimination in employment case. Respondent did not pick up certified mail, so Shermis hand-delivered the affidavit. Awaiting response.

Assignment of New Cases

1. None currently.

Unfinished Business

1. None.

New Business

1. **Rules and Regulations:** Changes to the rules and regulations were mistakenly not voted on several years ago. The rules and regulations now need to be posted on Onboard and thus must be approved. Baker moved to approve the changes, Jackson seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 7-0.
2. **Appointment to Commission on the Status of Black Males:** Vivian Akinwekomi introduced herself and spoke with commissioners about her interest in serving on the CSBM. Jackson moved to appoint. Young seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote, 7-0.

Public Input

1. None.

Adjournment

1. Chair Emma Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.