

City of Bloomington



Commission on the Status of Black Males

Hooker Conference Room #245, at City Hall at Showers Plaza, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington
Indiana on the Second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. In-person and a brief Zoom meeting.

Minutes

Jan 14, 2026

Attendance Key: ✓ Present ✗  Zoom

✓	James Sanders MLK Birthday	✓	Patrick Smith Mayor	✗	Cornelius Wright Human Rights
✗	Siddhu McLeod Council 2025	✗	Diana E. Powell-Opata Council 2025	✗	Tyson Coe
✓	Dhakhir Abdullah Mayor-2025				
	Staff Liaison		Andrew Shannon Safe & Civil City Director		

Quorum: no

1. Call to Order: January 14th, 2025, 5:37pm
 - a. Motion to approve: James
 - b. Second: Diana
 - c. Motion: **Passed**
2. Verify Quorum: yes
3. Request for Additional Agenda Items: no

Approval of November Minutes:

Could not approve the without quorum

Old Business

Andrew Shannon mentioned the upcoming annual report. Though he was meeting with us on Zoom he had physical copies of the previous year's report to peruse through.

4. New Business

a. Public Comments/Guest(s)

i. none

2. Committee Reports

a. Chairperson's Report (James)

i. No report

b. Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow

i. Need to put the call out for it.

1. Reaching out to potential people for nomination

2. James spoke with Aubrey Seader, and the event will be announced at the MLK Birthday Commissions MLK event.

3. Andrew mentioned that we have the online nomination submission link online already

4. Ramir Williams was last year's winner, and he will announce the award recipients this time

c. Black Barbershop Health Initiative (Patrick)

i. No report

ii. Juneteenth is on a Friday in 2026. It is June 12th

d. National Million Father March (Dhakhir)

i. No one is opposed to us having it at Fairview again.

ii. August 5th, 2026

e. Black Male Youth Summit (James)

1. Our date—we moved it to September 17th

2. There is a potential speaker who wishes to submit a proposal; however, it is not sure if he thinks this may be a paid speaking engagement. This needs to be explored.

3. Patrick reached out to Virgil Giles, former Director of the State Chapter of the CSMB through LinkedIn, but at this time there has been no response.
 4. In coming month need to discuss our theme, speakers, and topics,
 5. Reaching out to different vendors for snacks
 6. Cornellius is supposed to get surveys to schools to see what topics we want to talk on
- f. Winter Wonderland (James)
- i. Tabled by James and he said that it will help us to plan earlier to the best chance at securing donations and gifts
 - ii. It was asked if we had chairs (chairman/chairperson) for each event
 1. James plans to chair Winter Wonderland, the Black male Youth Summit but will delegate when he needs
 2. Patrick will chair Black Barbershop Initiative
- City Staff Liaison Report
 - iii. Thursday, September 17th will be the Black Male Youth Summit---the event moved a to a week later but in the same location.
 - iv. Winter Wonderland moved to December 12; a lot of different things are going on during that time.
 - v. The Black history Month Gala is Saturday, Feb 7th at City Hall.
 1. They will showcase the performing Arts, the African American Arts and its three Ensembles will be there as well as the Fairview Elementary Drummers, Divine 9 steppers and more.
 2. The Black Market is Feb 14th.
 3. Last year we presented the annual report by Aprill, we want it completed by then.
 - vi. Shannon brought the Commissions attention to the email I had him forward to the rest of the Commission regarding the IUB MLK Day Celebration.

1. James and Patrick mentioned that they would be present at said event.

vii. Shannon provided an update on the internship partnership between his office and the 21CS program. He mentioned how well the student, Indigo Morrow, was doing in her position. He 21CS for recommending her.

viii. Shannon reminded us that the MLK Birthdate Commission moved their event up to 5:30. This was potential because of the IU championship game.

- Adjournment:
- 6:02