

Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African American Males

Nick Pollock	Robert Johnson	Casey McCormick	W. Faye Moore
Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer-

Revised Minutes of Meeting: May 14, 2025

Called to Order: Commissioner Nick Pollock, Chairman

Present: Nick Pollock, Robert Johnson, Willie Milsap, Faye Moore, Mike Jones, Walter Cox.

Absent Excused Stasi Benning, Kenny Fly, Sr., Pastor Dwayne Hurt, Taylor Tillman,

Absent: Quayla Cooper and Makiyah Smallwood.

Approval of Minutes: No Quorum- Tabled

Treasurer's Report: Beginning and ending balance the same: \$3,370.94

Old Business: A. Commissioner Pollock thanked everyone for filling in while he was working in Canada. He thanked Commissioner Johnson for an awesome job.

B. Commissioner Nick will set-up zoom meeting for next month. Several Commissioners that are absent today could have attended on zoom. He is looking at setting up the next meeting at Access LaPorte TV Studio at NECA/IBEW Technical Institute- 301 E. 8th St, Suite 100, Michigan City.

New Business: 1. Swanson Center presents: "Mental Health in the Black Community" - Speaker: Jennifer Heath Friends of the Swanson Center Director and Esther Stiles, MS – Staff Development/Community Liaison

- A Hand out of the presentation was passed out to everyone to follow along.
- In 2023, Black or African Americans individuals made up 10.3 % of Indiana population and 10.4% in LaPorte County.
- We were given green ribbon pins to wear recognizing May as Mental Health Month.
- Presentation can be watched on www.accesslaportecounty.org –Videos on demand; Michigan Commission on Social Status of African American Males- May14, 2025.
- Brochure on Swanson Center Mental Health Services can be found on: www.swansoncenter.org

Virgil Giles suggested Swanson Center contact the trades and ask if they can do a similar presentation because Construction, Electrical Workers ,etc have mental health issues due to the stress of their work and sometimes do not realize it and take it out on each other and family members.

There were a couple of questions and other remarks.

2. Guest Speaker Virgil Giles, Director , Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males – Indianapolis, Indiana

- Our budget is under the umbrella of Indiana Civil Rights Commission and Hosea Evans is the Director
- State Legislators have concluded the Budget Session and Civil Right Commission received a 5% pay cut. This cut will last for two (2) years.
- The other Commissions that fall under the Civil Rights Commission are: Women’s Commission; Latino Commission; Black Women Commission; Native American
- We are working on the October Annual Conference through the Governor’s Health Initiative. If we want to participate on the panel there is time. At this Conference they open one day for schools to attend. The dates will be announced soon
- Theme of the Conference: Restoring the Village-Advancing Health Initiative for Black Males in Indiana

Virgil Giles contact information: Facebook @ICSBM OR Website: www.in.gov/icssbm or Office: 317-232-2600 Toll Free: (800) 628-2909 Hearing Impaired: (800) 743-3333 or In stragram @ICSSBM

Subcommittee Reports:

Education – None

Health – Pastor Robert Johnson, Chair – Dr. Ransom will be conducting a workshop at Michigan City Police Department tonight at 6:00 pm 1201 E. Michigan Blvd. -

Employment - Willie Milsap, Chair – Handed out information on obtaining a CDL License and you get paid while you train. (2) Aramark –At Indiana State Prison and Westville Correctional Facility starting salary \$18.00 an hour (3) Current Work One Regional Job Listings (4) Application for Michigan City Fire Department

Criminal Justice: No Report

Social Factors: W. Faye Moore, Chair - Juneteenth Celebration is Thursday June 19, 2025. It is a National Holiday and the City of Michigan City is the Host this year and we are a City Commission and should participate. **Noon-5 IS PRIMARILY FOR CHILDREN, BOUNCING TENT; ARTS & CRAFTS; GAMES , ETC AND 5PM-9:30 PM Outdoor Adult Entertainment singers, bands & Food Trucks, etc.**

I will be planning a Social Factor Committee meeting in June, hopefully before our meeting.

Public Comment: Construction being done in Southern Indiana contact Nick at www.ikrocc/training.soul power

THE NEXT MEETING JUNE 11, 2025