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CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
MICHIGAN CITY

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-

Minutes of Meeting: January 8, 2025 - NOON

Location: EEOC Meeting Room City Hall

*approved
McCormick/Johnson*

Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males is to study the social conditions of the state's black male population, develop strategies to remedy or assist in remedying serious adversities, and make recommendations to improve the educational, social, economic, employment, and other circumstances for Hoosiers. The Commission serves policymakers and public interest groups, as well as the media, community organizations and members of the general public.

Called to Order: Commissioner Rodney McCormick, Chairman

Pledge: The pledge was led by Rodney McCormick and said in union

Roll Call: Present: Stasi Benning; Pastor Dennis Carroll; Pastor Dwayne Hurt; Pastor Robert Johnson; Rodney McCormick; Willie Milsap; W. Faye Moore; Nick Pollock; and Council Liaison Joseph Nelson

Absent: Walter "Tony" Cox; Kenny Fly, Sr.; Michael "Mike" Jones; Casey McCormick; Taylor Tillman and Michael "Mike" Walker

Approval of Minutes: Approval of November 2024 minutes. Motion to approved by Commissioner Stasi Benning and seconded by Willie Milsap. Motion passed by all present. There was no quorum for December 2024 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$3,800. Pending the posting of \$4,000 received from the County, Mike Rosenbaum presented the check to SSAAM Commission. Motion to accept treasurer report by Pastor Johnson and seconded by Pastor Dennis Carroll. Call for the vote. Motion carried.

New Business: Election of Officers

President nominations:

Willie Milsap – Declined
Mike Jones (Absent) –

*AR
2/12/25*

Nick Pollock – 7 votes
Johnson – 2 votes

Commissioner Rodney McCormick stepped down and voting continued with Commissioner Nick Pollock as President/Chair

Nominations for Vice-President/Chair

Robert Johnson – There were no other nominations for this position. Commissioner Robert Johnson, Vice-President/Vice Chair.

Nominations for Recording Secretary: - Commissioner Casey McCormick
There were no other nominations from the floor. Vote unanimous.

Nominations for Treasurer – Commissioner W. Faye Moore
There were no other nominations. Vote was unanimous.

New Business continues:

Motion from Commissioner Rodney McCormick for a field trip to see the Chicago Bulls not to exceed \$2,000.00 in 2025. Motion was seconded by Pastor Hurt – discussion and question – What is the date? The Education and Criminal Justice Committee will work on a date for this and all upcoming events and get back to the Commission.
Motion put to a vote- Unanimous.

Motion by Commissioner Rodney McCormick that six revolution basketballs for Martin Luther King Center, not to exceed \$500. Motion seconded by Commissioner Stasi Benning. Discussion.
Motion put to vote- Vote was unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Rodney McCormick to buy uniforms for Middle School Wrestling Team not to exceed \$1,000. And he will add \$100.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Nick Pollock. Discussion. Motion put to vote- Vote was unanimous.
Commissioner Rodney McCormick will send email request from the Wrestling Team Coach.

Education Committee –Commissioner Pastor Dwayne Hurt

Commissioner Rodney McCormick House Bill 1136 is a bill we should look into. This bill will affect Gary Westside School District, Tri Township and others and will dissolve the Gary Westside School District. It also affects other public schools and is opening doors for Charter Schools. (Please review <https://www.accesslaportecounty.org>)

Health: Commissioner Pastor Robert Johnson

Commissioner Robert Johnson has been hired as the Program Director for Minority Health Partners of LaPorte County. Minority Health is revamping and will have more health programs in 2025 for Michigan City, LaPorte City and LaPorte County.

Employment – Commissioner Willie Milsap

- Passed out folders with WorkOne Job Postings from November-Present for Michigan City and surrounding areas, Porter, Chesterton, Valparaiso, etc.

- Nick Pollock –Carpenter’s Union have a huge Solar panel project in Winamac (2) Microsoft data center in LaPorte (3) Amazon data base currently in New Carlisle.
 - All trades need new members.
 - -Commissioner Johnson –they getting ready to tear down KFC and Red Lobster buildings. Possible employment opportunities. Also Big Lots is closing. Michigan Blvd. added ACE Hardware Store in Eastgate Plaza.
- Commissioner Rodney McCormick –Past Mayors and City Council did not hire City residents or make sure City residents were on these construction projects. We have been left out for awhile. We need to stand up for something. We need to work with Michigan City Human Rights Dept. and Code Enforcement Officer. In our Annual Report we need to stress to the City Council to enforce the Hiring Ordinance.
- Commissioner Johnson – You see projects and no Blacks on these projects.
- Commissioner Pollock said he spoke to Mayor and there is a new Code Enforcement Officer and Michigan City to enforce **ALL CODES**. Local Hiring Ordinance needs to be strengthened.
- Commissioner Moore stated Mayor announced at City Council meetings last night she is scheduling 8 Town Hall meetings asking their Community to voice their opinion and she is revamping the Planning Department.
- Commissioner Robert Johnson –this is very important. No Blacks on the projects going on in Michigan City needs to change. We need a percentage of Blacks.
- Commissioner Rodney McCormick -|We need to do our part. The same people come out to the Town Hall meetings and walk away discouraged because nothing changes.

Commissioner Pollock – There will be a short employment committee meeting after this meeting.

Criminal Justice –Commissioner Taylor Tillman

Commissioner Rodney McCormick I want to thank LaPorte County Council again for the donation of \$4,000 to this Commission. I’m not coming back, but I will work on the sub-committee.

Council Liaison, Joseph Nelson stated that he didn’t agree with putting someone from the County Council on this Commission.

This brought about a ten minute discussion. The outcome of this discussion is for someone else is appointed to this Commission from Michigan City Council that will support the Commission desires and votes. The majority of this Commission voted to include a resident from LaPorte City or County to be appointed in one of the vacant positions that already exists.

Social Factors – Commissioner W. Faye Moore

Our next meeting will be in March 2025 –Date, place & time TBA.

- The Black History Committee has been meeting and the brochure with all events is almost complete and will be emailed to each commissioner. MLK, Jr. Day program will be at HOPE on MLK, Jr. Day, January 20, 2025.

- Juneteenth Celebration on June 19 and Michigan City Event Planner and Park Department will be sponsoring and coordinating this event along with community organizations. Meetings have already begun.

Public Comment

There were three people present. No Comments

Motion to adjourn by Rodney McCormick – Seconded by Faye Moore – Motion Passed

Next regular meeting – February 12, 2025 at Noon