
Commission on the Social Status of Black Males

December 28, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM

Minutes

I. **Welcome and Introduction**

- a. **Members:** Rep. Ford, Rep. Smith, Commissioner Brandon Johnson, Dr. Stanley Howard, Mayor Richard Irvin, Aaron Mallory, Dawson Pickens, Hubert Harrington, Alderman Anthony Smith, Congressman Danny Davis, Revin Fellows.
- b. **DCFS:** Alexa Koziol, Kara Hamilton.

II. **Discussion:**

- a. **Introductions of members not present at the first meeting**
 - i. Revin Fellows
 - ii. Congressman Danny Davis
 - iii. Alderman Anthony Smith

III. **Discussion:**

- a. **Review and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**
 - i. No changes were made to the minutes from the previous meeting.

IV. **Discussion:**

- a. **Resolution review**
 - i. Dawson Pickens reviewed HR 390.

V. **Discussion:**

- a. **Suggestions and feedback from members.**
 - i. Mayor Irvin: Announced that he was appointed as Chief Commissioner during at the previous meeting and introduced Clayton Muhammad.
 - ii. Clayton Muhammad: Presented a slide show to the members of the commission creating a foundation for the commission.
 - **Research and Recommendations Grid:** Focus Areas: Education, Economic/Employment, Mental Health, Physical Health, Criminal Justice, Faith & Values, Social Factors (broken into age categories).
 - iii. Mayor Irvin: Asked members to provide feedback to the research and recommendations grid.
 - iv. Congressman Davis: Stated that the commission needs to figure out where to start. Believes that if the commission can come up with something to get started in many of the areas of the state, it will grow if we start the activity – something with an age group or group of boys in each area of the state and see how everything comes together. The earlier the group can start in terms of working with young people is important. The earlier the better.
 - v. Rep. Ford: Suggested an action focus group.
 1. Mayor Irvin: agrees it would be a good idea to break into separate groups.
 - vi. Mayor Irvin: Opened the conversation up to the group to discuss the categories suggested.
 1. Education.
 2. Social Factors.
 3. Economics/Financial:

- a. Congressman Davis: Believes this would be a great place to look into two separate groups that started financial groups in the community.
 - 4. Criminal Justice.
 - 5. Physical Health.
 - 6. Mental Health:
 - a. Rep Ford believes these categories should be separate. Aaron Mallory believes the two categories should be separate.
 - b. Dr. Howard believes we should not look at the categories because they are interlocking and connected.
 - 7. Faith & Values:
 - a. Congressman Davis and Rep. Ford believe the commission should this category to the focus area list.
 - b. Revin Fellows believes the commission should look for young men to bring into the church.
- vii. Mayor Irvin opened up the conversation for further suggestions on focus areas.
 - 1. Intergenerational gap was suggested as another category. Each category is broken down by age group so that would not be a necessary separate category.

VI. Discussion:

a. Age Categories/Research and Recommendations Grid

- i. Clayton Muhammad/Mayor Irvin: the goal should be to take the grid with the seven categories broken down by age groups and turn it over to local task forces and other municipalities.
- ii. Rein Fellows: discussed a model created by a National Father's Movement. A blueprint was sent to all the male groups in the state of Illinois that they could use as a standard to use in their meetings and focus groups. The model will be shared with the group.
- iii. A commissioner believes that the commission should look for the experts in each of the categories the commission will focus on. Other commissioners agreed with this proposal.
 - 1. Next steps on bringing the experts in. The commission will first have to confirm the focus areas and foundation and then begin reaching out to the experts within and outside of the commission.

VII. Discussion:

a. First Quarter Timeline and Inaugural Media Briefing

- i. It was suggested the commission sets up the first press briefing near Martin Luther King Jr. Day. January 15th.
- ii. February is when the commission should begin forming and reaching out to task forces in the state.
- iii. The next meeting should be set for January 7th from 10-11:30AM.
- iv. Resolution amendments. The amended resolution should be sent to Alexa Koziol to be sent to the LRB before the first of the first press briefing.

- v. Dr. Howard would like to make sure the commission looks at reports put together by other commissions.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: January 7th, 2021