



LEHIGH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
(LCHRC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 11, 2024

The meeting of the LCHRC was held at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom video conference. A recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Human-Relations-Commission>.

**ATTENDING**

Angela Baio (AB), Amy Beck (AmB), Michael Blichar Jr. (MB), Liz Bradbury (LB), Tony Branco (TB), Andrew Gildner (AG), Guillermo Lopez Jr. (GL), Joyce Moore (JM), Luis A. Perez Jr. (LP), Pas Simpson (PS), Tony Swartz (TS) and Carmen Bell (CB) ex-officio non-voting advisor

Also in attendance representing Lehigh County: Catherine Roseberry (CR), Assistant Solicitor

County Staff: Absent: Frank Kane (FK) and Cyndi King (CK)

Public: None

**ABSENT** – Joanna Armstrong (JA), Christopher Raad (CR)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Call to order at 6:02 p.m. by LB.

Roll call by LB.

Announcement that the meeting is recorded for public record by LB. LB reminded the Commissioners they must turn their cameras on when there is a vote. Quorum is present.

LB called for review and approval of minutes from November 12, 2024 meeting. No questions or concerns; motion for approval by GL, seconded by PS. Unanimous voice approval to approve and accept the minutes.

No public present for comment on non-agenda items.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Complaint Form**

LB initiated a change of location for the LCHRC page within the County's website. It can now be found at lehighcounty.org under the "Community" tab and next on its own drop down "Human Relations Commission" which links back to the original site under the "Departments" tab and a Section Link entitled "Human Relations Commission." Much easier for the public to locate.

LB discussed the complaint form with a member of the County's Information Technology (IT) Department who stated that LCHRC could "easily" have a fillable form which could be filled out online and submitted directly to an email alias which would then come directly to LB, as the Chair, and LP, as the Vice-Chair and FK as the County's intake designee. IT will further discuss among itself how to best structure these complaint emails.

### **Update on Ordinance amendment**

Now that The Lehigh County Human Relations Ordinance is law, Pennsylvania state law requires that municipalities within the County which have similar laws but with lesser coverage, such as one-third of Bethlehem and the entirety of Allentown, will have enhanced [protections] to include the additional coverage and language within the Lehigh County Ordinance. Bethlehem City Council and Allentown City council will have, moving forward fifteen months from June 10, 2024, to vote on whether to continue having their Human Relations law run on its original language or to simply allow the time to run out and therefore have their respective municipals areas governed by Ordinances 2024-106 and 2024-138. If those two councils vote not to accept Lehigh County's ordinance, their municipality would then remain governed by their Human Relations law.

All municipalities were sent an email containing Ordinance 2024-106. LB will send email to remind them, as the August 2025 date draws nearer, that they may want to meet to decide how they want to proceed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Training**

LB wants to do trainings about this law.

Allentown Human Relations Commission would like trainings on how to investigate instances of complaints. LB will create a PowerPoint-style training for this matter by the end of January 2025.

The Commission will also create a PowerPoint to explain The Lehigh County Human Relations Ordinance and what it does to businesses and municipalities located within Lehigh County.

LB is asking for volunteers to assist by adding to the skeleton of the training she creates and then polishing it up making certain that all aspects are clear. She would like this prepared by the beginning of January after which it will be reviewed by Law. 1/3, 1/6/ or 1/7 are available evenings to volunteer via Zoom. LP and CB volunteered.

### **Logo**

The Commission needs its own logo. LB suggested calling in the public such as schools or the entire community or just the Commission to submit possible logos. LB asked for discussion. JM agreed that it is wonderful outreach to have a contest or to invite people from the community. She added, "What better way to let people know that [the Commission] exists?" TS asked what direction the Commission would provide if it offered a contest? LB offered to show logos [created for and used by other communities]. TS asked whether the logo would represent a particular statement or a philosophy? LB replied, "No. It would just be The Lehigh County Human Relations Commission logo. But [it] could also demonstrate Equality. We would have to make that decision based on the people who present the logo." Discussion ensued. GL sent the group a logo which LB described as having "ribbons with three different colors in it and "Lehigh County Human Relations" in the shape of the state of Pennsylvania. AB suggested a media advisory be sent if the contest is opened up to Lehigh County schools. LB reinforced that no one will be paid to create the logo. It will be a prestigious reward to have been the creator of [The Lehigh County Human Relations Commission's] logo. LB asked for volunteers to spearhead an outreach committee. LP volunteered as Co-Chair such committee. MB volunteered and CR was volunteered.

## **CLOSING AGENDA ITEMS**

**Citizens Input (on Non-Agenda items) - none**

### **LCHRC Announcements**

LB attended the United Way Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley event which CB lead last month. CB spoke briefly about Age-Friendly L.V. being in its second year of a three-year progress report involving Lehigh and Northampton Counties which included public input on items and topics which need to be improved upon to further increase the age-friendliness of our areas. An AARP speaker spoke about aspects of age-friendly communities and goals to achieving positive results. The PA Department of Aging had two speakers who spoke about Pennsylvania as an age-friendly state. CB helped to write the application and the letter of commitment which awaits the Governor's signature to become official. Outreach is being conducted to determine whether other communities across the Commonwealth want to join this network. An Olympic athlete provided a powerful inspirational moment highlighting the importance of persevering which reinforced the Age-Friendly initiative of creating the community [where] you want to live.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

LB called for a motion to adjourn; TB made the motion. LP seconded that motion. Unanimous voice approval. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. King