Minutes of the Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission Meeting on March 14, 2019, 4:30 PM at Municipal Services Center, 1551 E. Martin Luther King Pkway, Des Moines, IA 50315.

Commissioners present: Kameron Middlebrooks, Veronica Ouya
Commissioners absent: Emily Shields, Claudia Schabel, Izaah Knox, Rachelle Hunt Russian, Vinh Nguyen
NO QUORUM PRESENT
Staff present: Doug Philiph, Joshua Barr, Monserrat Iñiguez, Manisha Paudel
Visitors present: Kevin Marken

Knox called the meeting to order at 4:39pm. Ouya took roll.

Approval of Minutes –
January 10, 2019 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes – No Quorum. Moved to next meeting.
February 20, 2019 Joint Commission Meeting Minutes – No Quorum. Moved to next meeting.

Presentation of Award – Middlebrooks presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Daniel Garza in recognition of his contribution and service to the Commission over the past 7 years, as well as his lifelong advocacy for worker and union rights.

Committee Reports –

Officers Report: No report. Moved to next meeting.

Financial Committee Report: No report. Moved to next meeting.

Education, Employment, Public Relations Committee: No report. Moved to next meeting.

Director’s Report: No report. Moved to next meeting.

Equity Report: No report. Moved to next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS-

Symposium: Barr reported that symposium registration closed with 670 registered attendees, but are expecting about 700. Barr added that registration at the door would be available for a $30 fee. Middlebrooks and Ouya stated they would be present at the Symposium throughout the day beginning at 7:30 and 8:30, respectively.
Bridging the Gap: Barr reported he had a meeting with Legal regarding Lawful Source of Income (LSOI) as a protected class, adding that the language may not be ready by the March 25th council meeting. There will be a follow-up meeting in April to continue the conversation, adding that there was concern expressed over running LSOI during funnel season, and the current strategy would be to wait until May. There will be an update at the March 25 morning workshop regarding police complaints, LSOI, Ladder Up, and training for all city staff. Barr added that the CMO wanted to comprise a committee to determine what the Ladder Up program would look like.

RIAS: Barr stated that the group met in February to discuss next steps.

LGBTAC: Barr stated that the group will meet March 27 to discuss their involvement post Bridging the Gap and the expansion of the group to be more inclusive, specifically in race and color.

Public Comment: Kevin Marken shared he was pleasantly surprised by the recommendations present to city council, and would like to be informed of any pushback so that the community can support. He also supports having police department and city staff living in the city.

Barr introduced Holly Clark, the Economic Equity Coordinator VISTA. Holly is originally from Des Moines, and served a previous VISTA term with Refugee Rise. This is her second VISTA term.

Activities: Ouya shared she is involved with a financial coaching training at the United Way. She is looking at ways to simplify the training to take to the community. Middlebrooks shared the Code Red Forum on Mental Health on March 28 at Corinthian Baptist Church. It will be led by Kenneth Cameron to spread awareness to the African-American community. It will begin at 6:30, with a 1½ hour panel, 1½ small group discussion.

Adjourn: Meeting closed at 5:09 pm.