

Minutes of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission

Special Meeting

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

831 Hilyard Robinson Way

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Meeting called to order at 4:34pm by Commissioner Smith

ROLL CALL:

- Commissioner Azzaro Present
- Commissioner Brown Present
- Commissioner Frankenhauser Absent
- Commissioner Palmer Absent
- Commissioner Smith Present

Others present:

- Executive Director/CEO Z. Fosler
- Tarah Hearn, YHC
- Lois Richardson, Mayor
- Co-Owners of Security Contractor to YHC Properties
- Lisa League, KMG Prestige
- Patricia Gaston, KMG Prestige

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: R. Smith asked if there were any changes to be made to the agenda. L. Brown moved to approve the agenda as written, second by Y. Azzaro.

Motion passed 3-0

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discussion of Public Concerns about Contracted Security Service:** Y. Azzaro stated that she thanks representatives from the contracted security service for YHC properties for attending this meeting and she looks forward to getting to know each other to encourage positive change within the community. The owner of the security company stated that the Facebook post in question was in no way meant to be offensive and the goal of his company is to serve the community. Z. Fosler asked the owner if he acknowledges how the post can be interpreted as offensive. The owner stated that he does now recognize how the post can be interpreted that way. L. Brown stated that it is very problematic for any organization with perceived racist affiliations to serve within the Parkridge community. R. Smith asked if the owner and staff of the security contractor would be willing to participate in a cultural sensitivity training. The owner stated that he and his staff are willing to participate. Z. Fosler stated that he appreciates that the owner is taking accountability for this issue. The owner's business partner stated that he has known the owner as a business partner for 13 years and has never known him to be racist or prejudice.
- **Resolution #20-04 A Resolution of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission:** The board reviewed and discussed Resolution #20-04 concerning the issue above. Mayor Richardson asked what the purpose of the resolution is and if there are any action steps that she can take back to the community. R. Smith stated that the purpose of the resolution is to acknowledge the incident that has occurred and to state the Ypsilanti Housing Commission's stance on the incident and communicate our values. Mayor Richardson stated that the owner of the security company should post an apology on his Facebook page. Z. Fosler and R. Smith stated that the board cannot mandate such an action. R. Smith suggested that a cultural sensitivity training be identified within 30 days. The owner stated that he agrees to this request. Y. Azzaro stated that the training should be opened to other community members if the YHC is covering the cost. The owner of the security company also offered to participate in a community meeting along with his staff to allow residents an opportunity to voice any concerns

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that may have and to further engage with residents. The YHC board and Z. Fosler agreed that this would be a good step to take. Further discussion ensued.

Resolution 20-04 passed 3-0

ADJOURN: Y. Azzaro moved to adjourn, second by R. Smith. **Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Ypsilanti Housing Commission and its Board of Commissioners, of the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan, hereby authorize the Executive Director to sign the approved Board of Commissioners minutes of July 7, 2021.

	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT
Commissioner Azzaro	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Brown	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Frankenhauser	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Palmer	_____	_____	_____
Commissioner Smith	_____	_____	_____

Zachary D. Fosler, Executive Director