



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes - Final

EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSION

TONY SNELL RODRIGUEZ, CHAIR

ELLE HALO, VICE-CHAIR

*Jessica Boling, William Crowley, Nathan Guequierre,
Jacqueline Cook, Paul Smith, Alexandria Staubach,
Alexander Kostal and Denise Manjarrez-Renteria*

Staffing: Ramona Ramos

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

4:00 PM

Room 301-A, City Hall

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Snell Rodriguez at 4:03 PM

2. Roll Call

Present 10 - Snell Rodriguez, Guequierre, Crowley, Boling, Cook, Smith, Halo, Staubach, Kostal and Manjarrez-Renteria

3. Welcome from Chair

*Thanks to community
Recognition of Black History Month*

4. Public Testimony – Hearing on Housing Discrimination

Presentation – Milwaukee Metropolitan Fair Housing Council

Presenters:

*Megan Wanke – Senior Administrator, Program Services
Stephanie Ebbens – Senior Administrator, Inclusive Communities Program*

Highlights:

*64% of voucher holders concentrated in a few North Side ZIP codes
Only 17% of voucher holders in low-poverty areas
Patterns driven primarily by landlord acceptance, not housing supply
Map data: each dot represents 50 families*

Key Points:

*Historic policies combined with current rental practices continue to produce inequities
Voucher discrimination heavily concentrated in North Side ZIP codes
Tenants report poor housing conditions and fear retaliation
Complaint system is unclear and difficult to navigate
Enforcement capacity is limited; legal uncertainty persists*

5. Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)

*Presented by David Getling
Legislative Reference Bureau analysis
Comparison with other cities
Overview of source of income protections*

6. Approval of Previous Minutes

*Motion: Commissioner Staubach
Second: Commissioner Crowley
January minutes approved*

7. Public Speakers (In Person)

- 1. Katravia Lee
 - *Joined by Stephanie Ebbens (Fair Housing Council)**
- 2. Attorney Nick Toman (Legal Aid Society)
 - *Joined by Alderwoman; Megan Wanke (Fair Housing Council); Sharlen Moore (District 10)**
- 3. Charity Allenwalton
 - *Joined by Stephanie Ebbens (Fair Housing Council)**
- 4. Brittany Schoenick (Legal Action)*
- 5. Niyim Bona (Wisconsin Community Services)*
- 6. Cornelius Sawyer (HACM – RAD Board, Housing Choice Voucher Program)*

8. LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Charge

*Tabled until next 2026 meeting (March)
No objections*

9. ERC 2025 Annual Report

Commission reviewed and approved

10. Committee Communications

Tabled until March 2026 meeting

11. Staff Communications

Tabled until March 2026 meeting

12. Community Announcements

Tabled until March 2026 meeting

13. Closing Discussion & Next Steps

*Next Steps:
Prepare for Common Council engagement
Use hearing data and examples from other cities
Integrate LRB findings into advocacy*

*Follow-Up Actions:
Compile questions for LRB
Share detailed report with commissioners
Small group assigned to continue follow-up work*

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM