



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room D
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room D, and virtually via Zoom for Government. The meeting was called to order at 10:43am.

Roll Call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner Damein Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner (Vice Chair) Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy IDOA), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Correction).

Via Conference: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator, present at 11:01am).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Vaneta Becker (Senator), Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Larry Ervin (Proxy Dept. of Health), Commissioner Julie McGuire (State Representative), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith (State Representative), and Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston).

Others in attendance: Jordan Teske-Harrison, Director, Indiana Commission for Women, Gabriel Kramer, Cultural Commissioner Coordinator, Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC), and Nicole Owens, Director, Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission.

A quorum was not established for the Wednesday, November 13, 2024, ICSSBM meeting and no official business was discussed. Chair Kari Jones provided a recap on the Commission's 2024 accomplishments. Updates were provided on the Grant Program, Fundraising Subcommittee, Indiana Black Barbershop Health Initiative and Legislative Recommendations Workgroup. Director Virgil Giles reported on the ICSSBM Bylaws and Office of Inspector General – Ethics.

Unfinished Business: Commissioner Kesha Rich addressed a question that was presented earlier in a report by Commissioner Tori Williams about inviting Black males to Commission meetings and asked are we active on social media to inform the public or a newsletter. Director Giles informed the Commission that we do have social media and will work with Gabriel Kramer to create a Facebook post.

New Business: There was no new business addressed.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Commissioner Greg Taylor stated that he is preparing for the legislative session and if the Commission has any ideas for legislation besides what is recommended in the annual report, please contact his legislative assistant with ideas. In addition, Commissioner Kesha Rich asked Commissioner Greg Taylor if there are any bills presented that may affect anyone in their area could he please inform the group. Commissioner Kenneth Allen informed the Commission that he no longer serves on the Board of Commissioners for Indiana schools. He further stated that he was elected as Constable for Center Township.

There being no further business, the November ICSSBM Commission meeting concluded at 11:58am.