



LEHIGH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
(LCHRC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 10, 2026

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), Laura Gutierrez (LG), Joyce Moore (JM), Luis A. Perez Jr (LP), Christopher Raad (CR), Julianna Rodrigues (JR), Pas Simpson (PS), and Carmen Bell (CB) ex-officio non-voting advisor

County Staff: Catherine Roseberry (CMR) Assistant Solicitor, Cyndi King (staff) (absent). Samantha Pearson (SP) Director, Community & Economic Development for Lehigh County

**Public: None**

**ABSENT – None**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Call to order at 6:03 p.m. by LB.

Roll call by LB.

LB reminded the Commissioners to turn their cameras on if a vote is being cast. LB expects to have one vote on the floor at the end of this meeting. Quorum is present.

LB turned the floor over to SP who introduced herself as the new Director of

Lehigh County Community & Economic Development. She will continue to join the meetings and is happy to be a part of everything that is being worked on by the Commission.

LB called for review and approval of minutes from February 10, 2026 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by PS, seconded by LP. No opposition; minutes approved.

LB reminded those commissioners who have not submitted their Statements of Financial Interest (SOFI) forms to please fill them out and email them to staff.

LB noted that Commissioner Joanna Armstrong resigned from the LCHRC after the January meeting. She sent a note to the LCHRC saying she supports the work of the Commission and was very positive and honored to have served with the rest of the Commissioners but was resigning effective immediately. LB has been in contact with SP about appointing another person to serve out Joanna's terms which ends July 2026. LB also was in contact with Chairman Geoff Brace from the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and Diana Scholl, Clerk to the BOC, who each acknowledged their need to work on appointing someone new.

Ordinance 2024-106 was translated into Spanish-language version with Georgette Chehoud, Lead Court Interpreter for the County of Lehigh, reviewing the translation prior to posting on the website. Ms. Chehoud wrote in an email to staff, "It was edited and good. [Basically,] three words in two sentences were changed. It was [interpreted and translated into Spanish] very well." So, that translation is up on the website now with the disclaimer, "This Spanish translation is provided for informational and educational purposes only. Please consult the official Lehigh County Ordinance 2024-106 for exact language."

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Human Relations Ordinance Passages Throughout the Area**

Northampton County moved ahead with their countywide ordinance which had its first-read on March 5. LB observed that meeting online. Six people spoke in favor of the ordinance including two Keystone Equality interns who spoke on the topics LB would have presented had she been in-person such as protected classes that go beyond state law which the ordinance now includes; no one spoke against the ordinance. One of the interns addressed the topic that the state has a backlog of 1,700 cases so filing with the state likely means about a two-year wait for a resolution. LCHRC is able to resolve complaints in 1-2 days. The intern also reported that the cost of the Commission over the two-years that the LCHRC has been meeting, with this being the twenty-first meeting, was less than \$150 "which

actually drew gasps from the audience, and not because it was a lot.” That was a very positive thing. Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski spoke in favor of the passage of the ordinance. The next read for Northampton County’s ordinance will be on March 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Northampton County Building in Easton. LB plans to attend and invited other commissioners to attend and support it.

### **Training Update**

LB has been contacted to assist the Norton Human Relations Commission, which is in Montgomery County, and also the Bethlehem Human Relations Commission on updating their ordinances to the Lehigh County language and training their commissioners once the passages of their updated language does occur.

On April 13, LB will train the new Human Relations Commissioners in Chester County which ordinance was passed in September 2025.

### **Logo Update**

LB asked someone to step forward to head a Logo Committee. She asked anyone interested to contact her. PS suggested offering a small monetary “prize” to create a youth competition. He would do something like this through the Allentown School District if a monetary prize were awarded. Discussion ensued. PS will spearhead the effort for a Lehigh County student-driven project to create the LCHRC logo with a money prize awarded for the chosen logo. LB stipulated that the logo must contain “Lehigh County Human Relations Commission” and it cannot be the same as some other organization’s logo. LB prefers not to limit the competition to a specific age group of students but rather limit it to being a good design. Discussion continued. TB told the group that if the Lehigh County law is the same as Borough law, they will not be able to use taxpayer dollars as prize money. LP volunteered to get donations for the prize. PS spoke about not over-thinking [where to find prize money] but instead to really want to make [this] happen. To that, LB committed \$100 from the other organization that she heads. LP & PS will work together to get this competition organized within the school districts.

### **Update on Complaints that have been brought forth**

Complaint 2025-9 is on-going. There were two respondents named in the complaint; one respondent has received the complaint and they have 60-days to respond. LB did receive a call from their attorney who indicated they would respond in early April. LB noted they must respond by April 14 which is the end

of the 60-day period at which time the respondents will be interviewed by the investigators. TB, AmB, LP are working on this complaint with LB.

Complaint 2026-1 will be investigated by LB, TB, AmB, and JM. The respondent must contact LCHRC by April 27.

### **MOU with Allentown on HRC**

CMR has been working to set up a meeting with City of Allentown solicitors to discuss the substance of the MOU. One of the attorneys involved in the meeting is out of the office this week. CMR is hopeful the meeting will be sometime during the last full week in March. There was a joint meeting between the County and Allentown last week which may have encouraged this communication.

### **Rules & Procedures Committee**

LB, TB, MB, AmB, JM (Chair), and LP comprise this committee. JM drew the Commission's attention to the evening's agenda where the motion to adopt the 2-1/2-page decorum policy had been attached. There continue to be discussions and work on policies and procedures but the committee is not yet ready to present all the various topics to the Commission. JM thanked TB for drafting this policy with wisdom from the many different policies that he has seen over the years. JM also thanked CMR for her legal editing and counsel. LB also thanked TB for the terrific job he did on putting this Decorum Policy together saying, "It is way easier to edit and add than create out of thin air, so thank you very, very much for doing that."

LB called for questions. TB added that this decorum policy was written for both virtual and in-person meetings so that in the event there is a future in-person meeting, proper decorum will have been addressed. LB asked for any questions; there being none, JM made the motion to approve the decorum policy for the Lehigh County Human Relations Commission as presented by the Procedures Committee; AmB seconded the motion. No further additional discussion. LB called for a voice vote; no opposition. The motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS - None**

### **CLOSING AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**LCHRC Announcements**

LB reminded everyone about the Northampton County Human Relations Commission vote on March 19 at 6:30 p.m.. She explained how to get into the building and encouraged all who are able to attend to please do so.

PS extended an invitation to everyone for Leadership Game Night every Wednesday night from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Moxy at 10<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Streets in Allentown.

**Motion to Adjourn**

LB called for a motion to adjourn; TB made the motion; PS seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia L. King