

City of Greensboro

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Notes

May 7, 2015

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:10 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with Chair Kevin Williams presiding.

PRESENT: Chair Kevin Williams, Commissioners Lindsay Burkart, Gary Grandon, Kurt Collins, Moussa Issifou, Jacqueline King, Marikay Abuzuaiter, Zac Engle

HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT STAFF: Dr. Love Crossling, Allen Hunt

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

Vice-Chair Michael Picarelli, Commissioners Lindy Garnette, Tonya Doane, Jean Brown, Freman Murphy, Margaret Arbuckle, Chantale Wesley-Lamin

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 6:20 pm.

Chairs Report –

The elections for the International Advisory Committee were held on April 17th. Four hundred and eighty four votes were cast in a tremendous turnout. The elected members include Chair Adamou Mohamed, Vice Chairs- Irving Zalvaleta and Boukari Saidou, Secretary Jose Olivia and at large member David Lee.

The DACA Resolution was discussed and Dr. Crossling gave a synopsis of the different options and processes of moving forward to council and/or legislature. Commissioner Engle inquired on whether it can be specified in a letter that the HRC as a whole has voted to support the students. Commissioner Abuzuaiter replied that she would check with the city attorney and wants to have a work session at council on this resolution

Chair Williams attended the 13th annual Women's Empowerment Program led by the Police Department at the Caldcleugh Multicultural Arts Center. It was a good opportunity for the commission to partner with the Police Department. The Domestic Violence Program is another example of a partnering opportunity. He attended the second day of the elections for the IAC Leadership Committee. On April 22nd Chair Williams attended the Latino Community Coalition and was introduced to the multiple subcommittees. Chair Williams also attended a retreat held by the Human Relations Department on April 26th. Members of the Commission on the Status of Women were present as well. Chair Williams and Commissioner Issifou were the only HR commissioners present.

Committee Reports

Complaint Review Committee- Given By Jacqueline King

The committee reviewed one case last month, and they agreed with the findings of the PSD investigation. The committee will draft a statement in support of the CRC process and the work that is

being accomplished by volunteers from the community. The CRC Enhancement Committee is made up of council members and their meetings are open to the public. The Complaint Review Committee will have a meeting once the restructuring is complete. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3rd at 9:30 am at MMOB Plaza Level Conference Room.

Education Committee- Picarelli Correspondent

Commissioner Picarelli met with the State's HRC Education Committee on April 29th and the bill's language will be changed to meet the demands of the Department of Commerce. The Education Committee meeting may change, Picarelli will send out a Doodlepoll.

Employment Committee-Zac Engle

The employment committee met twice in April. They combed through the final planning of what needs to be done for the Tyler Program. There are volunteers being put together for after curriculum aspect of the program. They are still looking for supplies and sponsors, but everything else is funded. The application deadline was last Friday and the maximum capacity is 15. The hope is to expand the program in future years. In the past, cost marginalized the youths interested in participating, and the vision now is to have a value of 25\$ attached to the program, but the fee can be waived for those who cannot afford it. The committee is looking for a varied demographic, with a focus on males.

Human Services Committee- Jacqueline King

The Human Services Committee met on May 5th. They discussed the 2016 MLK Breakfast and started the establishment of a timeline that runs from April 2015 to December 2015. Commissioner Williams is no longer the chair of this committee, and Jacqueline King will be taking his position as Chair. They are looking for volunteers, and have made a list of potential keynote speakers. The next meeting will be June 2nd. Rather than a prayer, this year the committee prefers to have a moment of silence along with a prayer to incorporate those who do not want to participate in prayer.

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Love Crossling updated the following:

- Due to the reorganization, Donna Gray, Cathy Justice and Isabel Gil have all been relocated to the Community Relations Department. Jodie Stanley is now the outreach and education coordinator, and she will help with the HR commission program planning.
- The importance of accurate reporting and passing on information to new commissioners was stressed in order to create a smooth transition process.
- Love stressed the importance of meeting the deadlines for the upcoming work plan. The plan should be relayed to commissioners by the 8th of June, since the final deadline for the HRD is June 15th.
- The work plan should consist of a framework for subcommittee meetings and number of projects to take on, a tag-line theme, along with a number of projects the overall body will take on. The work plan helps with marketing, timing press meetings, equipping the staff, interns/externs etc. The work plan can focus on a framework of a few projects the commission plans on tackling.
- May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness month. There is a program being formed regarding the suicides that have recently occurred In the parking deck in Greensboro. There is a

community conversation around this topic, and the commission is welcome to follow-up and see how they can get more involved.

- David Allen and Dr. Crossling have been working on the Clean Slate Initiative Program (expungements). As a municipality, more space is needed along with a desire for the commission to hold a preregistration clinic for participants to submit their information.

Allen Hunt updated the following:

- The IAC Leadership Committee has designated the meetings to be the first Monday of every month from 4-5:30 in the plaza conference room. They will also have community meetings once a month that will consist of a combination of feedback from the community and policy strategies for council recommendations. There was discussion on having a commissioner attend the monthly IAC meetings.
- The HRC Facebook page and social media page will be updated in order to make word on events more available to the public. Jodie Stanley is now in charge of the outreach and education portion of the commission, and she will be working with the commission to create a successful website.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

- The minutes were tabled as there was no quorum.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Voices for a Stronger Guilford County/Greensboro which will consist of 5 former mayors discussing pressing issues in the community will be held in the Empire Room May 12th from 6-8.
- The NAACP meeting is on May 16th. The deadline was April 24th for tickets.
- Commissioner King stated the A&T band will most likely be able to play jazz music at the MLK Breakfast.
- Commissioner Abuzuaiter stated that the budget will be approved June 2nd, and there will be a work session at City Council after this date. She also stated that the Justice Center grand opening is June 15th, and tends to situations such as elder abuse, domestic abuse, child maltreatment, etc. There will be a nurse on site along with a sheriff's office.
- Marion Davis is the new main contact for the HRD for emails and phone calls.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:33 p.m.