

City of Greensboro

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Notes

June 4, 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, Gary Grandon, Kurt Collins, Moussa Issifou, Jacqueline King, Zac Engle, Freman Murphy

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

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chair Williams recognized the visitors: HRC Liaison Marikay Abuzuaiter, Police Chief Wayne Scott, IAC members: Chair Adamou Mohamed, Vice-Chairs Boukari Saidou and Irving Zavaleta, Secretary Jose Olivia and at large member David Lee. HRD interns Erica Oakley and Madison Lowe were introduced as well.

GUEST SPEAKER-CHIEF WAYNE SCOTT

Chief Scott has been with the city for 24 years and has occupied the chief's position for 90 days. There has been a step to improve neighborhood policing and build better relationships within the community. On April 24th, the geographical boundaries of the police force were rearranged based on city growth. He discussed Phase 2, which regards the allocation of resources, organizational and call needs within the geographical boundaries of the community. Over the next 8 weeks, a plan will be developed to meet goals, which includes quick responses to 911 calls, proactive time to connect with officers in neighborhoods and always have a resource available. Another initiative is to be more reflective of our community. There is a push to soften the image of the GPD and to get officers more involved in community events. The use of social media to communicate department information, meetings and alerts is being worked on to improve efficiency regarding community engagement.

Chairs Report –

- On May 1st, Chair Williams met with Nelson Johnson at the Beloved Community Center to increase the partnership and trust with the center along with organizations associated with the center.
- Governor McCrory vetoed the bill that allowed magistrates to opt out of performing certain marriages, and the senate overrode the veto.

- There were participatory budget meetings on May 26th for Districts 3, 4 and 5, and on May 28th for Districts 1 and 2, which pertains to the commission as well as individuals.
- Recently, Jodie Stanley provided information on Native American groups that are in Greensboro. Chair Williams expressed an interest in having a subcommittee in the HRC that focuses on Native Americans.
- On May 12th, four former mayors and the current mayor met to discuss our community's pressing problems through Voices for a Stronger Guilford. The questions were submitted through the News & Record. The main points covered were job creation and redistricting.

Committee Reports

HR Liaison- Councilwoman Marikay Abuzuaiter

- Councilwoman Abuzuaiter took the DACA Tuition Equality Resolution information to the mayor and the city manager. It will be included in a work session on either June 23, July 9th or July 28th. She would like to have students affected by this resolution speak at the work session.
- Commissioner Engle followed up on last month's request to send a letter to legislature stating the HRC supports the resolution. Commissioner Engle requested that the city attorney be asked if the HRC can submit a letter that demonstrates the approval of the HRC if the resolution cannot be discussed in the June 23rd work session. Councilwoman Abuzuaiter suggested that the letter be sent to the State Human Relations Commission Board so they could put it in their packet if they are in support of it. However, the main way it will go forth is through the passage of the resolution in city council. The resolution was submitted to the state HRC commission back in April. There was no quorum during the April 29th meeting, but the present members were in support of the Resolution.
- Recently, Councilwoman Abuzuaiter and Dr. Love Crossling were on a phone call with the White House recently regarding Commitments to Education for Hispanics.

Complaint Review Committee- Given By Allen Hunt

Due to a failure to comply with an information request from the complainant, there was no complaint reviewed in June.

Employment Committee- Zac Engle

The committee met on May 11th and May 28th in order to wrap up the plans for the Summer Entrepreneurship for the Youth Program. There are currently 15 students enrolled. The program is funded and the curriculum is planned out. There is a hope to expand the program and build partnerships with organizations such as the Salvation Army, Junior Achievement, Co-lab, Guilford County Schools, etc. Some of the facilitators in the program will include a baker, dentist and other professionals selected based off the interests of the enrolled students. The day will consist of a morning of instruction, lunch, and then an afternoon with an entrepreneur. Some of the speakers include Nancy Johnson, Craig Carlock, Paul Paudino, Lori Thompson etc. The program hopes to combat poverty and unemployment for the future generation of workers.

Human Services Committee- Jacqueline King

The meeting was rescheduled for next Tuesday at 6:00pm to discuss the MLK Breakfast. There are two other committees that Commissioner King would like to implement into the Committee: including a mental health program and an outreach and education program for African American boys.

The committee is looking for a partnership with New Jerusalem, which already has a program for young boys, and Black Men in power. This program will take young boys to the Greensboro prison to see what it's like and talk to the inmates.

Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee-Given By Dr. Crossling

Commissioner Doan is partnering with Lee Staton and other members of the HR staff that deal with Housing Discrimination and Investigations. There are a series of outreach and education workshops being planned for the year, (four total), that address issues with fair housing discrimination in the nation. The structure of the programs and the dates will be available soon.

International Advisory Committee- Adamou Muhammad

The elections for the IAC had a very large turnout for the April 17th elections. The mission of the IAC is to create an inclusive Greensboro and ensure the international community is heard. The committee has had 3 executive planning meetings since the election to learn logistics and develop a partnership with Jodie and the HRD. There was also a meeting with the working group and the candidates that applied for positions as a way to get them involved and hear their thoughts on proceeding as a committee. The executive committee members all agreed to serve for two years, and the next election will take place a year and a half after their term starts to allow for smooth transitions.

World Refugee Day is coming up on June 20th and over 8 organizations are partnering together to plan this event. There is intent to use this day as an education and outreach opportunity to teach the public about the IAC. The National Welcoming Week is coming up in September, and this event will highlight the inclusivity of the community. Vice Chair Zalvaleta stated the DACA in the workplace forum will be held June 25th from 11:30-2 at the Joseph M. Bryan Auditorium on Guilford College. The IAC will also participate in the Faith Action Unity Walk the 27th of June at 3:30.

STAFF REPORT

Dr. Love Crossling updated the following:

- The work plan is a framework for fiscal year intentions so that the HRD staff can distribute their energy effectively. Chair Williams is going to circulate a skeletal draft for the commission to edit. As specified over the past few months, the work plan can contain a loose theme that demonstrates the essence of what matters to the commission. This plan is due on the 15th.
- Dr. Crossling was successful in acquiring a particular amount of money added to the budget that will be able to help the commissions in their events and efforts.

Allen Hunt updated the following:

- The Human Resources Department is going to have an equality breakfast on the 15th of June which will focus on diversity and policing at 8am.
- The Small is Big conference will be held at the Empire Room from 9-3:30 on June 17th, focusing on entrepreneurship and management within the community.
- The Summer Solstice event will be held June 20th at the Greensboro Arboretum.
- The Women's Equality Day Breakfast is going to be August 29th which will include speakers and a panel. Tickets can be bought in the HRD office through Marion Davis.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE

- Item 7 was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

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