



Meeting Minutes & Business Notes

October 8, 2015

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) convened for its regular monthly meeting at 6:09 p.m. on the above date in the Board Room at the Greensboro Cultural Center, with **Chair Kevin Williams** presiding.

Present: *Chair Kevin Williams; Vice-Chair: Michael Picarelli; Commissioners: Wesley-Lamin; Engle; Perry-Garnette; Murphy; Issifou; Samuel Hawkins*

Human Relations Department Staff: *Allen Hunt, Supervisor, Jodie Stanley, Education & Outreach Coordinator*

Excused Absences: *Commissioners: Arbuckle; Burkart; King*

Absent: *Commissioners: Collins; Brown*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

II. MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

Chair Williams called for a moment of silent meditation.

III. RECOGNITION OF VISITOR(S)

- Rick Oxendine, Director, Guilford Native American Association
- Rev. David Fraccaro, Faith Action International House
- Ranata Reeder, Participatory Budgeting
- Erica Lindenberg, Participatory Budgeting
- Approximately 30 guests in attendance

Mr. Oxendine introduced himself and commented on the mission and vision of his organization and the challenges of Native American populations in the 11 county are supported by the GNAA. Mr. Oxendine expressed interest in developing a relationship with the Commission and partnering on issues effecting Native American populations. Chair Williams thanked him for the work of the GNAA and visiting with the Commission.

IV. HB 318 PRESENTATION & PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS

Rev. Fraccaro commented on NC-HB 318, its history and the subject matter of the House Bill; which included its effect on the Faith Action ID, E-Verify enforcement and impact on government benefits availability to residents relying on the Faith Action ID. Rev. Fraccaro commented on the society of immigrants and access to common community services that could be hindered or cut off if HB 318 becomes law. Rev. Fraccaro highlighted support from local law enforcement for the Faith Action ID and he stated that part of a potential legal challenge would include a clarifying definition of the term “Government Official”; contending that the term should not include lower level service providers, like nurses, clerks and law enforcement officers. Rev. Fraccaro also commented that officials from different regions of the State and Country are slated to attend the next Faith Action ID drive to be educated on the value of the Faith Action ID model. Chair Williams on the complexity and depth of the potential impact of HB 318 on the Community. Commissioner Engel commented on how to organize public comments on HB 318. Chair Williams directed each speaker to have up to 3 minutes to comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Member of the public commented on HB 318 singling out the Mexican Consulate ID papers as not acceptable and how the Bill affects her opportunities under DACA and potential for marriage and jobs. Comments were made about agricultural exemptions under the Bill and how the Bill could hinder the ability of some residents to get utility services and request legal documents and services.

Member of the public commented on how the Bill affecting families’ ability to stay together and she encouraged the Commission and attendees to speak up opposition to the Bill. She stated that children will be hurt by the Bill.

IAC Chair Adamou Mohamed expressed empathy to effected constituents and their families. Chair Mohamed commented that Greensboro passed a resolution that the City is a Welcoming City. He spoke about the necessity of the Faith Action ID for parents and families. He encouraged the City to define the terms “Government Official” and find ways to assist the community whatever the outcome of Bill.

Beth Bolts speaking in her own capacity commented how HB 318 was contrary to the Library’s core mission for free and equal to all.

Faith Action employee speaking in her own capacity commented on how the Bill threatens families, the workforce and hurts everyone in the community. She stated that immigrants want to fully be part of the Greensboro community. She commented on the positive impact of the Faith Action ID and how her family members have been actively opposing the Bill and how all the hard work and hopes of the community are at risk.

Chair Williams thanked the speakers and how unifying voices are paid attention to and matter.

Council Woman Marikay Abuzuaiter commented on the bravery of the people in the room and that we need to take it to the next level. She gave out the Governor’s contact information to express their concerns about the Bill. She commented on how the Bill undermines public safety, the economy, the history of immigrants in the United States. She commented on the role of immigrants in the history of the country and how local GPD have publically opposed the Bill. She commented on how the Faith Action ID has helped immigrants, homeless populations and others. She commented on

the successes of the Council on welcoming efforts and how an unnamed council member was in opposition to funding Faith Action general services. Comments from Council Woman Marikay and Abuzuaiter Commissioner Engle were injected from attendees after Councilwoman Abuzuaiter talked about the legislative process and how get a resolution presented to Council. Vice Chair Picarelli stated that he wishes he had more information about the Bill prior to the meeting. Staff commented that an overview was provided. An attendee provide Vice Chair Picarelli with an overview of the Bill. More comments about the role of the Commission to affect change or influence were made by Chair Williams after Rev. Fraccaro asked about what the Commission could do regarding the Bill. Rev. Fraccaro talked about advocacy, legal actions and civil disobedience. Councilwoman Abuzuaiter responded saying that if the Commission made a motion stating opposition to the Bill, she would present the resolution through the proper legal channels. Commissioner Engel commented on his research about the Faith Action ID and how the ID was parallel other ID options and how taking the Faith Action ID is not a well thought out option/impact on the community.

Commissioner Engel made a motion: “The Human Relations Commission supports the acceptance of the Faith Action ID by the City and that the City takes necessary means to encourage its acceptance.”

Commissioner Murphy Seconded the motion.

Chair Williams called for a hand vote, which passed UNANIMOUSLY.

HRD Staffer, Jodie Stanley offered to provide media support to the Commission. Chair Williams welcomed new Commissioner Samuel Hawkins to the Commission.

Chair Williams moved to change the agenda to accept or reject the September Minutes.

Vice Chair Picarelli seconded.

Chair Williams called for a vote by voice, which passed UNANIMOUSLY.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROCESS

Ranata Reeder commented on the history of Participatory Budgeting (PB) and the 2014 PB Resolution passed by City Council. Reeder highlighted the PB formation and outreach framework, which included steering committees, neighborhood assemblies and stakeholder input. Chair Williams commented on his new role as Co-Chair of the PB Committee and his tenure ending on the Commission this November. Erica Lindenberg called for volunteers, opportunities for engagement and she asked for recommendation on organizations that the PB Committee should contact. Comments about the structure of neighborhood assemblies were fielded from the Commission to Ms. Reeder.

V. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Williams commented on meeting with City Attorneys regarding the composition and structure of the Complaint Review Committee. Chair Williams encouraged Commissioner to read his report, but made no further comment and suggested to hear the committee reports at that time.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Complaint Review Committee (CRC)**

Chair Wesley-Lamin stated that the CRC did not meet this month because there were no cases for review. The next meeting is November 4th.

- **Education Committee**

Chair Picarelli stated that there would be no report this month.

- **Employment Committee**

Chair Engle stated that

- **Human Services Committee**

Allen Hunt commented on the development of the MLK Breakfast itinerary and on the selection of Chancellor Gilliam from UNCG as the keynote speaker and Grimsley HS Jazz ensemble, and spoken word artist and the Belles of Harmony from Bennett College.

- **Montgomery/Wells Housing Committee**

Jodie Stanley commented on the second housing education outreach event highlighting the experience and challenges facing the LGBTQ community. Chair Williams highlighted the positive success of the first housing outreach event, which focused on the protected class: familial status.

- **International Advisory Committee**

Chair Mohamed stated that two IAC members were part of the PB steering process. He commented on IAC advocacy regarding soccer field use by the international community, the Where Cultures Meet event, the Peace Festival at the ICRM. Chair Mohamed commented on the power of people coming together in unity to overcome hate (hate letters toward the Muslim Community). He commented on involving stakeholders in the IAC general meeting for their input on IAC goals and objectives and civic engagement of the immigrant community.

- **Native American Committee**

Chair Williams stated that the first goal of the committee was to get Rick Oxendine at this meeting and Chair Williams expressed a desire to partner with GNAA and how he plans to be active on this committee after his tenure ends with the Commission.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Allen Hunt stated that the annual commission retreat is coming up on one of two possible dates: November 7th all day or half day sessions as an option. Hunt commented on introducing a new three question planning tool to help introduce commissioners to program planning. Commissioner Engle expressed concern about the use of forms in the planning process. Hunt stated that forms were not the subject of this meeting; however, he encouraged commissioners to appreciate the value of recording activities to promote public trust and stewardship.

VIII. ITEMS FOR COMMISSION'S DISCUSSION AND VOTE

- N/A

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Williams called for other business items. None were introduced. Chair Williams commented developing a LGBTQ subcommittee. Commissioner Engel asked Chair Williams on clarification on the scope and goals of such a committee and gave examples of other possible committees that have

not been developed, such as, and African-American Committee, a Latino Committee...Commissioner Engel asked for everyone to consider the goals and purpose of developing new committee without proper foresight. Chair Williams stated that he did not have any goal or vision for a LGBTQ Committee, but that he just wanted to get it on the record.

X. EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused: Arbuckle, King, Burkart not mentioned (listed above).

Unexcused: Collins, Brown.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Picarelli seconded. The Commission UNANIMOUSLY voted to adjourn.

Chairperson
Greensboro Human Relations Commission

Approved: _____
Date