



Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice Chairwoman Milette Harris; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner Jessica Black; Commissioner Elmore Lowery (via Zoom); Commissioner William “Bill” J. Milton, II; Commissioner Eric Olson; Commissioner Dwight Palmer, Jr.; Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Eric Washington (via Zoom); and Commissioner Franco Webb (via Zoom).

Absent: Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner Brenda Vianna; and Commissioner Myah Warren.

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, Director; Stephanie Lorenc, Administrative Specialist; and Janet Beaudry, Office Assistant II.

Guests: Rebekah Boitey, Student and Intern; Sheila Cuffee, NC Human Relations Commissioner; Toussaint Romain, Chairman, NC Human Relations Commission; and Dr. Anthony Wade, Cumberland County Human Chief Resources Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chairwoman Pemberton.

Chairwoman Pemberton called for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. She then noted that the mask mandate is still in effect in all City buildings, vehicles, and anywhere social distancing cannot be maintained.

Chairwoman Pemberton noted an incorrect date in the agenda. Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. No vote was taken.

Motion to approve the January 13, 2022, minutes was made by Commissioner Pappas, seconded by Commissioner [unintelligible]. No vote was taken.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar presented an overview of the work she and staff performed throughout the month of January 2022.

NCHRC Resolution: Mr. Toussaint Romain addressed the Commission regarding the Resolution. Commissioner Pappas objected to the fact that Mr. Romain was here addressing a topic that has already been voted on by the Commission. Objection was noted by Chairwoman Pemberton. Mr. Romain reviewed the need for over 10,000 low income housing units in Cumberland County. He defined low income as VLI = Very Low Income, and ELI= Extremely Low Income as compared with the state median income. Mr. Romain stressed the fact that it is not just numbers, but people, whole families, are homeless due to the pandemic. He said the Resolution was created by the North Carolina Human Relations Commission to advocate, enforce, and promote equality of opportunity in housing. He said there were six points to the Resolution: 1) increase or at least maintain current protections for tenants; 2) remove or seal summary ejections from tenants' records once it is resolved; 3) access to quick court action without a lawyer; 4) mobile home owners who rent land they are located on; 5) those on fixed income don't face gouging price increases; and 6) give rural areas access to compete for the same services as urban areas. He said that what the NCHRC would like is for Fayetteville-Cumberland Human Relations Commission to vote on the Resolution now that its origins have been better explained. He said the State Human Relations Commission is trying to raise awareness on this issue. Mr. Romain answered questions on the Resolution from the Commissioners. Chairwoman Pemberton brought the discussion to a close, and Mr. Romain stated that the State Human Relations Commission is available and willing to assist with issues that this Commission may have in the future. Chairwoman Pemberton then called for a motion. Commissioner Pappas made a motion to not vote on the Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Milton. No further discussion. Three in favor of not voting. Opposition to the motion to not vote was the majority. Vice-Chairwoman Harris made a motion that the Commission support the Resolution with a second from Commissioner Peterson. Three Commissioners were in opposition to the second motion, and it carried by majority vote. The Commission will sign on to the State Resolution.

"Got Consent": Vice-Chairwoman Harris noted that during the Executive Committee meeting she was asked to find out if "Got Consent" could be presented by her colleagues, and she said yes. "Got Consent" will take the audience through a sexual assault case. The audience will act as the jury and present their verdict. Concluding the mock trial, the actual verdict from the case will be presented. South View is the first school to have the "Got Consent" program. Chairwoman Pemberton called for a motion on "Got Consent" to get it on the active list. Motion was made by Commissioner Abdelfatah, with a second from Commissioner Milton. No further discussion. Vote passed with Commissioner Pappas abstaining.

Hollaback!: Chairwoman Pemberton noted that the portion of the training the Commission is interested in is not free. Vice-Chairwoman Harris said that there are people on base that can

teach bystander intervention and tailor it to a local, Fayetteville audience. Commissioner Abdelfatah made a motion to move the bystander intervention training forward and have the military do the training. Seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Harris. Brief discussion. Vote passed with Commissioner Pappas abstaining.

Women’s Initiative: Chairwoman Pemberton said that the Initiative was not yet determined as far as the event or events, but that it is being put on the Project Matrix under Proposed, and when it is closer to the date, there will be further discussion.

Patriot Outreach: Ms. Nazar said that one letter was sent to Patriot Outreach but was returned without being signed. The second letter’s return receipt has not been delivered back to us yet. Ms. Nazar said that because of this, we don’t know if they received the letter. She stated her next step was to talk with legal.

Commissioner Pelham announced that Methodist University is putting on a virtual panel on Thursday, March 3rd, called “Good Trouble”. It is to educate students on civil disobedience and civic engagement. Ms. Nazar is a panelist.

Vice-Chairwoman Harris said there was enough money to give out three scholarships so far. She said that all the applications are reviewed by Commissioners.

The next regular Commission meeting will be on March 24, 2022.

Commissioner Milton made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Abdelfatah. Vote was unanimous. Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:10.

Approved _____

Eileen Hatch, Secretary