

FAYETTEVILLE
HUMAN  RELATIONS
CUMBERLAND CO.

Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
J. S. Spivey Recreation Center, 500 Fisher Street
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, Director; James Graves, Manager; Stephanie Lorenc, Administrative Specialist; and Tiffany Wright, Office Assistant II.

Guests: Rebekah Boitey, Student and Intern; Archita Graves and Angielina Villafane from ACS (Army Community Service).

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.

Chairwoman Pemberton noted to add Rapid Response to the agenda under Old Business. Motion to add Rapid Response to the Agenda was made by Commissioner Milton, seconded by Commissioner Webb. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Milton. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the March 24, 2022, minutes was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Milton. Vote was unanimous.

Chairwoman Pemberton called for a moment to formally acknowledge and say farewell to Ms. Stephanie Lorenc. Ms. Lorenc served with the Human Relations for over a year. Chairwoman Pemberton, Ms. Nazar, and Mr. Graves expressed appreciation for her service and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

During her welcoming remarks, Chairwoman Pemberton recognized newly elected Commissioner Shirley Francis. She also mentioned that two others would be joining the next meeting. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Council is presided over by Commissioner Francis. Commissioner Wright was also welcomed and thanked for joining the session.

Old Business:

Rapid Response: Commissioner Milton asked if everyone had reviewed the email he sent last month and whether there were any recommendations for changes. According to him, the Bylaws are unclear regarding levels 1, 2, and 3 and notification requirements. Bylaws should be rewritten to create a cohesive document. A discussion was held regarding the importance of Rapid Response and the need to review the document and its language. As a result, Commissioner Milton moved to table Rapid Response until the next Commission meeting on May 26, 2022, which was seconded by Commissioner Webb. There was a unanimous vote. For the purpose of reviewing the document, Commissioner Milton will resend it.

City SPIRIT Update/ Community Input: There have been 398 completed surveys online, there were 80-100 participants in the two events on April 21, 2021, there is a third event scheduled on May 21, 2022 from 12- 2 pm, and there has been a meeting with two community watch groups. The Human Relations Department is also scheduled to meet with another community watch group, the Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, and the Ministerial Alliance on April 30, 2022 at 8 am. FayPD Crime Prevention Specialists were asked to place the survey link on their respective NextDoor apps. Mr. Graves noted that the Divine 9 has distributed the survey link, as well. The survey will be closing on June 1, 2022. The Human Relations Commission will provide an updated report to City Council in August regarding the survey results.

Got Consent Update (Southview High School): Vice Chairwoman Milette Harris along with Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah discussed the training that was provided at Southview High School. The training was based on an actual trial of sexual assault and the question of "Consent" on Spangdahlem Air Base. The training was attended by more than 100 students. Southview High School administration has requested that the training be provided again at the start of school year 2022-2023. Vice Chairwoman Harris invited the Commission to attend the upcoming training event at Pope Army Airfield.

Denim Day Update: Vice Chairwoman Harris shared the impact of the Denim Day luncheon on its attendees. In support and solidarity of survivors of sexual assault / sexual violence attendees wore denim. Attendees included FayPD Special Victims Unit, members of The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) "Divine Nine" (D9), City staff and multiple members of the greater Fayetteville community.

Bystander Intervention: Vice-Chairwoman Harris made a motion to move Bystander Intervention from proposed to active on the Project Matrix, seconded by Olson for October. Vote was unanimous.

Student Human Relations Commission: Chairwoman Pemberton asked Ms. Nazar shared that she's working with the Legal department and will provide an updates at the next Executive meeting.

Scholarships: Vice Chairwoman Harris reported that the Scholarships Committee will be scheduling a meeting. Additionally, she reported that there are three scholarships for this year. She stated that the Commission has \$500.00 in funds, and donations would be accepted to reach \$1,000.00 for another scholarship this year. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 12. The money needs to be in place by July 1, 2022, so that she can distribute the scholarships.

Habitat for Humanity: Ms. Nazar discussed the link she emailed all Commissioners and explained that if Commissioners are not available to volunteer, the event may be cancelled. Chairwoman Pemberton ask how many Commissioners signed up, and that the link would be resent.

New Business:

Inaugural Field of Shoes & Remember My Name Vigil: Archita Graves and Angielina Villafane are Victim Advocates for Fort Bragg Army Community Service (ACS). Mrs. Graves reported that ACS has scheduled the above-referenced event for October 6, 2022. The event is to honor and remember the lives lost to domestic violence. Fort Bragg’s Family Advocacy Program (FAP) has the funds needed for the event, however, there is a need for police presence but FAP is not permitted to pay individuals. Mrs. Graves indicated that they would like for the Human Relations Commission to partner with ACS and FAP on this initiative and assist with the challenge with the need for police presence. Motion to partner and plan the Inaugural Field of Shoes was made by Vice-Chairwoman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Abdelfatah. Vote was unanimous.

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

The next regular Commission meeting will be on May 26, 2022, at **Kiwanis Recreation Center**.

Commissioner Pappas made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Milton. Vote was unanimous. Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Approved _____

Eileen Hatch, Secretary