



**Human Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, May 26, 2022

Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street, Fayetteville  
and Zoom

**Present:** Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice-Chairwoman Milette Harris; Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner William “Bill” Milton, II; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Franco Webb; Commissioner Abram Flores; Commissioner Eric D Washington, SFC; Commissioner Dwight E. Palmer Jr, Rev

**Absent:** Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Eric Olson; Commissioner Jessica Black; Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Brenda Vianna

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; James Graves, Human Relations Manager; Diona Curtis, Office Assistant II

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Chairwoman Pemberton called for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairwoman Pemberton has requested for April 28 minutes be sent via email for approval.

Chairwoman Pemberton discussed the SPIRIT Committee. The committee will go back to the community and have them vote on several items that were a result of SPIRIT. The last event was May 21<sup>st</sup> and had twelve attendees who voted and had discussions as well as several media outlets such as ABC11 and someone shooting a documentary; Commissioners Abdelfatah, Milton II, and Webb were also in attendance. The SPIRIT Committee will go to Vice-Chairwoman Harris and Ad Hoc committee, and they will come up with recommendations and take it back to City Council in August. Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that the Ad Hoc committee will select who they would like to speak on their behalf to City Council. Chairwoman Pemberton will compile information and send it over to City Council before August. During the first work session, the information will be

presented for any questions the City Council may have. The information will be shared during their regular meeting.

Survey closes June 1, 2022.

**Rapid Response:** Commissioner Milton II explains that he is trying to rewrite the language for Rapid Response. He made the document available online for everyone on the Commission to review and comment. Commissioner Milton II stated that if anyone had any questions to contact him via email or phone. Commissioner Milton II stated that he added the Mayor to the last line of the document alongside the Sheriff and the Police Chief to see if he can designate an emergency/contingency to the committee.

**Student Human Relations Commission:** Chairwoman inquires about an update. Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that almost everyone is retiring, so there are no POCs or information to give out. An MOU will be sent out, and the document will be typed up from a military standpoint and be sent out for review. Chairwoman Pemberton asked Commissioner Abdelfatah if she has any information from Cumberland County Schools; there is none at the moment.

**Patriot Outreach Funds:** Ms. Nazar met with the City Attorney's office and they have asked her to do some research on who received the 2020 scholarships and whether they were paid. There is an additional address and emails and once the information on the six students who received scholarships are confirmed, Ms. Nazar will move forward with getting in touch with the contacts in regards to those funds. Vice-Chairwoman Harris informed Ms. Nazar that she will give her the name of the students that received the scholarships, and stated that she has notified all the students from Patriot Outreach and will have the check printed in two weeks for the final scholarship. Vice-Chairwoman Harris asks anyone who is available to go with her to award the checks.

**VTMTs:** Ms. Nazar stated she needs to know who helped and how long at Habitat, including the family members and friends who volunteered so hours can go into the VTMTs. Ms. Nazar explains what VTMTs are, why they are needed, and what it stands for. Chairwoman Pemberton asked about the soldiers that were present, and Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that ten people showed up. The time was from 8am-noon.

**Community Education:** Chairwoman Pemberton explains this information is coming from the January meeting in response to the shooting deaths of Jason Walker and Steven Addison. There was a mini rapid response where community members, business owners, church leaders, and a substantial number of educators had a discussion on how to help influence communications. Law enforcement was there and Chairwoman Pemberton described the meeting as successful with a large turnout from a Fayetteville Police officer, a Sheriff Deputy, Fire Department, and the NAACP. There were several suggestions to revisit, and one of the suggestions included educating the community because of the influence of social media and incorrect information due to a lack of process knowledge. Chairwoman Pemberton suggested partnering with the Sheriff's office, Fayetteville PD, and other groups. Commissioner Lowery has volunteered to give his services and be a part of that committee. Chairwoman Pemberton asked someone to provide a motion. Motion to approve by Vice-Chairwoman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Milton II. Vote was unanimous; add to Project Matrix. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that in the next meeting there will be discussion of strategies.

**SPIRIT Committee:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that she will send out a Doodle request for all committee members to get on the calendar in June for the first meeting, and hopefully meet again in July before meeting with Council. The top ten vote getters that were nominated will be determined, and then that committee will decide on what they want to do; there are funds available to move forward at the moment. Ms. Nazar states that the Market House results are now public record, and Chairwoman Pemberton asked if the information can be redacted.

**Reception:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris explains the MLK committee and the Annual Reception are merged. Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that she will remain the Chairwoman of the committee and is asking for volunteers. The committee will begin meeting in August. Commissioners Abdelfatah and Flores have volunteered to be a part of the committee. Ms. Nazar explains the purpose of the Annual Reception.

**Fundraising Options:** Chairwoman Pemberton wants to look for fundraising opportunities. The Commissioners are asked to think of ways to raise funding. Commissioner Flores suggested local artists exhibiting their work and charging a small entry fee. Commissioner Milton II suggested getting NBA jerseys, and Chairwoman Pemberton suggested possibly having the players come be a part of an event and charging an entry fee; Secretary Hatch suggested players speaking at the reception. Vice-Chairwoman Harris suggested partnering with a shirt company, and Commissioner Palmer suggested having a car wash. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that if there were any other ideas, put them in the group message.

**Departmental Report:** Ms. Nazar stated that Denim Day was successful and plans to do it again next year. The Dogwood Festival had 250 people both days, making it 500 total. In April, Ms. Nazar attended forty-eight meetings, James attended 10 meetings, and there were 113 phone calls.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairwoman Harris and seconded by Commissioner Webb. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eileen Hatch, Secretary