



**Human Relations Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Festival Park Plaza Training Room, 225 Ray Avenue, Fayetteville

**Present:** Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice-Chairwoman Milette Harris; Secretary Eileen Hatch; Commissioner William “Bill” Milton, II.

**Absent:** Commissioner Samar Abdelfatah

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Secretary Hatch, seconded by Commissioner Milton II. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Secretary Hatch, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Harris. Vote was unanimous.

**Scholarships:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated the students will be checking in to school on August 14. The AAR of the school has approved for Vice-Chairwoman Harris to send them an email stating the scholarship checks have been sent out, along with the recipients’ names and banner numbers so that they can receive their money. Vice-Chairwoman Harris inquired about the subledger to keep records of the available balance and the expenditures quarterly, and monthly meetings for the MLK/AAR Committee will be held to discuss fundraising options. Vice-Chairwoman Harris is going to draft an email to thank the commission and decide how to acknowledge them for their contributions to the remaining balance needed for the scholarships.

**Student Human Relations Commission:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that there is no update on this topic at the moment.

**Got Consent:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that South View High School wanted to participate again in the program. The plan is to have the program early to target the freshman population that is entering high school this Fall. On the military side, the content has been revised to be age appropriate and comprehensible for the students. Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that they are waiting for Commissioner Abdelfatah to provide the other requirements on South View’s behalf.

Ms. Nazar suggested inviting representatives from other high schools to attend and witness the students' reactions. Ms. Nazar is going to reach out to Dr. Connelly about *Got Consent*.

**Inaugural Field of Shoes and Remember My Name Vigil:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that she is waiting for a response from Ms. Graves to confirm if assistance from the commission is needed. Ms. Graves reached out to a private organization that has paid for police assistance. Chairwoman Pemberton stated the event is scheduled for October 6, but if the help of the commission is not needed then it would free space for the month.

**Bystander Intervention:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated the event will move forward once a date is decided. Commissioner Washington sent out a lesson plan which can be edited for the community. Discussion of the lesson plan will be discussed at the Commission meeting being held on August 25. Chairwoman Pemberton stated for this event to move forward in October and it needs to be started as soon as possible. Ms. Nazar suggested having the Bystander Intervention towards the end of October.

**Annual Reception:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated she needs to review and make changes to the email sent to her from Ms. Nazar about the Annual Reception. Ms. Nazar stated she would like to make the reception a luncheon instead of a dinner, and it will be hosted at the Botanical Gardens. Chairwoman Pemberton inquired if the reception would be a formal dress, Ms. Nazar stated it could be formal or business casual. Discussion ensued about updating the names on the awards. Ms. Nazar stated that the importance of this event needs to be communicated, and inform the awardees that their family and friends are invited.

**The Talk:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated that "The Talk" is a monologue on YouTube by Dr. Sonny Kelly, which is a conversation about race between a father and his son. Ms. Nazar stated she will discuss this event with Dr. Connelly and suggest making it a field trip for high school students to attend. Discussion ensued about planning this event in early November or early December.

**Vision Resource Center:** Ms. Nazar stated that she wanted to get as many elected officials as possible to participate, as well as state representatives, with the help of County Commissioner Glenn Adams as an advocate. Chairwoman Pemberton suggested bringing in a representative from the Department of Transportation and Brook Redding. Ms. Nazar suggested to Chairwoman Pemberton to set up a meeting with Glenn Adams, also Kathy Jenson to lobby for the commission on a City and County level. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that she is also going to talk to MPT Johnny Dawkins.

**Women's Initiative:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated in a previous Executive Commission meeting, there was a suggestion to remove the Women's Initiative. Ms. Nazar suggested removing it and replacing it with Denim Day.

Motion to remove Women's Initiative from the Project Matrix this year was made by Commissioner Milton, II and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. Vote was unanimous.

**Community Education:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that she and Ms. Nazar met with Chief Hawkins on July 13 to talk about an idea that was presented in the January 14 meeting with the community after the Steven Addison and Jason Walker shootings earlier this year. The community members discussed having educational sessions to dispel the misinformation and assumptions on social media. A suggestion was made to create a bulletin displaying answers to questions that people can reference. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Chief Hawkins is open to having a panel discussion with the Commission asking questions on behalf of the community scheduled for September. The panel discussion has already been voted on, and invites are being sent to Sheriff Wright and Billy West, the district attorney, to help assist with questions that will be asked about protocol or any other concerns. Discussion ensued about the logistics of the panel discussion.

**Commission Retreat:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about how the Commission retreat is set up. Ms. Nazar explained the logistics of the retreat for clarification and stated that she will present if Lisa is not able to. Chairwoman Pemberton recommended bringing someone in to discuss Robert's Rules for the Commissioners, and Ms. Nazar suggested sending out an email to find someone knowledgeable about the topic. Ms. Nazar stated Organization, Development, and Training (ODT) will be providing a team-building experience at the retreat, and she will select the activities. Chairwoman Pemberton suggested reaching out to United Way which has a course that teaches how to serve on Boards, Ms. Nazar stated that she will reach out to Amy. Team building, Roberts Rules, Open to the Public, and Ordinance are the topics agreed upon for discussion. October 8 is when the retreat will be held.

**International Folk Festival:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about adding International Folk Festival and PRIDE to Project Matrix for next year. Ms. Nazar stated if there is a lack of commitment from volunteers, we will not be participating in the festival this year. On August 22, the decision to participate will be determined.

**Elections:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that elections are approaching, and Ms. Nazar stated that a nominating committee has to be created at the next Commission meeting. Elections will take place at the September Commission meeting. Ms. Nazar stated that the new officers will be in place before the Commission Retreat.

**Rapid Response:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Commissioner Milton, II provided an update in June. Commissioner Milton, II stated there was a decision to keep the new language open until June 7, and he received the final edits. Once the edits were received, they would be presented to the Police Chief, Sheriff, Stakeholders, Mayor, and all those involved in the process. There is a Tier system in place that must be followed, and when something transpires, the first tier gets activated and goes up the chain of command. Commissioner Milton, II stated that after the June meeting, the decision was made to hand things over to Chairwoman Pemberton to present to stakeholders.

**Market House Initiative:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated she added the Market House initiative to Project Matrix, and how much attention the Gilbert Baez interview produced. Safety is important, and Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Commission has to be careful of how they proceed with the Market House repurposing because everyone's information is a public record. Ms. Nazar

stated she has to attend a Market House Repurpose Discussion on Monday, August 16, and stated that the City Manager needs a memo from the Commission stating they understand what their directive is concerning the Market House and a work plan about the mural. Chairwoman Pemberton is going to present the initiative at the August 25 Commission meeting and they are going to vote on it. The following week, Ms. Nazar is going to meet with the Arts Council because there is a partnership with them and they are going to manage the artists, create a committee, and bring drafts to the Commission for review. Marketing and Communication are going to keep Facebook up-to-date, do Media Releases, and ask for public input to keep the community involved.

**Departmental Report:** Ms. Nazar stated that there was nothing to report.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2022.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Hatch and seconded by Commissioner Milton II. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Eileen Hatch, Secretary