



**Human Relations Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Festival Park Plaza Training Room, 225 Ray Avenue, Fayetteville

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

**Absent:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Kelly Olivera, Interim Assistant City Manager

**Staff Present:** Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

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

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Milton II, seconded by Secretary Hatch. Vote was unanimous.

**Got Consent:** Commissioner Abdelfatah stated that contact has been made with E.E. Smith High School, which has a bigger population, to host *Got Consent*. Due to tight scheduling, the program will be postponed with South View High School as the host. Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about E.E. Smith’s response and Commissioner Abdelfatah stated they have expressed interest. Commissioner Abdelfatah has provided them with the modified video, agenda, and flyer, and is awaiting a response. Secretary Hatch stated that she has a contact at Terry Sanford and is going to extend the initiative to them to see if they are interested. The date is to be determined, tentatively January depending on the school calendar.

**Announcement:** Chairwoman Pemberton explained that upon discussion with Ms. Nazar, the Market House initiative is demanding and she recommended postponing some events and focusing on the ones with the highest priority. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that volunteering is important, and stressed participation from the Commissioners is vital to make a positive impact in the community.

**Student Human Relations Committee:** Secretary Hatch suggested postponing the Student Human Relations Commission, and Chairwoman Pemberton asked the other Commissioners their thoughts. Commissioner Abdelfatah stated that there are several Commissioners that work in the school system and maybe they can take initiative with the guidance of Ms. Nazar. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that she and Ms. Nazar met with Dr. Connelly in March and got approval. The next step was to fill out a document and ask for funding and approval by April, but the deadline was not met. Commissioner Abdelfatah suggested the Commission train the teachers that agree to be a part of the Student Human Relations Commission initiative on what needs to be done and be liaisons. Chairwoman Pemberton suggested partnering with Fayetteville-Cumberland Youth Council and the Millennial Advisory Commission to help with the transition of those that age out of the Student Human Relations Commission and would like to continue in leadership.

Motion for Commissioners to take the lead on implementing the Student Human Relations Commission was made by Commissioner Abdelfatah, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Harris. Vote was unanimous.

**The Talk:** Chairwoman Pemberton suggested postponing The Talk to put more focus on the Vision Resource Center.

Motion to put The Talk on hold and move it to the first quarter was made by Vice-Chairwoman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Milton II. Vote was unanimous.

**Inaugural Event:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated she had a conversation with Ms. Graves. The Commission did not fulfill the obligation that was made in time, so another organization was found to sponsor it. The option for the Human Relations Commission to set up a booth at the event was presented. The Inaugural Event will be held on October 6 at Festival Park, and Ms. Graves is still looking for volunteers. Chairwoman Pemberton and Vice-Chairwoman Harris will send out information for the event.

**Bystander Intervention:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated the lesson plan was completed by Commissioner Washington and would need to be modified for the Fayetteville residents. The Bystander Intervention is a Hollaback event and is scheduled tentatively for November. Vice-Chairwoman Harris suggested using a video from a TikTok influencer taken downtown to get a visual, and reference harassment that people usually do not experience daily. Commissioner Abdelfatah inquired if there will be a small or large audience. Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated if it is going to be a facilitated discussion, the audience should be split into breakout groups with about fifteen to twenty people. Chairwoman Pemberton inquired if Vice-Chairwoman Harris would be a guest speaker, and Vice-Chairwoman Harris suggested Commissioner Washington and Ms. Kelly from the military base. Bystander Intervention is public and open to the community, can possibly be a brown bag event, and there are suggestions to look into getting an interpreter, projector, microphone, sign-up sheets, and flyers made.

**Annual Reception:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Annual Reception will be a luncheon and hosted at the Botanical Gardens. Commissioner Abdelfatah inquired about how the awards

and nomination process works. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that there will need to be an Annual Awards Reception committee formed by October.

**Vision Resource Center:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Vision Resource Center would be a Dining and Dialogue, and help from the Commissioners would be needed. The date is to be determined and it is designed for city leaders to be involved. Councilmember Jensen and Mayor Pro Tem Dawkins will be invited once a date is decided. Commissioner Abdelfatah inquired if the Vision Resource Center will be similar to *Meet Your Muslim Neighbor*, and Chairwoman Pemberton stated she will communicate with Ms. Nazar and Terri Thomas to discuss details.

**Community Education:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated there was a meeting with Chief Hawkins scheduled for September 22 in place of the commission meeting, but had to be canceled due to nominations for the Executive Board that could not be canceled according to the by-laws. In place of the meeting with Chief Hawkins, there will be a committee formed with Commissioner Lowery to discuss and compose frequently asked questions in officer-involved shootings, and publish them on social media. Chairwoman Pemberton stated there will also be partnerships with the Fayetteville Police Department and the Sheriff's Office to discuss what questions they often get to include with the others.

**Archie Beebe Partnership Discussion:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Demetrius Haddock presented at the regular commission meeting, and discussed questions that Ms. Nazar presented for clarity to the other members of the Executive Board. Vice-Chairwoman Harris and Commissioner Milton II expressed their opposition to the permanent marker of Archie Beebe.

**Commission Retreat:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that the Commission Retreat has been relocated to Eastover Recreation Center on Saturday, October 8.

**Patriot Outreach:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Ms. Nazar committed to sending the information to the Assistant City Attorney the week of September 12, or the following week. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that she submitted a formal request from the commission to the Assistant City Attorney on Monday due to the extended time it has taken for this issue to be resolved.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2022.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairwoman Harris and seconded by Commissioner Abdelfatah. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Samar Abdelfatah, Secretary