

FAYETTEVILLE
HUMAN  **RELATIONS**
CUMBERLAND CO.

Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers Street
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: All present.

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

Guest: Shamore Lowery.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Pemberton.

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

Chairwoman Pemberton began by noting some changes to the agenda. Under Old Business, the NCHRC Resolution was moved to February because the Chairman of the NCHRC, Toussaint Romain, was not able to attend this evening. Also under Old Business, Patriot Outreach was added. Under New Business, the Martin Luther King, Jr. brunch was added. Motion to approve the January 13, 2022, agenda with the noted changes was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Milton. Vote to approve the agenda with the noted changes carried with one abstention by Commissioner Pappas.

Motion to approve the December 9, 2021, minutes was made by Commissioner Pappas, seconded by Commissioner Webb; vote carried with one abstention by Commissioner Pappas.

Chairwoman Pemberton welcomed the two new Commissioners, Commissioner Lowery and Commissioner Black, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

City SPIRIT: Ms. Nazar said there are currently 26 people confirmed for the January 25th City SPIRIT event, and asked all Commissioners to nominate more people who would be willing and able to participate in the event. The event's location is the Cliffdale Recreation Center. She gave a very heartfelt thank you to Jim McMillan for lending staff that will help set up for the City SPIRIT event.

Community Dialogue: Chairwoman Pemberton noted that the Community Dialogue is Friday, January 14th, and it is in response to the recent shootings in the community. Community stakeholders will be at the event to discuss different ways to peacefully navigate the emotions in the community around the shootings. The community dialogue will be from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Commission will be facilitating the dialogue. Discussion followed about the facilitators' role.

Committees with Task Descriptions: Chairwoman Pemberton stated the only committee that the rest of the Commissioners could not join is the Executive Committee and that there are two at-large members that were appointed. She encouraged each Commissioner to select only one standing committee to join tonight. Ms. Nazar pointed out that the committee chairs have to be Commissioners, but that the committee members do not have to be Commissioners.

Patriot Outreach: Ms. Nazar reviewed how the Commission's money that Patriot Outreach was handling for the scholarships was missing. The amount of money missing from the fund is \$2,189. Vice-Chairwoman Harris reviewed the process for awarding the money; both the Foundation's endowment money and the Commission's money. Ms. Nazar said that Mr. Toland, the CFO for the City, would create a line item in the department's budget for the Commission's money that would be separate from other funds and that would roll over from year to year.

Town Hall / Roundtable: Ms. Nazar said she, Chairwoman Pemberton, and Vice-Chairwoman Harris met with the Mayor and City Manager who want the Commission to create a town hall roundtable with past Human Relations department directors. The directors would look at where the City of Fayetteville was throughout history since the Commission was created. The initial meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15th. It will stream online, on Fay TV, and on Facebook Live.

Switching Meeting Dates: Chairwoman Pemberton said that at the last Executive Committee meeting, there was a request to change the regular Commission meetings from the second Thursday to the fourth Thursday of the month. The Executive Committee would meet on the second Thursday. Commissioner Milton made a motion to move the regular Commission meetings to the fourth Thursday. Seconded by Commissioner Peterson. The vote was unanimous. The change will begin in February 2022.

Vision Resource Center: Ms. Nazar met with Terri Thomas, the VRC Executive Director, with a four-part agenda. The first part was an awareness campaign; second part are duties as the ADA Coordinator for the City; third part was training; and the fourth part was technology. The

awareness campaign will consist of a Dining & Dialogue with the elected bodies from both the City and County. The other part of the awareness campaign would be working with Corporate Communications to create a Public Service Announcement with stories like those that were told at the December meeting. Training would consist of teaching visually impaired people how to file an ADA complaint. Commissioner Kendrick suggested for the Dining & Dialogue, that we invite people from Hope Mills and Spring Lake as well as the state legislature to attend.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Brunch: Chairwoman Pemberton said that there were three tickets available for the Commissioners. The brunch will be Monday, January 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Crown Coliseum. Four of the tickets are reserved for the Fayetteville-Cumberland Youth Council, who will be at the Commission's table.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar noted that since the DEI Directorship was announced, there have been over six requests for the DEI presentations in the next three months. She presented an overview of the work staff performed throughout the months of November and December of 2021.

Chairwoman Pemberton made a presentation to Commissioner Kendrick whose term has expired. He served on the Commission for four years.

The next Commission meeting will be on February 24, 2022.

Vice-Chairwoman Harris made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Webb. No vote was taken. Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Approved _____

Eileen Hatch, Secretary