



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 27, 2022
Westover Recreation Center, 267 Bonanza Dr.

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Secretary Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Claudia Zamora; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Kaitlyn Ford; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Eric D. Washington, SFC; Commissioner Franco Webb; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson

Others Present: Nikeisha Waring-Cumberland County Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer; Michael Gibson-Interim Assistant City Manager; Donna Pelham; Dwight Palmer, Rev.

Absent: Vice-Chairwoman Milette Harris; Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Abram Flores

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

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 Zamora. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Welcome New Commissioners & Executive Committee: Chairwoman Pemberton asked everyone to introduce themselves due to it being the first meeting for the newest Commissioners. The announcement of the Executive Committee will be postponed until the next meeting once all the slots are filled. Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Executive committee is made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two At-Large members. Chairwoman Pemberton, Vice-Chairwoman Harris, Secretary Abdelfatah, and Commissioner Lowery make up the members as of right now and awaiting confirmation for the last At-Large position.

Chairwoman Pemberton presented Donna Pelham with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Commission to thank her for her four years of service.

Youth Gun Violence Initiative: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that gun violence has been at a peak for the last two weeks, especially among the youth. Part of the Human Relations Commission is to strategize ways to make a positive impact on change in the community. Chairwoman Pemberton stated this is an open forum to discuss and brainstorm options as a Commission to assist the community in addressing the gun violence in the City. The current thought is to partner with other organizations to create options for the youth such as Kevin Brooks' organization, Fayetteville-Cumberland Youth Council, The Boys & Girls Club, Greater Life Fayetteville, and others. Chairwoman Pemberton asked the Commissioners for suggestions and discussion ensued.

Bystander Intervention: Chairwoman Pemberton stated L'Oreal and Hollaback! partnered together to create *Bystander Intervention*, which is a program that educates people on how to intervene when they see harassment occurring. The program was tentatively scheduled for November but will be postponed until next year.

Got Consent: Secretary Abdelfatah stated Got Consent is an initiative presented to high school students that teaches them how to spot sexual harassment and how to say no. Last year, it was hosted at South View High School and was a success. Secretary Abdelfatah stated *Got Consent* is planned tentatively for the end of this year or the beginning of the next semester, depending on schedules. Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about the last update on the event being hosted by E.E. Smith High School. Secretary Abdelfatah stated there has not been any confirmation from the school yet.

Update/Presentation: Ms. Nazar introduced Michael Gibson, Interim Assistant City Manager, and Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Gibson has been helping Ms. Nazar with the information for the repurposing of the Market House. Mr. Gibson stated that the purpose of his presentation to the Commission is to confirm that the scope of work that will be given to the City Council is what they agreed upon. Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Commission manages the overseeing of the Market House design plan and infrastructure. Mr. Gibson stated the money for the ADA is something that is mandatory and not optional, and also does not come out of the budget for the repurposing. Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about the meeting with City Council and Mr. Gibson stated once the scope of work is confirmed, is when the meeting will be set up. Based on questions, Chairwoman Pemberton informed the Commissioners that Historians will be a part of the process. Chairwoman Pemberton called for a motion to vote on whether the Commission will move forward on the scope of work.

Motion to vote on moving forward that the scope of work is the direction that the Human Relations Commission wants to move with the Market House was made by Commissioner Webb, and seconded by Commissioner Peterson. Vote was unanimous.

Commissioners Holiday Event: Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Commission will be having a Holiday Social. Ms. Nazar stated that before COVID, the Commission would have a Holiday Social

during their last meeting in December but being that there was no availability, it will now be December 14th.

Patriot Outreach: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Patriot Outreach is a non-profit that was managing the Commission's scholarship money. Over a year ago, the scholarship fund was short \$2700, and a refund has been pursued because it is affecting the awarding of scholarships to students. Ms. Nazar stated that the City Attorney's Office has all of the evidence collected against Patriot Outreach.

Committee Selection/Assignments: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that everyone has been assigned to a committee.

Chairwoman Pemberton presented Dwight Palmer Jr. with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Commission to thank him for his service.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated there have been consistent meetings about the Market House with different stakeholders. Cape Fear Kiwanis asked Ms. Nazar and Chairwoman Pemberton for a presentation on repurposing. Ms. Nazar attended a DEI conference in Wilmington. Commissioner Zamora invited Ms. Nazar to a Hispanic Heritage Luncheon on behalf of the Department and the Commission, and to do the opening remarks at the first Fiesta Latina. An ADA accommodation request has been investigated and finalized. Ms. Nazar also attended the Statewide Human Relations Conference in Greenville. In the month of September there were a total of 277 phone calls, 144 of them dealt with either Human Relations or DEI.

Announcements: Chairwoman Pemberton stated before everyone leaves, she would like for them to sign the poster for former Secretary Hatch.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2022.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pappas, and seconded by Commissioner Washington. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Approved _____

Samar Abdelfatah, Secretary