



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2022
Cliffdale Recreation Center, 6404 Cliffdale Rd.

Present: Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice-Chairwoman Harris; Secretary Samar Abdelfatah; Commissioner Abram Flores; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Claudia Zamora; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Eric D. Washington, SFC; Commissioner Sabb, LTC

Absent: Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Franco Webb; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Kaitlyn Ford; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG

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 Pappas, seconded by Commissioner Peterson. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Narcisse, seconded by Secretary Abdelfatah. Vote was unanimous.

Chairwoman Pemberton recognizes and welcomes the newest Executive Committee At-Large member, Abram Flores. There are now five members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two At-Large Commissioners.

Community Awards Luncheon: Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Vice-Chairwoman Harris is the Chair of the Awards Committee. Ms. Nazar stated the luncheon will be on February 15 at the Botanical Gardens from 11 am-1 pm. Nomination and sponsorship packets will be sent out via email and Commissioners will need to sell at least ten tickets, which are \$25. Ms. Nazar stated there are nine categories for the community to select leaders who promote positive human relations, and she has reached out to Gilbert Baez to inquire about being an emcee.

Chairwoman Pemberton inquired when the Community Awards Committee will meet, and Ms. Nazar stated that it will be at noon tomorrow, December 2, in the Festival Park Plaza building.

Status of the Patriot Outreach Funds Dispute: Ms. Nazar stated that the City Attorney's office has reached out to Patriot Outreach via a legal notice.

Dining & Dialogue: Vision Resource Center Update: Ms. Nazar stated the venue is booked for January 25 at the Botanical Gardens from 11 am to 1 pm. The experience of the Dining & Dialogue is to be able to eat lunch while being visually impaired. Invites will be sent to the community, County Commissioners, and City Council. Digital invitations will be sent to our Commissioners to send out to people in their networks. Chairwoman Pemberton explained what the Vision Resource Center is and gave examples of the things that they do. The goal is to provide an experience to get an insight into the barriers persons who are visually impaired face.

Commissioner's Holiday Event: Ms. Nazar stated the Holiday Social will be on December 15 at Olive Garden.

Roundtable: Chairwoman Pemberton explained that a roundtable is an open discussion for the Commissioners to introduce possible new initiatives. Commissioner Pappas shared an event on December 14 hosted by the Fayetteville Police Department talking to the youth about gun violence, and the Commission supporting it. Secretary Abdelfatah stated having metal detectors and more preventative actions in place. Discussion about housing for persons experiencing homelessness ensued. Commissioner Zamora suggested mental health programs and resources. Commissioner Flores suggested contacting the North Carolina Action Association Agency as a bridge to provide funding and programs to help persons experiencing homelessness and those who have low incomes. Chairwoman Pemberton stated if anyone has any ideas, they can send them to her via email.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated there were 209 calls in October and 169 calls in November. A detailed breakdown of the calls will be provided at the next meeting.

In October, Ms. Nazar interviewed a potential intern to assist with the implementation of the repurposing of the Market House, the Commission voted to accept the scope of work from the Architect, and Secretary Abdelfatah asked Ms. Nazar to speak on the initiatives and services the Human Relations Department and the Commission provides to the community. There was one active case.

In November, the Market House proposal was received and Ms. Nazar sent it to the Purchasing team after review. Ms. Nazar inquired about the status, and the first bill is \$139,000. The Purchasing Manager is getting the object codes from Parks & Recreation to fulfill that payment. There were two active cases and as of tomorrow, December 2, there may be four cases. The City Manager asked Ms. Nazar to brief the Citizen Police Advisory Board on the Commission's initiatives to build positive human relations between the community and first responders, and shared efforts with the film "The Hate You Give."

Interviews were conducted for the Administrative Specialist position, and an offer has been made. Once the person passes the pre-employment screening from the Human Resources Department, they will be announced. Ms. Nazar stated that the Human Relations Specialist position has been posted and will remain open for ten days.

Announcements: Vice-Chairwoman Harris extended an invite to the Commissioners to attend the Sexual Assault Summit on Monday, December 5, at Ft. Bragg from 8 am to 5 pm. Chairwoman Pemberton stated that Bystander Intervention will be moved to the first quarter of next year.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Washington, and seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Harris. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Approved _____

Samar Abdelfatah, Secretary