



**Human Relations Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
Kiwanis Recreation Center, 352 Devers St

**Present:** Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG; Commissioner Dwight Palmer Jr.; Commissioner Claudia Zamora; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Michael Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Abram Flores

**Absent:** Vice-Chairwoman Harris; Commissioner Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner Demetria Murphy; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Eric Washington, Human Relations Specialist; Diona Curtis, Administrative Specialist

**Others Present:** Sheila Cuffee, Diversity Equity & Inclusion Advocate

Chairwoman Pemberton called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Zamora. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Vote was unanimous.

**Roberts Rules:** Chairwoman Pemberton explained to the Commissioners what Roberts Rules are and stated they are designed to keep meetings in order. An example was provided on the proper way Roberts Rules are used, and inquired if there were any questions. Chairwoman Pemberton stated if there are any questions after the meeting, they can be answered via email.

**Market House Update:** Ms. Nazar stated at the Executive Committee meeting, she informed the members that the Archie Beebe marker was approved by City Council and she has been told to move forward with the marker. The organization that brought the Archie Beebe marker to City

Council has been contacted, and they do not currently have it. Ms. Nazar informed City Management the Archie Beebe process will need to be postponed until a marker is received.

Chairwoman Pemberton stated Lunch & Learn has been canceled until further notice, and inquired about the Historian Committee. Ms. Nazar stated the Historian Committee are currently working on developing the opening event for the Market House Repurposing unveiling.

Commissioner Zamora inquired if there was a timeline on the Market House repurposing ceremony, and Ms. Nazar stated there was not due to the construction timeline being unknown. Chairwoman Pemberton informed the Commissioners that they could refer to the Project Matrix for a full update on the Market House.

**Town Hall (Community Education):** Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Town Hall will be May 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and inquired about an update. Ms. Nazar stated the Marketing & Communications department met with Commissioner Lowery today to discuss the final logistics and a walk-through of how the webinar will be set up. Ms. Curtis stated there will be radio advertisement and an article in CityView to promote the event.

**Upcoming June Events:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated the Juneteenth and PRIDE Fest will be the events that the Commission will be participating in, and there is a sign-up sheet for those who would like to volunteer. Details on the events will be sent via email.

**Special Committees:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about volunteers that would want to join the Attendance Committee. The committee will be tasked with updating the current attendance policy to make exceptions for certain circumstances like military and health, and present it to City Council where they will take it to their Work Session to discuss it and vote on it.

Commissioner Abrams inquired about the current Human Relations Ordinance and Bylaws. Chairwoman Pemberton stated they will be sent via email.

**Departmental Report:** Ms. Nazar stated Mr. Washington will be facilitating Sexual Harassment Prevention trainings. The staff of the Human Relations department will be able to attend more conferences and trainings for the fiscal year coming up as well.

Denim Day was a successful event, and due to budget set-backs, the Commission may need to fundraise for next year's event.

There were a total of 191 calls, forty meetings attended, and four trainings facilitated for the month of April.

Chairwoman inquired about the Alger B. Wilkins High School donation, and Ms. Nazar explained it is an alternative high school where many students are experiencing homelessness, food insecurities, and some are either new parents or about to become parents. Ms. Nazar stated it will

be an annual donation, and the discussion ensued amongst the Commissioners on how to gather donations.

Ns. Nazar explained to the Commissioners that she is the ADA Compliance Officer for the City of Fayetteville and if there is something within the City of Fayetteville that is out of compliance, inform her via phone or email.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Palmer, and seconded by Commissioner Upchurch. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Semone Pemberton, Chairwoman