



**Human Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, June 22, 2023  
Festival Park Plaza Training Room, 225 Ray Ave, Suite 122

**Present:** Chairwoman Semone Pemberton; Vice-Chairwoman Harris; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Dwight Palmer Jr.; Commissioner Claudia Zamora; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Demetria Murphy; Commissioner Dakota Wright; Commissioner Michael Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Peter B. Pappas; Commissioner J. Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; and Commissioner Crystal Edmonds

**Absent:** Commissioner Dr. Elmore Lowery; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Shirley S. Francis; Commissioner Abram Flores

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Eric Washington, Human Relations Specialist; Lashonda Mitchell-Mckinnon, Office Assistant II

**Others Present:** Nichelle Downs, Community Service; Bill Milton, Former Commissioner

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 with the addition of the Awards Committee was made by Commissioner Palmer, seconded by Commissioner Peterson. Vote was unanimous.

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

Chairwoman Pemberton introduced and welcomed the guests for the meeting.

**PRIDE Festival Volunteers:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated Ms. Curtis sent out the volunteer sign-up for the PRIDEFest and more information will be sent out about the available time slots and location information. Ms. Nazar informed the Commissioners who volunteered that it is supposed to rain, and she will leave the decision to them to set up depending on the weather.

The department staff will follow up with Commissioners to let them know if there will be a tent provided for the event.

Chairwoman Pemberton inquired if the Fair Housing Board members were invited to volunteer for PRIDEFest, and requested to invite them. Vice-Chairwoman Harris suggested taking the fair housing questions off of the Wheel of Fortune.

**Executive Committee:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated there are currently two members on the Executive Committee out of five, and inquired about who would like to be considered to be a part of the committee. The Executive Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month. The Secretary and two At-Large positions are available.

**Awards Committee:** Ms. Nazar stated that an Awards Committee needs to be formed in August to start preparing for the annual Awards Luncheon that is held in February. The Awards Committee also organizes the scholarships and the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee work together to prepare the luncheon and scholarship reception.

**Market House Update:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about an update on the Market House and Ms. Nazar stated there is no update. Chairwoman Pemberton stated she has received questions about the status of the Market House repurposing, and asked the Commissioners their opinions on updating the public. Discussion ensued, and Ms. Nazar stated the Human Relations Commission is not able to put out a statement without the approval of City Council. Vice-Chairwoman Harris inquired about the options that the Commission has. Chairwoman Pemberton stated Ms. Nazar will bring updates, and stated the Commission should have all information about the logistics of the Market House.

Chairwoman Pemberton stated herself and Vice-Chairwoman Harris will work on the verbiage for the Market House plaque. Ms. Nazar stated the current wording is lengthy, so it is suggested to shorten the verbiage. Vice-Chairwoman Harris explained the words “sold as slaves” will be changed to “enslaved and sold,” and “shame” will be changed to “strength.” Vice-Chairwoman Harris stated the verbiage should be completed by next week.

Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about the Archie Beebe Marker, and Ms. Nazar stated she reached out to Mr. Haddock about an update and his organization has not yet received the marker yet.

**Status of Remaining Projects:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about the upcoming projects on the Project Matrix, and Ms. Nazar stated all projects are dependent on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**July Commission Meeting:** Chairwoman Pemberton stated there are no meetings in July.

**ADA Anniversary Celebration:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired about the ADA Anniversary Celebration, and Ms. Nazar stated that was an initiative present by Commissioner Francis and the Council for Persons with Disabilities.

**Departmental Report:** Ms. Nazar explained that the delegation that went to Denver won the All-American City Award, making the City of Fayetteville four-time winners. Youth and Market House initiatives were recognized by the judges and are the two things that led to the City of Fayetteville to being recognized.

**Other Business:** Chairwoman Pemberton inquired if any of the Commissioners had anything to present anything for discussion.

Commissioner Wright stated the Cumberland County Board of Health will be hosting a “Fun in the Sun” event on September 16, 1235 Ramsey St, behind their headquarters in the parking lot. The focus is on safety and information on health services. The Uber Health Rider program is a service provided by Cumberland County Department of Public Services that allows you to have access to a free ride if you are scheduled for an appointment or receiving a walk-in service. For more information, a Health Department staff member can be reached at (910) 433-3600.

Commissioner Sabb thanked Vice-Chairwoman Harris, Ms. Curtis, and Mr. Washington for attending the 82<sup>nd</sup> Juneteenth Observance. There are observances every month and Commissioner Sabb will send the flyers to Ms. Curtis to distribute to the Commissioners.

Vice-Chairwoman Harris provided her resignation, and informed the Commissioners a replacement will be needed to Chair of the MLK Committee.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2023.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pappas, and seconded by Commissioner Palmer. With a unanimous vote, Chairwoman Pemberton adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Semone Pemberton, Chairwoman