



Human Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 25, 2024  
**Festival Park Training Room, 225 Ray Ave Suite 122**

**Present:** Chairman William “Bill” Milton; Secretary Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Milette Herring; Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG; Commissioner Laura Mussler, Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner Eric Bradley; Commissioner Sarah Singletary

**Absent:** Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; Commissioner Dakota Wright, CPT (Excused); Commissioner Michael T. Sabb, LTC

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

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Chairman Milton called for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve the agenda with the removal of 6.04 – Student Human Relations Commission, was made by Commissioner Herring, seconded by Commissioner Pappas. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Bradley Sr., seconded by Commissioner Pappas. Vote was unanimous.

**Denim Day Recap:** Chairman Milton stated Denim Day was a success, and there were about eighty (80) people in attendance.

**Dogwood Festival:** Chairman Milton stated the Dogwood festival is this weekend and Human Relations will be participating. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet for those who would like to volunteer.

Ms. Curtis stated that the Dogwood Festival time slots for volunteers start from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Nazar stated the tent will be located in the parking lot across from the Library.

Scholarships: Chairman Milton stated the Scholarship Reception will be held at the Bill Crisp Senior Center on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Ms. Herring stated she has notified all the recipients, and is waiting on a response from three of the students.

Ms. Curtis informed the commissioners that she will send all details for the reception via email.

Ms. Nazar stated that there needs to be at least nine volunteers to introduce the scholarship recipients. Commissioners Upchurch, Mussler, Peterson, Narcisse, Francis, Singletary, Bradley Sr., and Pelham all volunteered to present.

Attendance: Ms. Nazar stated that each commissioner has a copy of the attendance policy in their folder and must attend 75% of all meetings and commission-sponsored events. Missing three consecutive meetings can also result in the removal of a commissioner.

Festival are not mandatory and do not count against attendance.

Motion to vote on clean slate for attendance was made by Commissioner Herring, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Curtis will create a new Attendance Analysis and will provide it to the Commissioners.

Committee Historian: Chairman Milton inquired about an update from Commissioner Narcisse and Upchurch.

Ms. Nazar stated that staff documents everything, and she will provide contact information for the Historians to reach out to collect the book of archives for the Human Relations Commission.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated that the City Council is interested in creating an office for Community Safety, that will be taking place on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. - 4:30p.m. at Fayetteville State University; a summit will be held to discuss any concerns as it relates to community safety.

Ms. Nazar stated Ms. Curtis has been attending Fair Housing Conferences across North Carolina, and will be planning a Fair Housing Summit for Fair Housing Month in 2025.

Ms. Nazar stated on September 19, 2024, the Human Relations Department will be hosting a Statewide Bias Incident & Hate Crimes Forum at the Tony Rand Center on Fayetteville Technical Community College campus. The Human Relations Department will also be hosting the North Carolina National Association of Human Rights Workers (NC-NAHRW) conference the same week.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Herring, seconded by Commissioner Mussler. With a unanimous vote, Chairman Milton adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Crystal Edmonds  
Crystal Edmonds, Secretary