



Human Relations Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 23, 2024  
**Festival Park Training Room, 225 Ray Ave Suite 122**

**Present:** Chairman William “Bill” Milton; Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; 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 Sr.; Commissioner Sarah Singletary; Commissioner Michael T. Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Michael Long

**Absent:** Commissioner Dakota Wright, CPT (Excused)

**Staff Present:** Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Lashonda Mitchell-McKinnon, Office Assistant I

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Chairman Milton 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 Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction of an excused absence for Commissioner Sabb was made by Commissioner Pappas, seconded by Commissioner Singletary. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Milton welcomed the newest member to the Human Relations Commission, Michael Long.

Scholarship Reception Recap: Chairman Milton stated the Scholarship Reception was held on May 9, 2024, and was a successful event.

Vice-Chairwoman Murphy recommended that the Scholarship Committee meet after the event to discuss the final wrap-up and consider potential improvements.

Commissioner Herring announced she would create a continuity book for the Scholarship Reception and noted that next year’s plan includes providing scholarships to students interested in trade schools.

Ms. Nazar mentioned that she met with the Marketing and Communications department about offering scholarships for trade schools, and it was suggested to partner with the Fire Department and other trade-related occupations.

Attendance: Vice-Chairwoman inquired about attendance, and Ms. Nazar informed her that the new attendance analysis has been implemented, effective today, May 23, 2024.

Ms. Nazar also noted that the meeting dates are listed in each folder, indicating which events are mandatory for the Human Relations Commission and which are not.

Project Matrix: Chairman Milton discussed the breakdown of the Project Matrix for clarity.

Vice-Chairwoman Murphy inquired about the Student Human Relations Commission and the Archie Beebe initiatives. Commissioner Herring noted that during the last meeting, it was decided to place the Student Human Relations Commission on hold and move it to the "Past Projects" section until further action is taken. Ms. Nazar provided an update on the Archie Beebe Remembrance Project, stating that we are waiting for the next steps to be completed by the Archie Beebe committee.

Commissioner Pappas mentioned that the Market House initiative has not been updated.

Ms. Nazar confirmed that the Project Matrix will be updated accordingly.

Juneteenth Jubilee: Chairman Milton inquired about volunteers for the Juneteenth Jubilee and PRIDE, and stated there is a sign-up sheet going around for volunteers.

Ms. Nazar stated that it is important for volunteer hours to be logged after each event.

Commissioner Sabb inquired about additional promotional items for the Human Relations table. Ms. Nazar stated she will have a definite answer at the start of the new fiscal year.

Other Business: Chairman Milton asked if there was any further business to discuss.

Commissioner Pappas mentioned that the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office will be withdrawing their School Resource Officers (SROs) from schools effective July 1st. Vice-Chairwoman Murphy noted that metal detectors will be installed in some schools, and Ms. Nazar expressed concerns about potential challenges this may cause.

Commissioner Abrams announced that the 82nd Airborne Division will be hosting their annual observances and has extended an invitation to attend.

- Asian American/Pacific Islander Observance: May 31<sup>st</sup> – 11:30 a.m.
- Juneteenth Observance: June 21<sup>st</sup> - 12:30 p.m.
- PRIDE Observance: June 28<sup>th</sup> – The time is to be determined.

All observances will be held at the Hall of Heroes on Ft. Liberty.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar mentioned that someone who attended one of her DEI trainings invited her to be the closing speaker on Sexual Harassment, Hostile Work Environment in the Workplace at a Child Abuse Summit with nearly 400 attendees.

Ms. Nazar and Commissioner Herring conducted eight-3-hour sessions of Sexual Harassment and Hostile Work Environment training for the Fayetteville Police Department.

Ms. Curtis has been attending Fair Housing conferences to gain further knowledge about the subject.

Ms. Nazar announced that tonight will be Lashonda's last night with the Human Relations Department.

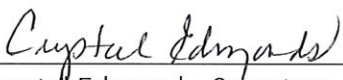
April's call data will be provided on the May Departmental Report.

There have been eight complaints in the past couple of weeks that will be investigated, most of which are Fair Housing cases.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2024.

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

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Crystal Edmonds, Secretary