



Human Relations Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2024
Festival Park Training Room, 225 Ray Ave, Suite 122

Present: Chairman William "Bill" Milton; Vice-Chairwoman Demetria Murphy; Secretary Crystal Edmonds; Commissioner Michael A. Sabb, LTC; Commissioner Shirley Francis; Commissioner Toshiba Narcisse; Commissioner Peter Pappas; Commissioner J Vernon Peterson; Commissioner Lynndora Thompson; Commissioner Dakiesha Upchurch; Commissioner Denise Abrams, MSG; Commissioner Laura Mussler; Commissioner Donna Pelham; Commissioner Sarah Singletary; Commissioner Michael Long

Absent: Commissioner Milette Herring; Commissioner Eric Bradley; Commissioner Dakota Wright, CPT (Excused)

Staff Present: Yamile Nazar, DEI Director; Ruby Ratley, Human Relations Intern

Chairman Milton called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Vote was unanimous.

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections, including the proper spelling of Commissioners Sabb and Peterson's names, and the adjustment of Commissioner Mussler's attendance status to 'absent' for the last meeting was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pappas. Vote was unanimous.

Other Business: Chairman Milton welcomed Ruby Ratley, the Human Relations Intern, and Ms. Nazar highlighted her accomplishments since joining the department. Commissioner Mussler suggested adding 'Introductions' to the agenda in future meetings to maintain the proper order of the program.

Chairman Milton announced that the Fayetteville Police Department will be hosting a 'Peace Walk' on June 29 at Seabrook Recreation Center.

Commissioner Abrams informed the Commissioners that the 82nd Airborne Division Equal Opportunity Office will be holding a PRIDE Observance at the Hall of Heroes, 5108 Ardennes St, Ft. Liberty, tomorrow, June 28.

Ms. Nazar mentioned that there was a request for a Market House update last month, and an update memo has been placed in each folder.

Juneteenth Recap: Chairman Milton stated that Juneteenth was a success and expressed gratitude to the Commissioners who volunteered for the event.

PRIDE: Ms. Nazar stated that there was not going to be to be any participation in the PRIDE Festival this year due to last minute communication to pay a sponsorship of \$375.

Project Matrix: Chairman Milton inquired about there being any questions regarding the Project Matrix. Vice-Chairwoman Murphy inquired about potential involvement concerning the removal of DEI initiatives in the University of North Carolina School System. Ms. Nazar explained that DEI training can still be offered at the schools, but they must request it.

Commissioner Abrams inquired about the month that the International Folk Festival is held, and Ms. Nazar stated that it occurs in September with the date to be determined.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Market House memo impacts any of the options presented to City Council or if modifications will be addressed as they come about. Ms. Nazar explained that there were concerns about whether the proposed square option could accommodate fire trucks, and it was confirmed that the trucks can pass through. Additionally, there were concerns that the square option might slow down traffic, which Ms. Nazar stated is the intended purpose.

Ms. Nazar stated that before construction is set to begin, the Arts Council and Historian Group will begin to start planning programs for when it is complete. Ms. Nazar will inquire about a timeline for when construction is set to be complete once it begins so that the Arts Council can to begin vetting local talent for the Market House Project.

Vice-Chairwoman Murphy inquired about early preparation for the Community Awards, and Ms. Nazar stated that most of the sales come after the recipients are selected, but advertisement sales can be started early.

Roundtable: Ms. Nazar announced that the North Carolina National Association of Human Rights (NC-NAHRW) Conference is scheduled for September 17-18, followed by a Statewide Bias Incidents & Hate Crimes Forum on September 19. Both events are sponsored by the department, so attendance is not mandatory for the Human Relations Commissioners. Yesterday, on June 26, representatives from the United States Department of Justice, the United States Attorney's Office, the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, and Ms. Nazar conducted a walkthrough of the Tony Rand Center at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Departmental Report: Ms. Nazar stated that interviews for the Human Relations Specialist position were conducted and a candidate was selected, however an offer could not be extended due to false information in their application. The position has been reposted, and a new round of interviews will be conducted.

In May, the department received 250 calls and received six cases.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2024.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pappas, seconded by Commissioner Peterson. With a unanimous vote, Chairman Milton adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Approved _____

Crystal Edmonds
Crystal Edmonds, Secretary