

# Memo

To: Russ Boggs, Gretchen Little, Josh Grubbs, Kia Hansard, Amanda Arbour, Amanda Carter, Valerie Carelock, Christi'an Yellowdy, Theo Braddy

From: Shaashawn S. Dial, Director Social Equity & Affirmative Action (staff liaison to the HHRC)

cc: None

Date: December 20, 2018 (Approved)

Re: December 19, 2018 Harrisburg Human Relations Commission (HHRC) Meeting Minutes (Approved)

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CITY OF HARRISBURG DEPARTMENT of ADMINISTRATION

BUREAU of SOCIAL EQUITY & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Harrisburg Human Relations Commission (HHRC) December 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes  
(meeting #12)

Physical Meeting held in Emergency Operations Center (EOC), room number 213, of the Public Safety Building. Enter through main doors of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Building, 10 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, and come across the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bridge.

In attendance: Commissioner Arbour (AA), Commissioner Boggs (RB)/Chair, Commissioner Carelock (VC), Commissioner Amanda Carter (AC), Commissioner Gretchen Little (GL)/ Vice Chair, Commissioner Josh Grubbs (JG), Commissioner Hansard (KH), & Shaashawn Dial (Staff Liaison).

Absent: Commissioner Braddy (TB), Commissioner Yellowdy

Meeting called to order 5:43 pm by RB, Chair.

Staff Liaison conducted alphabetical order roll call of Commissioners.

There was one Commissioner BORN day recognized for month of December: Commissioner Yellowdy. Blessed early BORN day, Christi'an. Her special day was 12/11.

Chair Boggs opened the floor for public comment. One individual from the public was present, John Bookwalter, Jr. (Mr. Bogg's spouse, who attended the meeting to aid in navigating spaces with a walker due to a fall, broken bones, and surgery. No one from the public shared any comment(s).

Chair Boggs opened the floor for follow-up discussion on Neil Grover, Solicitor, City of Harrisburg, who served as the October Guest Facilitator. There was not discussion. The Staff Liaison circulated a holiday card to serve as a 'thank you' to Neil for attending the meeting. All Commissioners present signed the card.

The guest facilitator for the December meeting was Dave Madsen, City Council Member (elected official). Dave shared a bit about his passion about human rights and wanted to hold an open discussion about the United Nations Bill of Rights for Women and what could City Council, the Papenfuse Administration, and HHRC do within the 3<sup>rd</sup> class city code? Madsen shared it is the only treaty that affirms reproductive rights for women. Chairman Boggs asked two questions: 1. Did the US Sign on to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Are their local ordinances on women outside of non-discrimination that, protect reproductive rights? 3. Has City Council passed any resolutions or legislation that affirms women's rights? Mr. Madsen agreed to research and if resolutions / legislation was found, he would explore the possibility of resurrecting, reaffirming those to remind all in the current 'me too' movement and climate. Commissioner Arbour asked if Mr. Madsen's approach is one of: "And/ Both" with regard to statements from the city and policy – his reply was 'yes'. Mr. Madsen asked if the Commissioners would be willing to collaborate with him and draft a statement. In addition, a tip was provided for Mr. Madsen to work with the Papenfuse Administration to advocate to Office/ Bureau Directors to increase efforts below and above the procurement threshold to do business with small diverse businesses (women, people of color, people with disabilities, lgbtq+, etc).

Commissioners reviewed minutes from October 17, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Grubbs motioned to 'adopt the minutes. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Little. Motion carried.

Staff Liaison provided a Staff Liaison Report. Her engagement effort highlights: facilitated an exercise called considering our language as co-vice chair of the Governor's Commission on LGBTQ+ Affairs 1<sup>st</sup> meeting Friday, November 2, 2018 10am to 5pm at HU

- Attended Public Works Award Ceremony & Retirement Recognition under leadership of Director Aaron Johnson
- Met with community partners senior leadership of Alder Health
- Drafted and submitted proposal for community partner nomination for YWCA Tribute to Excellence of YWCA of Greater Harrisburg for K. McToy of Alder Health
- Asked to attend Cumberland Courts Vendors / Partners Appreciation Lunch for the HHRC's work/ contributions to residents of Cumberland Court Apartments
- Attended Movie screening of Kiki" with appearances by: Movie Personality Chi Chi Mizrahi, Pennsylvania Department of Health | Bureau of Communicable Diseases Division of HIV Disease | HIV Care Section

Continued Professional Development:

- Attended OFCCP Basics for Construction Contractors Webinar
- Requested to submit proposal to facilitate at SADI conference. Submitted two proposals.
- Continued participation as member of SARAA Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority Board.
- Attended last and final meeting Monday, 17, 2018, as board of directors' member of LGBT Center after volunteering for a full year then serving two three-year terms.
- Completed coursework and entered Comprehensive Exam Phase of PhD process.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Staff Liaison shared: 1. the City lifted it's hiring freeze and returned to posting open positions 2. Act 47 Update and 3. 2019 Budget process update, 4. The re-appointment of Commissioner Braddy and Vice Chair Little, and new-appointee Kevin Burrell will be in January 2019.

Chair Boggs facilitated discussion on the 2019 meeting dates: either 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays or 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays. Commissioner Carter motioned to adopt the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday dates and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hansard. The dates are:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14 – Indigenous people's Day (formerly Columbus Day) - No Meeting

November 11 – Veteran's Day – No Meeting

December 9

The Staff Liaison will submit dates to Secretary 1 Police who books the calendar for the EOC space and administrative staff of the Mayoral Suite.

Staff liaison shared (in hard copy) the approved Resolution (amended) by City Council "affirming the City of Harrisburg's public policy of fostering an inclusive and diverse community and opposing mental health professionals engaging in any counseling, practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation and/ or gender identity or expression in persons under 18 years of age." The amendment states, "the law bureau shall draft legislation which provides for a complete ban of conversion therapy within the City of Harrisburg by the end of second quarter in 2019." A goal of working collaboratively with Youth, Counselors, and organizations such as: Alder Health, Lgbt Center of Central PA, Transcentral, PA Youth Congress,

Equality PA, and PA HRC to collect data will be part of the first and second quarter activities of the HHRC.

The Staff Liaison reminded Commissioners per their request, she sent her job description via email for their review as part of their discussion on whether to advocate for the 'staff liaison to the HHRC' be an 'Executive Director' in future years.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Staff Liaison Dial thanked Commissioner Yellowdy (who was absent due to illness) for her year of service.

**Under Commissioner announcements / community events shared were:** Staff Liaison shared: parking will be free in Harrisburg on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, in Harrisburg, returning to normal on Wednesday, Dec. 26. In addition, the City of Harrisburg New Year Celebration will be held 9pm – 12am in front of MLK Building and the Strawberry will drop from Harrisburg Hilton.

Meeting adjourned: 6:44 pm

\*A holiday social for and by Commissioners and Staff Liaison was held at BACCO, Commissioners and Staff Liaison paid for their own food and beverages.