

Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement
Community Relations Commission
Public Session Minutes
June 21, 2017

Participating in the meeting were Commissioners Rev. Todd Yeary (Interim-Chair) via conference call, A. Adar Ayira, Adote Richard Ghandi Akwei, Carrie Evans, Stephen Ruckman, Syeetah Hampton-El, Phillip Farfel, Sarah Heaton, and Stephanie Maddin-Smith. Also present were Jill P. Carter (Director), Sharita Thomas (Deputy Director), Monica Wilson (CRC Supervisor), Veronica Thomas, Greg Logan, Anthony Jemison, Ginnea Morton, Khadriah Ward, and Michele Masters (Office Manager).

Commissioner Hampton-El opened the meeting at 8:35AM

I. Welcome

Director Jill P. Carter welcomed everyone to the Community Relations Commission Board Meeting.

Introductions were given by Commissioners and staff.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioners agreed to vote on the Public Session Minutes at the next meeting.

III. Commissioners' Report

The Commissioners would like to work toward solving systemic discrimination.

IV. Director's Report

Director Carter asked that the Commissioners give thought to voting in the Chair and adding a Secretary. In addition, Director Carter stated that it would be prudent to have different committees where Commissioners can sign up to cover different areas of expertise. Our statute calls for certain activities surrounding different topics in education, housing, public accommodation, etc.

Director Carter stated that sponsorship is needed for the Annual Civil Rights Breakfast on September 25th at 8:30 a.m. located at the Hilton Hotel.

V. Open Forum

Monica Wilson (Investigative Supervisor) was asked to give an overview of the intake process; afterward there was a question and answer period.

Commissioners Hampton-El and Ruckman gave an overview of the Rules and Procedures. Commissioner Hampton-El asked that everyone take time to read the changes to the Rules and Procedures and provide feedback, comments, and suggestions.

The redline version of the Rules and Procedures will be sent to the Commissioners and CRC staff for review of changes. Commissioners agreed to move the July Meeting to August to allow everyone time to review the redline version of the Rules and Procedures.

The Commission discussed forming committees based on outreach interests. Deputy Director Thomas will provide a wish list of resources for funding.

Director Carter spoke about having future Community Relations Commission meetings at other locations including town halls. In addition, Director Carter asked all Commissioners to like and follow the Office of Civil Rights on Twitter and invite all friends to like and follow the office on social media.

Deputy Director Sharita Thomas welcomed commissioners to come out and participate at the Civil Rights community table during events. Commissioners are asked to participate in the Open Meetings Act annual training online and forward the certificate to the Office of Civil Rights. In addition, Commissioners are asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and return to the office.

Commissioners wanted to ask specific questions regarding cases and therefore voted to close the public session briefly.

There being no further business, the Commission voted to adjourn the Public Session at 10:18 a.m. and move into the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Drummond
Secretary III