



Human Relations Commission (HHRC)

November 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Location: MLK City Government Building, 10 N. 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17101

In Attendance: Chairperson Russell Boggs, Commissioners Amanda Arbour, Shay Banks, Kevin Burrell, Gretchen Little
Deborah Sibbering, City of Harrisburg

Absent: N/A

Meeting called to order at 5:42 p.m. by Chairperson Boggs.

HHRC Liaison Deborah Sibbering took roll call.

- Chairperson Boggs asked for a motion to adopt the November 8, 2021 meeting agenda. Motion made by Burrell and seconded by Little. Motion passed without objection.
- Public comment - None
- Chairperson Boggs asked for a motion to approve the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion made by Arbour and seconded by Burrell. Motion passed without objection.

Chairperson Boggs asked for a motion to approve the October 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion made by Little and seconded by Banks. Motion passed without objection.

- **Staff Liaison Report**

Current discrimination complaint and new inquiries – Sibbering reported on Case HHRC #2105, notice has been sent to the respondent with a request to reply by November 30th. Additional information to follow.

HHRC Case #2106 and #2107, Sibbering recommended to close both cases due to failure by the claimants to provide additional information after multiple requests to do so. Commissioners approved closure of the aforementioned cases.

Commissioner Travel – Sibbering stated that Chairperson Boggs should meet with the newly elected Mayor in January to review any new budget requests, including reimbursement for commissioner travel for HHRC related events. In the meantime, Sibbering would survey existing policies regarding travel requirements to ascertain if there are any language and/or stipulations regarding the subject.

Dauphin County discrimination update – In review of information received from the County, relevant pages were excluded. Sibbering will contact County for complete policy and advise at the next meeting.

- **Old Business**

Neighborhood Association Group list – Burrell stated that he remains interested in pursuing a partnership with neighborhood groups. He said that a local church has invited him to participate in an Anti-Racism initiative and by doing so he may have the opportunity to meet individuals from various neighborhood groups.

Non-discrimination Ordinance discussion

Definitions - Sibbering reported that a preliminary deadline had been set for December 31st to submit recommended updates to the Commissioners. However, there is significant research involved that may push the deadline further out. Little reminded that only necessary updates should be included in the proposed ordinance updates.

Meetings – Boggs presented the 2022 HHRC meeting calendar for review, discussion and approval. Commissioners discussed the need to meet for the final 2021 meeting, scheduled for December 13th. After the discussion Boggs requested a motion to adopt the 2022 calendar. Motion made by Burrell and seconded by Little. Boggs made a motion to cancel the December 13th meeting Motion made by Little and seconded by Burrell.

Commissioners – There was discussion about filling current vacant commissioner seats. Sibbering suggested that the discussion continue when the Mayor (current or incoming) are available. There was agreement. In the meantime, the Commissioners discussed the possibility of interest from different groups. Burrell said that there may be interest from Camp Curtain residents. Boggs inquired about the Latino groups. Arbour followed by suggesting COSA and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Burrell reminded that there was a local citizen with a disability that had previously expressed interest. He said that he would follow-up with him to see if he is still interested.

Marketing materials – Boggs reminded that there are funds in the budget to purchase marketing materials. The Commissioners discussed various items that may be considered. Sibbering will collaborate with Boggs on the purchase of items at the earliest opportunity, prior to new budget cycle.

Banks stated that once the materials are ordered (or simultaneously), the commission should consider events and possible venues to promote further awareness of the HHRC. The commission brainstormed about possible venues and locations for events, including the City Hall lobby. Arbour said that there's a possibility to use Channel 21.

Commissioner Reappointments – Action contingent upon Mayor and City Council. Sibbering said resumes of current commissioners have been forwarded and available when needed.

Budget – (Russ – I didn't see anything in my notes about adopting the budget. Did I miss that?)

- **New Business** – 2022 Meeting dates. Refer to the above.

- **Commissioner Announcements** – None
- **Adjourned** – 6:37 p.m.