

Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Meeting

Minutes/Notes – October 22 2019 draft

Call to Order/Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to Order by Commission Chairperson Shawnta Pulliam-Brown at 6:00 PM.

Commission Members Present: Shawnta' Pulliam-Brown (Chair.); Christine Mitchell (Sec.); Connie Manus Mike Martin Mary Jo Campbell (V-Chair).

Commission Members Not Present: Tracey Leet, John Steiner, Willy McAdory.

ECHRC Staff Present: Tony Logue, Brian Spry.

Approval of Commissioners Minutes / Notes:

The Minutes of the September 24th meeting approved by the Commissioners Motioned by Commissioners Campbell and Pulliam-Brown.

Guest / Public Comment(s): none

Chair Report / Commissioners Comment(s):

Attendance was discussed. We are all very busy but have made a commitment. The attendance policy is to let HRC director/staff and/or chair know if you cannot make a meeting for cause like illness, traveling/vacation or conflict so it can be excused. There is a maximum of 3 unexcused absences in a year. The state HRC will was October 17th at the Blasco Library. We were much better prepared this time and the venue was much better. Meeting was 6-8. Chair Pulliam-Brown thanked all for attending and helping. We had 34-40 people in attendance and about ½ took advantage of the ability to get help after the sessions. A MOA with the state was discussed. Director Logue will get information on the MOA they have with the Pittsburgh to see what might be appropriate to propose ensuring our local office remains full and robust. The state may own any cases they help create from the meeting.

Director's Report:

Director Logue. Director Logue acknowledged Attorney Spry There is advertising coming in the Black Yellow Pages and Erie Reader. We will focus on the black yellow pages this year and the Erie Reader in 2020 to increase visibility in the minority community. Budget planning would like additional investigative resources but that is in negotiation process. We are increasing visibility and reputation of the office. Two additional old cases were found. Several cases settled. After additional fact finding meetings more hearing or motions may be coming . We are moving cases well and timely.

All cases are actively being worked.

We discussed different types of interns available and intern requests are in process with the local colleges. The likely target date will be January to have interns.

Dr Stoops from advisory board will be helping with a student commission in 2020 and PSA's is currently being worked currently for us.

Corry fair housing seminar 11/15/19. Diana Ames from the advisory board will attend.

Freda Tepfer from the advisory board will be pursuing a workshop on accessibility.

Old Business:

Attorney Spry discussed the cases and that there are several cases coming for negotiation/fact finding shortly. We discussed one case coming to court of common pleas. For future cases we discussed our ability to know of future settlements outside of our settlement process.

New Business

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn by commissioners Campbell and Mitchell and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.