

Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Meeting

Minutes/Notes – August 27th 2019

Call to Order/Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to Order by Commission Chairperson Shawnta Pulliam-Brown at 6:01 PM.

Commission Members Present: Shawnta' Pulliam-Brown (Chair.); Christine Mitchell (Sec.); Tracy Leet; Michael Martin, Mary Jo Campbell (V-Chair).

Commission Members Not Present: Connie Manus, Willy McAdory and John Steiner.

ECHRC Staff Present: Tony Logue, Wayne Harbison Brian Spry.

City Council Kathy Schaff County Council Doug Smith

Approval of Commissioners Minutes / Notes:

The minutes were amended to correct chairman to chairwoman and Attorney Spry as the volunteered for marketing committee. The Minutes of the July 23rd 2019 meeting were amended and approved by the Commissioners Motioned by Commissioners Pulliam-Brown and Leet.

Guest / Public Comment(s): Kathy Schaff was glad to attend

New Commissioner Martin introduced himself and was welcomed by the commission

Kathy Schaff discussed a person who had come to her seeking help. Attorney Spry responded that the complaint was substantially untimely and no details had been sent. If the person has details to send for them to please send for reconsideration is the response.

Doug Smith reported on the financials and budget. He reviewed in detail. We will be getting a new copier. They will be bumping the attorney fees item from 25k to 32k to cover the fees. Testing of fair housing is handled by grants it is very difficult to make decisions based on very small sample sizes. Ads for the commission have been run and are covered. Some office needs in process – considering standup desks and some internet needs to have a separate building wi-fi. The commission getting an intern was also discussed.

Chair Report / Commissioners Comment(s):

Chair Pulliam-Brown discussed that Commissioner Melonie Jackson has resigned due to her work schedule. The chair will be reaching out to Kathy Dahlkemper to get a replacement.

The state HRC will be returning October 17th. We will market this event with Attorney Spry and commissioners Pulliam-Brown and Mitchell working on that. We are much better prepared this time. We agreed on bottled water for the speakers for the event.

Director's Report:

Director Logue. Director Logue acknowledged his staff person Wayne and Attorney Spry. Director Logue updated the Commissioners about the expansion/update of the ECHRC office. We are in the new office second month now and it looks very good.

We currently have 13 active cases. We will be having negotiations in our new offices. We have 3 fact finding sessions scheduled in September and one in October. EEOC will utilize our space for a meeting also and our HRC staff will observe.

All 13 cases are actively being worked.

We discussed different types of interns available.

Dr Stoops from advisory board will be helping with a student commission.

Old Business:

Attorney Spry discussed the cases and that there are several cases coming for negotiation/fact finding shortly. One complaint is being withdrawn. Commissioners Campbell and Leet motioned to approve this motion to withdraw and it was approved. Motion by commissioner Campbell/Leet to deny motion for reconsideration for a case where the respondent missed the timely filing of cause twice. After discussion the question was called and the motion for reconsideration was denied.

New Business Commissioner Leet requested a flow char of the complaint that was provided.

Adjournment:

There was a motion to adjourn by commissioners Campbell and Leet and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.