

## **Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023**

Meeting conducted via Zoom format- *Notes submitted by John Groh acting secretary*

**Called to Order** by Chair Alex Sphon at 6:03 pm

**In attendance:** Kathy Schaaf, Alex Sphon, Edison Nicholson, John Groh. Liaison Ellen Schauerma and Executive Director Kelly Ryan. It is noted a quorum was not present therefore, no official action would be taken

**Director Comments:** Kelly explained the number of members and vacancies currently on the board along with the challenges of quorum minimum. Discussion of possible amendments to the ECHRC ordinance to include alternate members and policy for removal of members due to nonfeasance

**Staff Report:** Kelly had several items for discussion including the development of a new QR code which directs people to the ECHRC website. The QR code will be used on flyers the Commission distributes to the public. Further, there are new cases arriving for investigation by the Commission. Erie County is in the midst of filling an additional staff person to work with Kelly in the daily operation of the department and commission.

**Chair Report:** Alex emphasized the importance of the Advisory Boards public relations. The Board main function is to let the public know of the ECHRC.

**New Business:** Kelly stated the mission of the Advisory Board includes research, education and public relations. There will be a public outreach at the Pridefest and Juneteenth events this summer

**Adjourned at 7:10 pm .** Next Advisory Board meeting is set for July 19, 2023 at 6:00