

## Erie County Human Relations Commission (ECHRC) – Commissioners Joint Meeting

### Minutes – August 23rd 2023

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call:**

The Meeting was called to Order by secretary Christine Mitchell via in person/zoom at 6:02 PM.

Commission Members Present: Marc Blount, Christine Mitchell, Dana Williams, Katrina Byrd, Ken Brasington.

Commission Members Not Present: Kathryn DiVittorio, Jeff Pinski, Mary Jo Campbell.

County/Staff Kelly Ryan

County Council Ellen Schauerman

**Minutes.** Minutes from June 28th Motion to approve by Ken Brasington and Marc Blount approved.

#### **Chair Report/Commissioners Comments:**

**Director's Report: Public** Director Ryan discussed the public hearing. It is an old case and we will be using the ordinance as of 2007 when hearing this case. We are looking to schedule hearings 2-3 months out to meet all schedules and allow time for discussions, potential settlements and discovery. This is a best practice from the state HRC. Director Ryan will still review the conflict questions to confirm for this hearing. Prior case that parties settled is officially closed and dismissed. Several inquiries and potential future cases.

Interviews have been conducted for the open staff position. There are conversations with HR about moving forward with the recommended hire.

Director Ryan said there are 3 complaints being served tomorrow. One case being planned for hearing. She will have more statistics next time. Northwest legal services is one floor below us. People are discussing concerns and walking in to ask about their concerns. People are calling with proactive questions also which is very beneficial.

Director Ryan asked what we wanted tracked. Requests were for counts of cases, rough counts of contacts/calls. Category of item and anything new or change in area of concern. Director Ryan will also track how they heard about of us for outreach efforts for the advisory board.

**Old Business:** Advisory Board completed the pride picnic and several summer events for visibility and outreach. Chair sphon of the advisory board will be participating in a legal symposium in September.

**New Business:** Director Ryan is still pursuing dates for commissioner training either in person or via zoom with the state HRC and all their available contacts. Our primary request is for training in the public hearing process. Director Ryan is also connecting Chair Campbell with the chair from the state HRC. We also have an offer for the beloved communities tour to come to Erie. Director Ryan has also been invited to speak at the state HRC on fair housing in September about source of income being considered as a protected class.

**Next Commissioner meeting October 25th.**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 6:41 by commissioners Mitchell/Blount.