

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

### Minutes – November 15th 2023

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

The Meeting was called to Order by vice chair Jeff Pinski via in person/zoom at 6:03 PM.

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

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

County/Staff Kelly Ryan, Leatrice Schoolcraft , Karen Chilcott

County Council Ellen Schauerman

Advisory Board chair Alex Sphon, Abdul Washington, John Groh, Camille Crenshaw, Edison Nicholson.

Advisory Board not present, Ronald Sumarski, Luisa Gibbons

**Minutes.** Minutes from October 25th meeting Motion to approve by Ken Brasington and Marc Blount approved.

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

**Director's Report: Public** We welcomed Leatrice Schoolcraft to the team and are very excited to have her on board. We had our first open hours earlier today and several appointments were made and information distributed and good discussions. Director Ryan discussed membership and a quorum. Director Ryan shared the case status report without any identifying information. There are about 96 inquiries. There are 16 active investigations in process. Cases filed have been fairly even between housing and employment although there are more housing calls. Director Ryan communicated that we have separation in place in response to the question are we equipped to handle a case involving the county if needed. We discussed and approved the 2024 calendar of meetings for advertisement. The old case will be scheduled for a hearing likely in January to ensure we have all the information. It is an old case and we will be using the ordinance as of 2007 when hearing this case.

**Old Business:** Ellen Schauerman is working with council on outstanding appointments and they definitely are interested in any input on people interested in the open appointments for commission and advisory board. Kathy Schaaf did resign from the advisory board as she was a council appointment and with election to city council there was a conflict of interest. Vice Chair Pinski mentioned the desirability of diversity in appointments.

**New Business:** Motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates for the commission Christine Mitchell, Marc Blount approved. 2024 dates for the advisory board John Groh Abdul Washington approved. Meetings will be offered via zoom and in person. Leatrice Schoolcraft introduced herself to the team and we were very excited to welcome her to the team. The advisory board is planning a public event on discrimination and fair housing in the spring as an education and outreach event. John Groh/Alex Sphon motioned for the advisory board to start the process to book the Blasco auditorium in likely the evening between 6-9 in April avoiding holidays approved.. The elections for officers will be in January.

**Next meeting will be the meeting and elections on January 24th.**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 6:50 by commissioners Mitchell/Brasington.