

February 10, 2022,

Powell Creek Conference Room

Human Rights Commission

MINUTES

Chair

Curtis O. Porter

Vice Chair

Ramunda Young

Parliamentarian

Evelyn BruMar

Members

William Johnston

Dr. Erika Laos

Tonya James

Padreus D. Pratter

Christopher Lee

Aaron Muz

Present: Commissioners Curtis Porter, William Johnston, Dr. Erika Laos, Tony James, Christopher Lee, Aaron Muz, Director Raul Torres, Manager Shelia Venning, Tiffany Jones. There were no citizens present. Chair Curtis Porter called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Citizens Time

- None

Old Business

- Minutes of November 1, 2021 were approved (James-moved /Laos-seconded).

New Business

- Resolution to declare, affirm and recognize the Month of February 2022 as Black History Month (**Ayes:** James, Muz, Johnston, Laos, and Porter/**Nays:** Lee/**Absent from meeting:** Young, Pratter, and BruMar). Resolution passed 5-1
- Resolution to extend case – 10E-2021-00010C, 570-2020-02394C, 570-2020-00735C, and 570-2021-00523C. Resolution passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Student Leadership Council

- To date, the students have heard presentation on Fair Housing and Equal Employment, focused on teen jobs and discrimination.
- February 21st, some will participate in a Unity Video session, where they will be asked “What diversity and equality means to you.”
- March 3rd session will be a Guided Discussion where students will focus on thought provoking human and civil rights questions relevant to their students’ lives.

- March 10th, Students will present before the Human Rights Commission. The assignment is to write an essay on a civil / human rights issue that they feel passionate about. Some students will present their essay before the Commission.
- Graduation will be held on April 7, 2022, in the Ferlazzo Building.

Unity in the Community

- Nothing to report

VAHR

- The Committee just adopted new Bylaws, to include a Board of Directors.
- Each Commission will be represented by a commissioner from that jurisdiction. Commissioner BruMar will be representing Prince William.
- The next board Meeting will be held on February 28, 2022, via Zoom. The topic of this meeting will be the planning of the summer conference.
- Various members have some concern about the entire Civil Rights Division, Attorney General's office being fired, because that is the division that handles EEO, and all the Human Rights cases that aren't handled by local offices.

Racial Social Justice Commission (RSJC)

- February 8, 2022, the committee presented their Annual Report to the BOCS.
- The Board agreed to extend the RSJC Commission, to allow for more time to analyze the information they collected.
- The annual report is available for viewing on the RSJC website.

PWC Jail Board

- The Human Rights Director has an ex-officio seat at the Jail Board.
- The Jail Board meets the third Wednesday of every other month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday March 16th.
- At January's meeting, they discussed COVID and its impact on the operation of the detention center. The detention center had to adjust schedules and services due to staff and inmates having COVID.
- All programs have been suspended due to COVID, but the intention is to restore all programs once it is safe to do so.

Director's Report

- Reviewed and discussed the Annual Report.

- February 19th the Human Rights Commission will participate in the Black History Month Health Fair.
- EEOC rolled out a new system computer system called ARC
- County budget will be presented to the BOCS on February 15th. Our office will be budget will remain the same as last year.
- New Commissioners will take a training on the Human Rights Ordinance. Staff will schedule this training.

COMMISSIONER’S TIME

Erika Laos – Commended staff for assisting with the Racial Social Justice Committee.

William Johnston – Recently we have two minority people elected to statewide offices.

Tonya James – Congratulations and thank you for all the hard work that went into Universal Human Rights Day program. I enjoyed seeing the good work that is being done in our community. Also, would like to make everyone aware that Commissioner Bailey will be holding her Annual Black History program Saturday February 12th, virtually. Dr. McDade will be the Keynote speaker. It can be viewed on the Supervisors Facebook as well as her YouTube channel.

Christopher Lee – Explained the reason he voted “No” on the Black History Month Resolution. He believes that “if we are all together as Americans, and when continue to emphasize the differences the way that it is done, that ends up actually being counterproductive to the goal that was originally set for this.”

Aaron Muz – Happy to be a part of the Commission. He had the opportunity to tune into the Universal Human Rights Day Program as well. He enjoyed it. He is looking forward to the Ordinance training.

Curtis Porter – Universal Human Rights Day was excellent this year. We had two (2) keynote speakers this year, which is something we have never done before. The speakers this year were, Dolores Huerta Co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association and Superintendent of Prince William County Public Schools, Dr. LaTanya McDade.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR February 2022**

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	3	2	
Housing	1	2	
Public Accommodation			
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL			18