

# JHRC COMMISSION MEETING Tuesday, September 10, 2013

## **Meeting Minutes**

| Commissioners Attending: | P. Ahmed, PhD              | Daniel "Dan" O'Connor                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|
|                          | William "Casey" Bulgin     | Michele L. A. Rollins, Esq. (by phone) |
|                          | Mario E. Decunto           | Walette Stanford                       |
|                          | Leonardo del Rosario, M.D. | Michael Stovall, Jr.                   |
|                          | Crystal Freed, Esq.        | Michael Wachholz                       |
|                          | Susan Harthill, Esq.       | Cindy Watson                           |
|                          | Ken Middleton              | Dottie Wilson                          |
|                          | Sherry Murray              |  |
| Commissioners Absent:    | Cristina "Tina" Comstock   |  |
| Staff Attending:         | Charlene Taylor Hill,      | Roberto Ortiz, Sr. Specialist Housing  |
|                          | Executive Director         |  |
|                          | Linda Grant-Hunter,        | Wayne McGovern, EO/EA Specialist       |
|                          | Assistant Director         |  |
|                          | Mary Jarrett, Esq., Senior | Joan Dolbear, Executive Secretary, II  |
|                          | Assistant General Counsel  |  |

## I. Call to Order

Commissioner Walette Stanford, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

# II. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Stanford called for a moment of silence and led the Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Cindy Watson to approve the summary of the Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Michael Wachholz and approved.

# IV. New Business

Mr. Sammy Miller and Dr. Victoria Bryant-Riggins have been appointed Commissioners to the JHRC by Mayor Brown. If confirmed, Mr. Miller will replace C. Peter Goplerud, Ill and Dr. Bryant-Riggins will replace Maria Taylor. They are being introduced at the Rules Committee on Monday, September 16th and will go before the full City Council for approval in October.

#### V. Public Comment

There was no Public Comments.

## VI. Old Business

#### A. FY2014 Budget

Ms. Hill reported the JHRC went before the Finance Committee on August 22, 2013. The questions presented by Councilmember Lumb were generally around clarity of processes.



Council President Bill Gulliford asked whether the JHRC should consider expanding its services by taking employment cases from surrounding counties. Ms. Hill stated she would speak to EEOC and the Florida Commission on Human Relations about changing jurisdictional lines. During a conversation with Malcolm Medley, Director, Miami Region, EEOC, regarding expanding JHRC's services to include surrounding counties, he was very intrigued with the idea and is open to having the conversation before bringing in the Florida Commission (FCHR).

Mary Jarrett, Senior Assistant General Counsel stated that, as a practitioner before EEOC and FCHR, this [the willing to engage in conversation about expanding JHRC's territory] was a compliment for this organization because EEOC would not be enthusiastic...they were going to get better results from this group [JHRC].

Ms. Hill reported that during a telephone conversation with Councilmember Daniels, she stated she is preparing to submit an amendment to the budget to reduce the size of the JHRC and to merge the JHRC with the Ombudsman office. Ms. Hill shared with Councilmember Daniels that three people could not manage the work and she (Ms. Hill) could not support Councilmember Daniel's recommendation.

# **VII. Committee Reports**

# A. Employment Committee

# 1. Brown Bag Lunch & Information Exchange

Commissioner Susan Harthill stated that fifty-three (53) people attended the Brown Bag Lunch and Information Exchange held on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. Comments were extremely favorable from the attendees. The committee is in the process of reviewing suggested topics for the next Brown Bag.

Commissioner Walette Stanford thanked the Commissioners for attending the exchange and in addition thanked Commissioner Michael Wachholz for the use of the training room at Adecco.

#### 2. Disabled Services Job Fair

Commissioner Harthill stated the committee would like to make a recommendation for the JHRC to be a non-paying sponsor at the Employment Disability Symposium being held on December 3, 2013 and for a Commissioner to be part of the "Welcome" at the symposium. Commissioner Dan O'Connor made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Parvez Ahmed. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner O'Connor volunteered to bring the "welcome" as he would be attending the symposium.

#### 3. "Jax2025"

The committee made a recommendation that the JHRC to get involved in the Diversity and Inclusiveness Task Force for Jax2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Susan Harthill and seconded by Commissioner Cindy Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

## B. Community Relations Committee

## 1. Human Trafficking Workshop

The Worlds Affairs Council will have a program on Human Trafficking on October 1,



2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at WJCT.

## 2. Racial Profiling Meeting

Commissioner Casey Bulgin stated that a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Jacksonville Transportation Authority to discuss the topic of racial profiling. A small group of diverse organizations have been invited. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

## VIII. Executive Director & Staff Report

Ms. Hill attended the EEOC National Directors' Training Conference in August. The EEOC is moving forward to engage local agencies in the National Strategic Enforcement Plan by partnering with local agencies and having discussions around enforcement and opportunities.

# IX. Chair's Report

Commissioner Stanford reviewed the upcoming events.

#### X. Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

## XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.