



JHRC COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 12, 2011
12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Parvez Ahmed, Ph.D. William "Casey" Bulgin Susan Harthell, Esq. Dane Grey Yvonne Mc Clain Kenneth "Ken" Middleton Daniel "Dan" O'Connor Maria Taylor Dennis Wade Cynthia "Cindy" Watson Dottie Wilson
Commissioners Absent:	Cristina "Tina" Comstock Leonard del Rosario, M.D. Isabelle Lopez, Esq. Michele L. A. Rollins, Esq. Michael Wachholz Alvin G. White, Ph.D.
Staff Present:	Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director Linda Grant-Hunter, Assistant Director Twane L. Duckworth, Assistant General Counsel Joan Dolbear, Executive Secretary

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Yvonne McClain, Secretary, called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Dan O'Connor to approve the March 8, 2011 minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Cindy Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget

Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director, submitted the JHRC budget for fiscal year 2011/2012. Mayor Peyton will present the tentative budget to the City Council by May 1, 2011. The newly elected Mayor will have a limited time to review the budget before presenting it to the City Council by mid-July.

All departments were asked to reduce their budgets by fifteen percent. As discussed in the past, the JHRC has limited discretionary dollars to use for research, office supplies, etc. Most of the budget is for salaries. One vacancy was removed from the budget and additional reductions are expected to make up the fifteen percent. Commissioner Cindy Watson asked what the dollar amount reduction was. Ms. Hill stated the amount was approximately \$145,000.

Commissioner Dennis Wade asked whether outside funding support for JHRC research projects was permitted. Ms. Hill stated that this was allowed but with cautions. Currently, there is a JHRC project awaiting funding. To date, no funding from an outside source has been identified.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Community Relations Committee

Commissioner Dennis Wade stated he was absent for the scheduled meeting, which did not have a quorum. A new meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. in City Hall Room 3D.

B. Communications Committee

In the absence of Commissioner Michele L. A. Rollins, Committee Chair, Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director, reported that the committee has been extremely active moving forward with the public relations for the JHRC. The Florida Times-Union continues to publish weekly articles and/or letters regarding the JHRC's work. In addition, Commissioners Michael Wachholz and Casey Bulgin appeared on WJCT's radio program "First Coast Connect." Commissioner Alvin White would also like to write a letter in support of the JHRC to be published in the local paper. This is all part of the committee's Phase 1 effort.

In Phase 2, Commissioners will be asked to meet with City Council Members (after the May election.) Approximately fifty percent of the City Council will be new members who will need to understand the work of the JHRC. "Talking Points" have been updated.

C. Employment

Commissioner Cindy Watson, Committee Chair, stated the committee met and reviewed the feedback from the Brown Bag Lunch & Information Exchange – "Strategies to achieving Workplace Diversity" held on March 10, 2011. Sixty-three attended the event, which was extremely successful. Chief Mooreland, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, and some of his staff members, also attended. The evaluations came back

with high marks and attendees found it extremely helpful. The committee also reviewed the “Barriers to Employment” study, identifying stakeholders and moving forward.

D. Housing and Public Accommodation

Commissioner Dan O’Connor, Committee Chair, stated the committee did not meet due to the staff working on the Fair Housing Symposium scheduled for April 30, 2001.

VII. Executive Director & Staff Report

Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director, stated a Professionals’ Day was held on Friday, April 1, 2011, at the Downtown Library from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event was specifically for landlords, property managers, and board members of homeowners or condominium associations. The panel consisted of lawyers, the Jacksonville Housing Authority and Housing Services. Topics included code enforcement and compliance, housing providers under Section 8, and requests for reasonable accommodations and/or modifications.

The Fair Housing Symposium is being held on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is targeted to low to moderate income housing seekers. Workshop topics consists of how to get out from under a mortgage, fair housing versus landlord tenant complaints, rebuilding your credit, etc. Two recipients will receive furniture from K. B. Homes.

Ms. Hill announced that she attended three speaking engagements: at Jackson Lewis, LLP, Florida Coastal School of Law, OFCCP, and an interview on Comcast’s Independent Living Resource Center Show.

Ms. Hill stated that there is a group who have proposed establishing a not for profit “Friends of Study Circles.” As a not for profit organization, it could raise money and help fund the JHRC’s Study Circles Initiative. A motion was made by Commissioner Dan O’Connor for the group to explore establishing a “Friends of Study Circle” not for profit and to report back to the Commission with its findings. he motion was seconded by Commissioner Dottie Wilson and passed unanimously.

VIII. Announcements

- April 25, 2001 @ 10:30 a.m.....Community Relations Committee
- May 2, 2011 @ 10:30 a.m.....Community Relations Committee
- May 3, 2011 @ 11:00 a.m.....Employment Committee
- May 5, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m..... Housing and Public Accommodations Committee
- May 5, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m..... Communications Committee
- May 10, 2011 @ 11:15 a.m.....Executive Committee
- May 10, 2011 @ Noon Commission Meeting

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.