

JHRC Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2012 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Parvez Ahmed, Ph.D.

William "Casey" Bulgin Leonard del Rosario, M.D.

Susan Harthill, Esq.

Kenneth "Ken" Middleton Daniel "Dan" O'Connor Yvonne McClain, Secretary

Michele L. A. Rollins, Esq., Vice Chair

Maria Taylor Dennis Wade

Cynthia "Cindy" Watson

Dottie Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Cristina "Tina" Comstock

Dane Grey

Michael Wachholz, Chair Alvin G. White, P.h.D.

Staff Present: Charlene Taylor Hill, Executive Director

Linda Grant-Hunter, Assistant Director

Twane Duckworth, Esq., Asst. General Counsel

Wayne McGovern, EO/EA Specialist Roberto Ortiz, Sr. Specialist Housing Joan Dolbear, Executive Secretary

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Michele L. A. Rollins, Vice-Chair, at 12:05 p.m.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Cindy Watson to approve the minutes of November 8, 2011 and seconded by Dottie Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

The Mayor's Ordinance on Reforming the City of Jacksonville's Government passed on December 13, 2011 at the City Council Meeting. The JHRC has a dotted line reporting relationship to Employee Services under Jarik Conrad, Director of Employee Services.

VI. New Business

No new business was discussed



VII. Committee Reports

A. Community Relations Committee

Commissioner Parvez Ahmed, Committee Member, reviewed the Civil Discourse Project. He stated he attended a meeting with Michael Boylan, President, WJCT; Frank Denton, Editor, Florida Times-Union; and Dr. Saurabh Gumpta, Associate Professor - Coggin College of Business, University of North Florida (UNF) to discuss the Civil Discourse Project. The approach would be to have the Florida Times-Union host web-based discussions structured around controversial topics in the community. The JHRC would identify the topics and the initial list of panelists who would provide comments on these topics. A broader group of the community would be invited to participate in these discussions. There would also be a televised panel discussion for a broader audience to view and engage in the dialogue.

Ms. Hill will schedule another meeting to discuss the project.

B. Housing and Public Accommodations

Commissioner Dan O'Connor, Committee Chair, stated the next meeting will be January 12, 2012 and Shannon Nazworth, Executive Director, Ability Housing, will be the guest speaker.

C. Employment

Commissioner Cindy Watson stated the committee has not met since the last meeting. The next meeting is February 2, 2012.

D. Special Legislative Committee

Commissioner Casey Bulgin stated a meeting would be scheduled during the next few weeks.

VIII. Executive Director & Staff Reports

Charlene Taylor Hill reviewed the article in Folio Weekly regarding the GLBT community.

Charlene Taylor Hill reported that two complaints of discrimination, based on natural origin, against two different agencies have been received from refugees brought to the United States who have not been provided with the support they anticipated. Ms. Hill is investigating this situation. Commissioner Susan Harthill stated that Ms. Hill should contact the Immigration Clinic at the Florida Coastal School of Law and speak to Erica Curran.

MOSH has asked JHRC to serve on the planning committee for an exhibit that is coming to Jacksonville beginning in January 2013 called "RACE: Are We So Different"?

A justification has been submitted to fill the vacancy of Lisa Stafslien.



Two externs from Florida Coastal School of Law will be starting next week.

IX. Chair's Report/Comments

There was no report from the Chair.

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.