



## JHRC COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

### Meeting Minutes

|                                 |                                   |                           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Commissioners Attending:</b> | Parvez Ahmed, Ph.D.               | Daniel "Dan" O'Connor     |
|                                 | Victoria Bryant-Riggins, Pharm.D. | Rocelia Roman de Gonzalez |
|                                 | William "Casey" Bulgin            | Nathan Rousseau, Ph.D     |
|                                 | Leonardo del Rosario, MD          | Walette M. Stanford       |
|                                 | Crystal L. Freed, Esq.            | Michael B. Stovall, Jr.   |
|                                 | Sammy Miller                      | Cindy Watson              |
| <b>Commissioners Absent:</b>    | Mario E. Decunto                  | Michael Wachholz          |
|                                 | Kenneth "Ken" Middleton           | Dottie Wilson             |

#### 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 March 11, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan O'Connor. The motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

#### V. New Business

There was no New Business discussed.

#### VI. Old Business

There was no Old Business discussed.

#### VII. Committee Reports

##### A. Community Relations Committee

##### 1. Meeting with Rebecca Black, Esq. – re: Immigration Law and Secure Communities

Commissioner Casey Bulgin reported that Rebecca Black, Esq., Immigration Attorney, met with the Community Relations Committee on April 3, 2014 to discuss Immigration Law and Secure Communities.

Secure Communities are enforced by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is the principal investigative arm of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE was created in 2003 through a merger of the investigative and interior



enforcement elements of the U.S. Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. State and local communities invite ICE into its communities. ICE is in three thousand (3,000) jurisdictions throughout the country. Secure Communities imposes no new or additional requirements on state and local law enforcement officers but it allows the federal government, not the state or local law enforcement agency, to determine what immigration enforcement action, if any, is appropriate.

ICE was invited to Jacksonville and has an office in the Duval Detention Center. Ms. Black stated that there have been complaints concerning immigrants being harassed by JSO. Immigrants are being targeted for minor infractions in order to determine if they are illegal aliens. Once in the system, what started out as a routine traffic stop can escalate to more serious consequences. The committee would like to schedule a meeting with Sheriff Rutherford to discuss this further.

The Commissioners also suggested that an open community forum be scheduled to discuss this topic and invite prospective candidates to determine their views on issues.

The committee will come back to the Commission with a proposal.

## **2. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

Commissioner Bulgin stated that the committee was working on the activities for the anniversary. Federal Judge Brian J. Davis will be invited to be the keynote speaker on July 2, 2014.

Ms. Hill reported that she was contacted by Susan Cochran, former Vice President of River Region and Study Circles facilitator, about volunteering with the Commission. Ms. Hill asked if she would be interested in coordinating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance of the Civil Rights Act. Ms. Cochran is interested and a meeting has been scheduled to further discuss this effort.

## **B. Employment Committee**

There was no meeting during this month.

## **C. Housing & Public Accommodation Committee**

In the absence of Commissioner Victoria Bryant-Riggins, Committee Chair, Commissioner Leonardo del Rosario, Committee Member, shared highlights of the committee's meeting on April 7, 2014.

### **1. Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice**

The committee discussed the lack of affordable housing in Jacksonville; particularly as it relates to persons with disabilities and the aging population.

### **2. Visitability**

The committee discussed moving forward on recommending a visitability ordinance, which would make single family homes more accessible. Additional discussion will take place at next month's meeting in May.

### **3. Feasibility of Conducting a Housing Discrimination Audit**

The committee is interested in conducting a Housing Discrimination Audit. Ms. Hill will contact David Cronin, Esq. at JALA and ask him to attend the committee meeting in May.



#### **4. Ability Housing Project in Springfield**

Ability Housing has received funding to renovate a vacant building and turn it into housing for homeless veterans. The property is located in Springfield. Springfield residents have expressed opposition to the project. The JHRC will contact Shannon Nazworth, Executive Director of Ability Housing, to offer assistance; i.e. to facilitate dialogue between the Springfield community and Ability Housing and to remind the residents that their objections are discriminatory.

#### **VIII. Executive Director & Staff Report**

Ms. Hill reported that the JHRC has submitted its budget for FY15, which included a small increase to cover foreign language and sign language interpreters/translations services as the need has increased this fiscal year.

#### **IX. Chair's Report**

Commissioner Walette Stanford reminded Commissioners of the dates for the next meetings.

#### **X. Announcements**

Thursday, May 1, 2014 @ 11:30 a.m. .... Community Relations Committee Meeting  
Monday, May 5, 2014 @ 10:00 a.m. .... Housing and Public Accommodation Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m. .... Employment Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 2014 @ 11:30 a.m. .... Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 2014 @ 12:00 p.m. .... Commission Meeting

#### **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.



# Upcoming Events

| JHRC SPONSORED EVENTS  |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Date/time/Location   | Event                                      | Contact                       |
|  |  |                               |
| JHRC SUPPORTED EVENTS  |  |                               |
| Date/Time/Location   | Event                                      | Contact                       |
|  |  |                               |
| COMMUNITY EVENTS   |  |                               |
| Date/Time/Location   | Event                                      | Contact                       |
| Thursday, May 22, 2014<br>Hyatt Regency Jacksonville<br>Riverfront Hotel<br>Reception – 6:00 p.m.<br>Dinner & Program<br>7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | 2014 OneJax Humanitarian<br>Award Honorees | OneJax<br>904.620.1JAX (1529) |