

# Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations

## Minutes of Meeting

November 4, 2019

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Wasiullah Mohamed, Chair  
Michael Bartley  
David C. Bush  
Sonya Toler  
Rev. Liddy Barlow  
Rabbi Sharyn Henry  
Jennifer Presutti  
BJ Samson

*Absent commissioners:* J. Matthew Landis, Zack Block, Tracy Baton

**Staff:** Megan Stanley, Director  
Wesley Speary, Deputy Director  
Rita Porterfield  
Jam Hammond

**Guests:** None

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mohamed called the meeting to order at approximately 3:36pm.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – 3:41 p.m.

### IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

*N/A*

### V. COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

#### Director's Report

- LL Trainings; mini-EEOC FEPA Conference attended; 2nd highest public interest relief rate at 40%
- Eviction group meeting at Pittsburgh Foundation meeting
- continue to have development meetings ELDI
- on Friday met w/ Michael Goodheart at Pitt to partner for interns and working with CHR as a

partner for global rights

- DD Speary: adding to get Pitt law students
- all part of efficiency strategy/streamline budget
- externship availability can get credits to kids

BJ Samson requesting feedback to commission be made; DD agreeable

- seriously consider as legislation

#### **Finance Committee**

- sound economics; account description submitted into record

#### **Community Relations Committee**

- ☞ The committee has not yet met but expressed goals.
- ☞ Focus will be on youth community development and curriculum that could be expanded to adults.
- ☞ Director Stanley indicated that there was nothing in the code that prohibited the appointment of a Commissioner under 18; other Commissioners noted that this would be an option to discuss at a formal committee meeting

#### **Housing Committee**

- ☞ Received PAR Report from HUD which indicated that Commission Staff should focus on faster investigations and more complete data input
- ☞ Goal is the launch of Fair Housing Assessment Report/CMU meetings

#### **Personnel Committee**

- ☞ None

#### **Public Hearing Committee**

- ☞ None

### **VI. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

- ☞ 12-2-19 Community Meeting; on Station Street, East End 6-7:15 p.m.
  1. CMU data visualization roll out; quick break for an abbreviated commission meeting; vote on immediate business or need CRS on 12-9-19 potentially
  2. food provided; children and families welcome
  3. accommodations available; looking for registrations to attend.

Ω 2020 Goals and Plan for historical perspective of commission work with Commissioner BJ Samson and Charles Morrison (former director)

Ω Outreach Log - Jam Hammond

1. Operation Home — attended by Wes Speary and Rita Porterfield
2. Thanksgiving Distribution upcoming 11/16
3. Bloomfield Garfield Corp. Community Intake Meeting
4. DOJ CRS - idea went from large event, to smaller event, to goal of getting community feedback. Within the next year, surveys will be available for community members to self-identify and provide input as to potential solutions. Looking for Commissioner participation within the next year

Ω Overview of 2020 Goals (Internal and External) See handout

1. formalizing mediation
2. build community capacity; intern/externships; AmeriCorps Vista
3. better training for City; incl'g hiring practices
4. Commissioner training (including administrative law)
5. training for employers to be proactive
6. SurfacePro available to assist with community outreach, eliminating barriers
7. Strategic law enforcement
8. Distributed to Commissioners to take under advisement
9. Discussion: Chair Mohamed inquired about trainings and Director Stanley indicated there would be room for commissioner input. Chair Mohamed inquired about making legal resources available. Representative Porterfield offered to put together handbooks on certain topics such as case procedural flow, bases, relevant case law, etc. Commissioner Barlow suggested making a quiz and preplan packets that could be reviewed at meetings as time allowed.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Commissioner Henry; Seconded by Commissioner Bush; Adjourned 4:40 p.m.**