

**NEW JERSEY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

May 18, 2016

The meeting of the New Jersey Human Relations Council was called was held on May 18, 2016 at the Hughes Justice Complex, 25 Market Street, Fifth Floor, West Wing, Trenton, New Jersey 08625

HRC Officers in attendance were as follows: Kay Delp, Tawfiq Barqawi and Richard Rivera.

Those serving on the Council and guests in attendance were as follows: Debbie Freeman, Philip Freeman, Valerie Gurba, Jahnbas Almas, Gail Beran, Leila Lawrence, Lou Manzi, Rowena Madden, Laura Morano, Rafeal Valentine, Tonya Hobson, John Wenz, Ashton Burrell, Joe Santagata. Emil Sadloch from the tri-state HRC, Lennell Key, Renee Herron-McKithen, John Groff, Sr. and John Groff Jr. and Eldridge Hawkins were also in attendance.

Those serving on the Advisory Board and their guests in attendance were as follows: Pauline Bey, Joe Mazza, Angeline Dean, Terence Jones, Yumiko Mishima, Karen Positan and Reisa Sweet.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Richard Rivera, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

Rich referred to the Open Public Meeting Act, **N.J.S.A.** 10:4-6 et. seq. and recited the posting of the notice of this meeting that was published in the newspapers on May 6 , 2016.

Approval of Minutes:

- **A motion was made by Lou Manzi and seconded by Rowena Madden to accept the minutes.** There was some discussion concerning how to capture issues and actions raised and unanimously approved to accept the March 16th, 2016, meeting minutes. **It was agreed that an amendment be added to reflect that in the November minutes that Terrence Jones had a disagreement with the Director of Justice concerning a shooting incident was not accurately reflected in the November minutes. It was unanimously agreed to incorporate this addendum into these minutes.**

Chairman's Report:

Rich reported that he maintained participation in the Bloomfield Traffic Report that was focused on people with color and overseen by students at Rutgers. Rich has been involved with the police director and reported that he was very transparent and open with the situation and expressed a high degree of support for the police in Bloomfield. He reported on sensitivity and other training that is implemented where the data shows an officer has a high incidence of issues.

Kay Delp mentioned the Diversity Award would be given at the November Conference and the deadline was moved to June 30th 2016. Kay also indicated that Yumiko indicated that if people do not attend at least 50% of the Advisory Board meetings, they would be considered non-members.

Lou reported on the process used to review and vet the 14 individuals that were interested in becoming a member of the Council. He indicated that the Governor's Appointment Office would be working with the Governor in the next few weeks to finalize those recommended to serve. Tawfiq had a question regarding not being advised of the office review meeting and Lou said that he would take it off line with Tawfiq.

Tawfiq raised an issue about the meeting room and the format of the room. Members offered to look at different spaces and Val will coordinate this issue.

Kay provided the individual at the State that oversees the Web site and complimented him on his efforts on our behalf.

Reports

Community Outreach Committee

Ashton Burrell described the summer food program for children during the summer in Highland Park and also described that some children would be sent to camp for free. He described the forum with the public and the police to vet those issues pertinent to both groups as well as LGBT issues, i.e. bathroom issues. He described other things in which he has been involved with.

Dr. Moran commented on the fact that the NJ State Education program would not be mandating a State program but would recommend that it be addressed locally. Members commented on some of the other issues that were impacting the gender issues since 2007.

Phil described that anyone who believe that they have been discriminated against can file a discrimination suit.

Policy Committee Report:

Phil is in the process of revising the resolution to be more inclusive to accommodate all ethnic groups on campus.

- **It was further decided that Phil Freeman would incorporate into the draft of the by-laws the proxy motion with exact language and that it would be on the agenda for the next regular meeting.**

Education Committee Report:

Dr. Laura gave a brief report and no action was needed.

Old & New Business:

Karen referenced the Kean University Conference and indicated that it is posted on our web site. She also reminded everyone about the HRC awards. It was agreed that the awards would be given at our next Leadership Conference.

Rich reported on the IAOHRA (International Association of Official for Human Relations Agencies) would be held in Philly from August 7 - 11

Emil Sadloch described the work that the tri-county HRC is doing and the background on how it operates. He offered to consult to the Leadership Conference and offered ideas on how to coordinate the Conference.

Angeline Dean announced that on June 4th in Mercer County a Trades Fair would be held at City Hall as well as other initiatives being held in the city of Trenton.

Other members of the County HRC's also described some of the initiatives that they were doing locally to make a difference in their communities.

Lou commented on the really good things that are going on in the State and our challenge in to provide all those positive initiatives to our residents. Rowena built on that ideas and suggested two speakers who would provide a positive focus to the conference.

Rich asked the new attendees at the meeting to introduce themselves.

Phil Freeman described the multiple number of initiatives that are being run in the State and Phil would ensure that these are put on the website. He also was looking for County HRC members to work with him in hosting any HRC initiatives.

Ashton Burrell also spoke about a "gold tie" event that was being held in Middlesex County Highland Park.

May 18th 2016 Conference

Kay announced that the Leadership Conference would be set for November 16th at Keane University. The Advisory Board met this morning and discussed the issues related to the Conference.

Adjournment:

- **A motion was made by Rowena Madden to adjourn and seconded by Dr. Moran to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously carried. Another Strategic Review meeting focused on the future of the HR Council would convene at 11:45 following a short break.**

Respectfully submitted: Kay Delp, Vice Chair, NJ HRC, in conjunction with Lou Manzi.