

NEW JERSEY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

July 20, 2016

The meeting of the New Jersey Human Relations Council was called on July 20, 2016 at 10:15 a.m. Hughes Justice Complex, 25 Market Street, Fourth Floor, Conference Room A2-3, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

HRC Officers in attendance were as follows: Kay Delp. Chairman, Rich Rivera was at a meeting with the Passaic County Prosecutor's office and unable to attend.

Those serving on the Council and guests in attendance were as follows: Gail Beran, Debbie Freeman, Philip Freeman, Valerie Gurba, Eldridge Hawkins, Renee Herron-McKithen, Tonya Hobson, Jim Lougue (representing Assemblywoman Maria Rodriguez-Gregg), Rowena Madden, Lou Manzi, Laura Morano, Emil Sadloch, Karlés Austin from Cabrini College, Intern for the Division of Criminal Justice and Michael Cerotta from Arizona State University, intern for the Office of the Secretary of State.

Those serving on the Advisory Board and their guests in attendance were as follows: Joe Mazza, Yumiko Mishima, Dr. Paula Rodriguez-Rust and Karen Positan.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Kay Delp, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. She noted that a quorum was in attendance.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

Kay 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 July 1, 2016.

Approval of Minutes:

- **A motion was made by Lou Manzi and seconded by Laura Morana to accept the minutes. Motion carried.**

Chairman's Report:

Rich's report stated that he maintained participation in the Bloomfield Traffic Project which was focused on people of color and overseen by students from Rutgers University. He met with the Essex County Prosecutor's office on May 23rd. The US Department of Justice is aware of the use of force trends in Bloomfield and is monitoring it. Additionally, he attended the NJ State Chiefs of Police Association exposition in AC to network with various local and state officials. On July 8th he attended a protest march for police accountability in New Brunswick and later today he is facilitating and attending a meeting with the family of Sergio Mella, a deceased Passaic County Prosecutor's investigator who took his own life in May. During June and July he stated that he was very focused on a new law enforcement classification for retired police officers.

Lou Manzi reported that he has been in touch with the Governor's Appointment Office regarding the vetting process for new HR Council members. He also mentioned that the individuals who were nominated by the HRC officers would be reviewed by the governor's office and they should be receiving an application packet to complete.

Committee Reports

Community Outreach Committee

- No report was given.

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.
- Ed should be mailing that in the next few weeks. Phil also mentioned that HE WAS working on a formal attendance policy as well as information relative to the Conference. No theme has been determined at this point.

Education Committee Report:

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

Advisory Board Report

- The date and venue for the Annual Conference has been decided – Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 at Kean University at the STEM Auditorium. The theme is "Police and Community Relations" – focused particularly in NJ. A budget will be forthcoming from the Advisory Committee in the next several weeks. There was a short discussion relating to Community Policing and Emil and Phil were willing to provide some ideas to the Advisory Board on the Conference. Kay asked that Emil also participate with the Advisory Board and offer his expertise to the Advisory Board.

Approval of Committee Reports

- **A motion was made by Kay Delp and seconded by Rowena Madden to accept the Committee Reports. Motion carried.**

Old Business:

Kay shared her sympathy on the passing of Dr. Paul Winkler who passed away on July 12th. Rowena and Phil spoke to his life and commented that he was a major catalyst in creating the NJ

HR Council. Paul was a lengthy member of the Department of Education and much of his early work was focused on the Holocaust. What he did in the State of NJ is a benchmark to what other states and countries have done in this space. He will be remembered for all of his work and missed by all of us. The Council spent a moment of silence in his memory.

Karen Positan reminded individuals that they can still nominate individuals for recognition at the November Conference. Tulsi has a list of names and Val will remind him to send them to Karen Positan.

New Business:

Jim Logue spoke to the NJ School Resource Officers Association representation regarding S86, Special Police Officers Call III. Assemblywoman Rodriguez-Gregg is a sponsor of this bill. A discussion arose concerning the SRO training that was not previously associated with the bill. No action was needed on the part of the HR Council. **(This information is for the Council only).**

Public Comments

There was some discussion about the follow-up that occurred after the last meeting vis-à-vis the Strategic Review which was led by Joe Mazza.

The leadership of the Council also spoke of the dedication and support of the members of the HR Council and discussed ways to convince the President of the Senate and the Head of the Assembly to appoint members. Lou agreed to call both offices and speak to the staff members responsible for these types of appointments and agreed to send the letters that were sent to these individuals to all members of the Council. A positive discussion with brainstorming ideas occurred.

Kay also spoke of the ways that we can communicate with the public through the web site and the e-mail possibilities that connect all the members. A question was posed relative to the last large conference that was held with the Council's support.

There was a question relative to the meeting venue for the Council. For the rest of 2016, meetings will be held here at the Justice Complex.

Dr, Paula Rodriguez-Rust spoke about biased based bullying and stated that the public comment period will be at the beginning of September. Other Council members chimed in with their comments as well.

Adjournment:

- **A motion was made by Kay Delp to adjourn and seconded by Phil Freeman/Rowena Madden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

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