

NEW JERSEY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING

March 16, 2016

The meeting of the New Jersey Human Relations Council was held on March 16, 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, and Richard Rivera.

Those serving on the Council and guests in attendance were as follows: Kimberly Douglas, Joseph Fanaroff, Debbie Freeman, Philip Freeman, Valerie Gurba, Edward Haas, David Hespe, Elie Honig, Leila Lawrence, Lou Manzi, Rowena Madden, Laura Morano, Joe Santagata.

Those serving on the Advisory Board and guests in attendance were as follows: Pauline Bey, Angeline Dean, Terence Jones, Yumiko Mishima, Karen Positan, Dr. Paula Rodriguez-Rust and Reisa Sweet.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Richard Rivera, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

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 March 1, 2016.

General Announcements

May 18th 2016 Conference:

A lengthy discussion occurred relative to the proposed May 18 conference. After numerous discussions concerning budget, a variety of possible venues, and the number of attendees and breakout rooms, it was recommended that the May 18 conference be postponed at this time. Before pursuing this topic again a decision by Ass't Attorney General Elie Honig must be made regarding budget. If he approves a budget then a committee would be formed to plan and hold the Conference. With no State approval for a budget, then planning for a Conference would be a waste of volunteer time and dedication. Phil Freeman agreed to have a discussion with several of our legislators to see if they could provide support and attend some of our meetings.

- **A motion was made by Kay Delp and seconded by Rowena Madden to reschedule the aforementioned Conference for a future date and utilize the May meeting for the HR Council for a Strategic Retreat and Review. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Rowena offered her help in securing a venue for that Strategic Review and Retreat.

Approval of Minutes:

- **A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the January 13th, 2016, meeting minutes with one change. The removal of the name Kay under the heading County HRC Reports, 4th page last sentence. Minutes revised.**

Reports:

Advisory Board:

Members of the Advisory Board shared their willingness to support the work of the Council. There was additional discussion relative to public statements by the Council relative to support or condemnation of certain actions and activities in the State. It was affirmed that individuals could speak as individuals but have no authority to speak on behalf of the Board.

Policy Committee Report:

Phil Freeman reported on the proposed by-laws change relative to proxies. This was a lengthy discussion and there are a variety of proxies that could potentially come into play.

There was discussion requiring a vote to implement a change to the by-laws to allow proxies. The first step would be to amend the by-laws to change the amount of individuals required for a quorum. It was also decided that Phil would prepare the exact wording for the HR Council to review prior to the next meeting so that a vote could be taken on the proxy issue.

- **A motion was made by Rowena and seconded by Kay to amend the by-laws for the new quorum. The motion was unanimously carried.**
- **It was further decided that the proxy motion with exact language would be on the agenda for the next regular meeting.**

Education Committee Report:

- **It was unanimously agreed to accept Dr. Laura's report on the work of the Education Committee. The report was attached to the meeting agenda.**

Chairman's Report:

Rich asked several people who were in attendance to identify themselves and thanked them for attending. He also reviewed the work of the ongoing project in Bloomfield and the involvement of the Seton Hall students. Rich was delighted that this project would be seen by a worldwide audience and it brings out prejudice reduction on finding solutions, on reaching out to different entities and collaborating on issues. Additional discussion occurred and comments were made by various members on the demographics of those in the project and some of the disparity that arose as a result of the project. It was noted that it might be of some value to have members of the media on the Council as they could help to promote our

work and add visibility to the mission of the HRC, which is ***“To promote prejudice reduction through education, while raising awareness of bias crimes”***.

A healthy and vocal discussion followed by many members of the Council and it was obvious that there was a lot of energy around this topic. Some discussion ensued around the validity or lack thereof of racial profiling. Rich agreed that this could easily be one of the topics – promotion of our work and the issues in the State of NJ – that could be discussed at our May 18th retreat. This further validated the willingness of the members to discuss those topics, which are relevant to the mission of the HRC.

Rich added to his report by discussing the work by the VERA Institute and the Department of Justice that were reviewing the victimization of undocumented people. He indicated that NJ and the city of Los Angeles would serve as the base of operations for this initiative.

He concluded his report by speaking about the IACOA conference in July and indicated that we need to agree on a designated attendee.

Additionally he referenced the ongoing work that Lou was doing with Brett Canaval in the Governor’s Appointment Office and told the Council that the officers would be meeting in April to review the list of those interested in serving as County, Senate, Assembly or Gubernatorial Appointees. There are 10 vacancies on the Council and something must be done to fix this issue. Anyone interested should send his or her resumes or biographies to Val. Anyone who has not attended the meetings of the HR Council in the last 16 months would be considered as “resigned” by the Governor’s office. Lou also asked that all the members of the Council should have a resume or bio on file and asked everyone to also send their information to Val.

Old 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.

Terence Jones raised an issue and it was determined that he should direct his issues to the Attorney General’s office on his own behalf and not representing the HR Council.

Adjournment:

- **A motion was made by Chief Ed Kerr to adjourn and seconded by Lou Manzi. The motion was unanimously carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Delp, Vice Chair, NJ HRC, in conjunction with Valerie Gurba, Administrative Assistant

Amendment to Minutes

At the November 18, 2015 meeting Terrence Jones had a disagreement with the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice concerning a shooting incident that was not accurately reflected in the November minutes. It was unanimously agreed to incorporate this addendum into these minutes.