January 11, 2024,

Minutes of December 14, 2023
Human Rights Commission
J McCoart Building – Board Chambers

MINUTES

Chair
Curtis O. Porter
Vice Chair
Evelyn BruMar
Parliamentarian
Ramunda Young

Members
William Johnston
Dr. Erika Laos
Padreus D. Pratter
Aaron Muz
Benjamin Baldwin
Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

Present: Commissioners William Johnston, Benjamin Baldwin, Padreus Pratter, Aaron Muz, Victor Ginoba, Chairman Curtis Porter, Director Raul Torres, Manager Shelia Venning, and Administrative Specialist Tiffany Jones.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Citizens Time
• No citizen was present.

Old Business
• Minutes of November 9, 2023, meeting, was approved (Baldwin moved/Ginoba - second)

New Business
• Universal Human Rights Day Program (UHRD)
  o The theme for this year’s program is Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education –
  o The program will be held on Saturday January 13, 2024, at 10am in the Board Chambers of the McCort Building.
  o Ralph Smith, Manassas City Councilman, will be the keynote speaker.
  o The UHRD Committee selected 5 nominees for the 2023 winners.

30 Years of Eliminating Discrimination and Establishing Equal Opportunity
- Chrissy Fauls - Prince William County Resident
- Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein - Congregation Ner Shalom
- MATCH UP - Rania Lateef, Founder
- Prince William County Community Foundation - Dr. Vanessa Gattis, Founder
- Prince William County Police Women’s Mentorship Program - Prince William Police Lt. Astrid Robinson and Detective Michelle McAllister, Founders

- A motion was approved to accept the committee’s nominations of the 2023 UHRD winners (Baldwin moved/Muz – second).
- The Commission postponed the resolution display item until its January 11th meeting.

## Committee Reports

### Unity in the Community
- Unity in the community met on Sunday December 10, 2023. At that meeting, the Chair announced that she would be stepping down for medical reasons and John Steinbeck would be the Chair moving forward.
- The next meeting will be held in January at Dal Al-Noor Islamic Center in Manassas.

### VAHR
- All information to dissolve VAHR has been sent to the State Corporate Commission.
- The final funds were donated to the ACLU of Virginia.

### Human Rights Student Leadership Council
- HRSLC next session will be on February 4, 2024.
- This session will be on Fair Housing.

### Racial and Social Justice Commission (RSJC)
- The RSJC met December 7th. Chair Rock has resigned, and several other members are preparing to resign.
- The next meeting is TBD.

### Director’s Report
- Director Torres presented the Human Rights office CY2023 achievements from the Workplan.
COMMISSIONER’S TIME

Aaron Muz – Thank you to the staff for all the work that you have done in the past year. Also, would like to have an outreach calendar to attend more outreach events.

Padreus Pratter – Thank you to the staff for the work you have done. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Bejamin Baldwin – It’s been a full year as a commissioner, and he has enjoyed it.

Victor Ginoba – Job well done to the office. Would like to participate more in outreach events in the new year. Have a Merry Christmas.

William Johnston – Merry Christmas to everyone

Curtis Porter – On December 15th, 7pm Ner Shalom will host their annual Shabbat.

- He has been invited to speak at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Youth Oratorical Contest on Monday, January 15, 2024.
- On January 2nd the new Board of County Supervisors will be sworn at the Hilton Performance Arts Center.
- He was very impressed with the nominees that were submitted this year.
- Have a happy holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

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