

Raul Torres Executive Director

January 11, 2024,

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

#### **Human Rights Commission**

Curtis Porter, Chairman Evelyn BruMar, Vice Chair Ramunda Young, Parliamentarian William A. Johnston, III Dr. Erika Laos Padreus D. Pratter Aaron Muz Benjamin Baldwin Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

# **MINUTES**

<u>Chair</u> Curtis O. Porter <u>Vice Chair</u> Evelyn BruMar <u>Parliamentarian</u> Ramunda Young <u>Members</u> William Johnston Dr. Erika Laos Padreus D. Pratter Aaron Muz Benjamin Baldwin Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

**<u>Present</u>**: 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)
  - The theme for this year's program is Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education –
  - The program will be held on Saturday January 13, 2024, at 10am in the Board Chambers of the McCort Building.
  - Ralph Smith, Manassas City Councilman, will be the keynote speaker.
  - $\circ$   $\;$  The UHRD Committee selected 5 nominees for the 2023 winners.

30 Years of Eliminating Discrimination and Establishing Equal Opportunity

- o 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### <u>VAHR</u>

- 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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**

<u>Aaron Muz</u> – 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.

<u>**Padreus Pratter**</u> – 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.

<u>Victor Ginoba</u> – 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

<u>**Curtis Porter**</u> – On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> the new Board of County Supervisors will be sworn at the Hilton Performance Arts Center.
- $\circ$   $\;$  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**

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

# PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR DECEMBER 2023

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment		3	
Housing		1	
Public Accommodation			
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL		•	22