

**Human Rights Commission  
Study Session  
Notes**

**January 17, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Lorenzo Cervantes, Brad Bates, Rebecca Stith, Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Michealea Lemons

**Commissioners Absent:** Jen Haggard, Jennifer Vasilez, Sarah Lee

**City Staff Present:** Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor, ChiQuata Elder

**Guest:** Taniesha Lyons

**Commissioner Lemons called the Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m.**

**Chair and Vice Chair Reports**

Commissioners Lemons and Nobles thanked the previous chairs for their services. They presented both the previous Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice chair letters that were signed by Mayor Woodwards.

Chair Lemons and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Nobles both introduced themselves in their new positions.

Resident of Tacoma guest, Taniesha Lyons who is interested in the Human Rights Commission, and was invited by Commissioner Stith to the meeting sat in to observe the meeting. They are currently attending classes at Tacoma Community College, and then planning on attending The Evergreen State College campus in Tacoma in the Spring. After their introduction, the Commissioners and City of Tacoma staff introduced themselves.

Commissioner Nobles went to thanking the previous chairs for their services. They also went on to express their plans moving forward leading the Human Rights Commission. One of the approaches they wish to implement is using a collaborate style among Commissioners, share the collective knowledge and perspective to make up the HRC. They mentioned each member is an asset to provide their views moving to impacting change, determine what goals the HRC still have ahead, and keeping open communication among all members, thus providing a unified front moving forward.

Commissioner Lemons went to explain where they wish to go next with the commission, and holding on when the 2019 HRC retreat will take place. They would like to decide after the new members are on board, possibly in April.

**Committees Meeting** - Each committee broke into their group, and to meet and discuss where their progress is.

**Task Force Reports** – Each task force broke into their group, and to meet and discuss where their progress is.

**Study Session adjourned at 6:40pm.**

**Human Rights Commission  
Business Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Lorenzo Cervantes, Brad Bates, Rebecca Stith, Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Michaelea Lemons, Sarah Lee

**Commissioners Absent:** Jennifer Vasilez, Jen Haggard

**City Staff Present:** Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor, ChiQuata Elder

**Commissioner Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.**

**Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.**

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Stith brought up a motion about the study session and business meeting agendas being amended, to show the correct dates and times. In addition to correct the agenda in the business meeting, items 9, 10, and 11 since they were items done in the study session, and duplicated onto the business agenda. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

Commissioner Stith moved to approve the amended Study session and Business meeting agendas for January 17, 2018. The motion was made, seconded and carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Stith brought up concerns regarding the December 20, 2018 minutes. There were a number of discrepancies between what had occurred at the December 20, 2018 Human Rights Commission business meeting, and the minutes not reflecting all the details. Commissioner Tosch also noted a correction regarding a link for a film that their neighbor had worked on, but this was not provided until after the December 20, 2018 meeting.

The motion to defer action on the December 20, 2018 minutes, while the concerns of corrections being submitted in writing to the Chair for corrections.

The motion was made, seconded and carried.

**Public Comment**

Taniesha Lyons is a Human Studies student, currently attending classes at Tacoma Community College, and then planning on attending The Evergreen State College campus in Tacoma in the spring. In addition they applied to be on the Human Rights Commission.

**Chairs Report**

Commissioner Lemons thanked the Commissioners for electing them as the new Chair and electing Commissioner Nobles for 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair. They also again thanked the previous Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Chair for their services to the Human Rights Commission.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Cervantes mentioned there will be a Health Event hosted by Pierce County Aids Foundation on Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1pm. One of the guest speakers at the event is Dr. Michelle Andrasik.

Commissioner Tosch mentioned there will be a movie January 25<sup>th</sup> titled “I am Evidence, my Body Was a Crime Scene”. Center for Spiritual Living, admission is a \$5 dollar suggestive donation.

Commissioner Collins brought up the event on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, “Let’s Talk Race and Immigration”. The event will be taken place at The Evergreen State College, Tacoma location.

Commissioner Cervantes then mentioned a link to C-Span for Robin DiAngelo’s book “White Fragility: Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?447421-2/robin-diangelo-white-fragility>

Commissioner Lemons mentioned OEHR having a table at the MLK event on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Both Commissioners Lemons and Nobles will be there during the earlier day, and OEHR Staff, Andreta will be there in the afternoon, the event will be from 11 to 1.

Commissioner Lee mentioned on February 6<sup>th</sup> at University of Puget Sound, there will be the STOP the Hate!

OEHR is bring the author of *So you Want to Talk about Race*, Ijeoma Oluo on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> to Tacoma. The event will be held at UPS at 6pm.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Lemons brought up the topic of the vacancies of the Human Rights Commission. This information was posted on the City of Tacoma website, for the 7 open vacancies. The new commissioners would then be attending the following, March Human Rights Commission meeting. The date for interviews will be February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The plan is to host the retreat in April, following the new commissioners first meeting in March. One plan is to have OEHR Staff, Andreta to provide a refresher course during the March meeting.

One topic that was brought up by Commissioner Stith for discussion at the retreat was providing clarity on what committees and task force people are assigned too. In addition to separate work plans for the HRC and committees and task force.

Commissioner Ratcliffe would like to have a member from CVS and one from City Council to attend the March retreat. Having a facilitator for the retreat was also suggested. This was suggested from the positive experience members had from the previous retreat.

### **Committee Report**

Policy and advocacy – Talked about the passing of Indigenous Peoples Day resolution, Gender Neutral bathroom labeling ordinance, and the Border Policy Family Separation resolution in 2018. For upcoming plans in the coming year, some of the plans are: to push for not endorsing the LNG in Tacoma, creating resource cards for the homeless, taking up the TMC code 1.29 regarding citizenship status, doing work around the issue of human trafficking in Pierce County, topics of domestic violence in housing.

Education and Outreach – Outreach has been done through other committees, in doing so they would like to possibly held accountable for pushing forward with more outreaching and education for the committee.

Committee on Operations and Quality Assurance (COQA) – Recommended web page enhancements, and amending the bi-laws. One other process is creating a information card for the public explaining what the Human Rights Commission is, providing a general overview of what the HRC does. There also was a suggestion of providing a summary of the administrative rules for the HRC, as when cases are presented. Why some are just reported out, and others are voted on.

### **Task Force Report**

Racial Justice - Created a community informational card, promoting the community topics that are being discussed. This will also be used to help promote the events, and get the word out to the public. Commissioner Collins sat through the different movie options that are being decided for the movie night.

1.29 – Was put on hold due to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and working with them on building relationships.

Charity Care - Commissioner Bates explained that the task force had set out and accomplished the work they had planned for, thus their task force can be disbanded.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Housing

Fair Housing Program Coordinator reported out two cases that were No Reasonable Cause cases:

- Alattaby v. Mark Twain Apartments
- Patty v. Mark Twain Apartments.

Commissioner Ratcliffe moved to approved the above reference cases. A motion was made, seconded and carried.

Ms. Elder from OEHR reported that the City of Tacoma is having informational sessions regarding the changes for the Rental Housing Code. In addition letting the HRC know that the Source of Income is now a protected class.

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:40 pm**