

## **Human Rights Commission**

### **Business Meeting Minutes**

**August 15, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Allen Ratcliffe, Ronita Boult, Rosita Castellano, Taniesha Lyons, Julie Tran

**Commissioners Absent:** Lisa Snyder, Sarah Lee, Carol Mitchell, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh

**City Staff Present:** Andreta Armstrong, Thomas Okae-Asare

#### **Call to Order**

**Chair Lemons called the meeting to order.**

#### **Roll Call**

A quorum was present

#### **Approval of the July Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes**

- **Chair Lemons** makes a motion to confirm the July minutes.
- **Commissioner Ratcliffe** notes that there is an “E” at the end of his last name, then moves to approve with noted amendments.
- **Commissioner Lyons** seconded.
- **The motion passes.**

#### **Public Comment**

No public present

#### **New Business**

- **Commissioner Lyons** moves to create the Housing Task Force
- **Commissioner Tosch** seconded.
- **The motion passes.**

#### **Chair Reports**

- **Chair Lemons** attended the Peace Project: TPD New Recruit Community Dialogue and spoke about the attitudes of police during the dialogue and her experience.
- **Commissioner Tosch** commented on how real change begins with the individual police officer.
- **Chair Lemons** also attended the Tacoma- Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium Lunch and Learn on the Affordable Housing Action Strategy update.
- **Andreta Armstrong** mentioned that the new Rental Housing Code was a part of the action strategy as well as the addition of Source of Income as a protected class.
- **Commissioner Boult** speaks about concerns that landlords have raised.
- **Staff** responds the Rental Housing Code does have some gaps with transitional housing.
- **Chair Lemons** speaks about some of the updates that were mentioned at the event. Also that the HRC website is updated, thanks to Ann Martin’s hard work.
- **Commissioner Ratcliffe** inquired as whether the update included resources for homeless folks.

- **The Chair** noted that Carol Mitchell has stepped down as a Commissioner.
- **Commissioner Lyons** inquired into the number of positions that will be available.
- **The Chair** speaks about upcoming community events. Dragon Bash at Stewart Heights Park, the McKinley Street Fair on Saturday and the Hilltop Street Fair will be next Saturday at 11 am.
- **She** noted that Citizens for a Healthy Bay has a hearing for the LNG project for August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Commissioner Tosch** expressed concern about the lack of progress regarding the Mayor's proposal to have a third party lawyer look over the LNG project. She noted that TOTE Maritime Alaska is moving their headquarters from Federal Way to Tacoma.
- **Chair Lemons** noted if any commissioner chooses to go to the LNG event, that they must do it as an individual citizen, not representing the Human Rights Commission because permission was not granted through majority vote.
- **Tacoma City Council Candidates** will be involved in a forum on affordable housing on September 5, 2019.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- **Commissioner Ratcliffe** speaks about the proposal of Metro Parks to prohibit the installation of any temporary shelters in the park. He thinks that it may run afoul of homeless individual's rights and previous court decisions. He notes there will be public comment about this proposed rule.
- **Commissioner Lyons** thinks that neighborhood agencies should be doing more outreach.
- **Commissioner Tosch** gave update on Policy and Advocacy Committee work plan.
- **Chair Lemons** notes if any committee wants to invite organizations to share or educate the Commission, connect with her. She thanked the various committees for the work that they have been doing.

**The Chair adjourns at 7:26pm.**