

**Human Rights Commission  
Business Meeting Minutes**

**July 18, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Allen Ratcliffe, Sarah Lee, Ronita Boullt, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh

**Commissioners Absent:** Natalie Collins, Lisa Snyder, Rosita Castellano , Taniesha Lyons, Carol Mitchell, Julie Tran

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

**Roll Call**

A quorum was present.

**Approval of Business Meeting Agenda**

**Commissioner Ratcliff** – motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of considering a motion for the Salary Ban Letter. **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Lee** – seconded and motion passed

**Approval of June Study Session and Business Meeting minutes**

**Commissioner Tosh** – Noted an update to the minutes, and moved to approve the minutes.

**Commissioner Nunez**- seconded and motion passed

**Public Comment**

No public present

**Chairs Report**

**Chair Lemons**

- On June 22, the 3<sup>rd</sup> community conversation took place, and was good. This meeting did not have the same amount of people, but it did allow for a deeper conversation.
- The website is in the works with Ann, submissions have been sent to MCO, but it has been a lengthy process.
- OEHR Business cards are available if commissioners need them.
- Gender Neutral Bathroom Ordinance discussion, if the public sees issues in a business, they can call 311 to report the business regarding the ordinance.
- Letter from CIRA to the mayor addressing the incident at the Northwest Detention Center.
- Went to the Rental Housing Code, presented by ChiQuata Elder. Commissioners had discussion around the changes with notices to tenants.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Lee**

- On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Tacoma City Council candidates will be having a forum on affordable housing at the Salishan Family Investment Center.

## Commissioner Reports

### **Commissioner Ratcliff**

- Discussed a website Citylab.com, which had a study done regarding the changing in neighborhoods and gentrification.
- Also a rebuttal he submitted to the News Tribune in response to an op-ed around what the City of Puyallup is doing around homelessness in their city,

### **Commissioner Tosh**

- Discussed a change in the public nuisance code and removing domestic violence calls as reasons a landlord can remove a tenant from a property, and working with **Councilmember Ushka**. She will be meeting with Ushka soon to discuss further collaboration.
- Reported that **Commissioner Vasliez** is talking with the Puyallup tribe around the missing and murder of indigenous people and the connection to human rights.
- Rebuilding HOPE has included sex trafficking and now has a safe house in Tacoma.
- Looking to have citizenship status as a protected class to be included or removed from the webpage due to inconsistent information.

## New Business

**Salary Ban Letter**- changes discussed during the Study Session were made. **Commissioner Ratcliff** motioned to approve the letter, with suggested amendments, and send to Mayor Woodards.

**Commissioner Tosh** seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Chair Lemons**

- **Commissioner Vasilez** has stepped down from the commission, but will remain on the Policy and Advocacy committee as a community member.
- **Review of Absence Procedure**- if you will be absent from a meeting to email the Chair, Co-Chairs, Ann and Andreta. Everyone should have received Commissioner contact list with emails.
- **Task Force Creation – Chair Lemons** presented the idea of creating a task force around the housing ordinance with **Councilmember Beale**. No objections.
- **Commissioner Ratcliff** mentioned **Chair Lemons** now works at PCAF (Pierce County AIDS Foundation).

## Staff Reports

- **City of Tacoma Staff, Wesley Taylor** reported out two Pre-Finding Settlement cases:  
**HRC # 4864** – Santos v. City View Commercial LLC  
**HRC # 4869** – Clark v. Shared Housing Services

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Lee** moved to approve the Pre-Finding settlements, **Commissioner Boult** seconded, **Commissioner Rumbaugh** abstained.

Pre-Finding Settlements, approved.

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:31 pm**