

**Human Rights Commission  
Study Session  
Notes  
May 16, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Lisa Snyder, Sarah Lee, Ronita Boullt, Rosita Castellano, Sarah Nunez, Julie Tran, Carol Mitchell

**Commissioners Absent:** Jennifer Vasilez, Allen Ratcliffe, Taniesha Lyons, Carol Mitchell, Sarah Rumbaugh

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

**Guest:** Brenna Doyle and Christy Shedly, Washington Trafficking Prevention

**Commissioner Lemons called the Study Session to order at 5:37 p.m.**

**Washington Trafficking Prevention**

- **Brenna Doyle and Christy Shedly** - provided a training and explanation of their agency and what services they offer.  
They explained how their focus is on prevention work for youth around human trafficking prevention.  
Both presenters explained topics around human trafficking and the process on how people get involved with it. In addition to how people take on different feelings of guilt and stigma associated with the human trafficking.  
Part of the focus in prevention is with engaging community and equipping the vulnerable which are the backbone for leading to a cultural change.

**Affirmative Action Initiative I-1000**

- **Diane Powers, Director of Office of Equity and Human Rights**, talked about the legal effect of the Washington States legislature's adoption of I-1000. She provided a summary of the state's adoption of I-1000 as explained from Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney. The history of the Initiative goes back to 1998 when Washington voter's approved I-200, which purported to ban discrimination and preferential treat based on certain characteristics.  
The effect of I-1000 was to repeal I-200 and to align the State of Washington with the existing federal standards that permit governmental programs intended to address historic and current discrimination through affirmative action. I-1000 continues the prohibition of discrimination or preferential treatment based on: Race, Sex, Color, Ethnicity, National Origin, Age, Sexual orientation, The presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, and Honorably discharged veteran or military status.

**Committee Meetings**

Committees met to discuss projects and what they do to educate the new HRC members.

**Study Session adjourned at 6:32 p.m.**

**Human Rights Commission  
Business Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 2019**

**Commissioners Present:** Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr., Kim Tosch, Natalie Collins, Lisa Snyder, Sarah Lee, Ronita Boullt, Rosita Castellano, Carol Mitchell, Sarah Nunez, Julie Tran

**Commissioners Absent:** Jennifer Vasilez, Allen Ratcliffe, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Rumbaugh

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

**Commissioner Lemons called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.**

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

**Approval of Business Agenda**

Commissioner Collins moved to approve the agenda of the business meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

**Approval of April Retreat, Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Lee wanted to add she abstained from the April retreat discussion. Commissioner Lee moved to approve minutes from the April business meeting along with the soft amendment to the study session minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

**Public Comment**

There was no public in attendance for comment.

**Chairs Report**

- Chair Lemons gave feedback on the April 27<sup>th</sup> community conversation, and mentioned the improved turnout. Commissioner Collins and Vice Chair Nobles mentioned it was a great and awesome experience overall. Next meeting will be at the Eastside Community Center.
- Reminder that Racial Justice and Equity committee will be hosting “The Hate You Give” at The Grand Cinema on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm with discussion to follow.
- Chair Lemons gave a summary on the Gender Neutral Bathroom Resolution that was passed and approved by City Council. All businesses in Tacoma with single occupancy bathrooms would have gender neutral bathroom signage. This will go into effect on June 1, 2019. Materials are being prepared for the public and businesses addressing the change within the city code.
- Chair Lemons and Vice Chair Nobles met with the Chair of CIRA to strengthen relationship. Next they will set up meeting with TACOD Chairs.

- Councilmember's Beale resolution was tabled at City Council meeting for a future date. Chair Lemons will set up meeting for additional details on the work HRC will contribute towards the resolution.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Boullt discussed the *No More Chains 2* event at The Grand was cancelled due to insufficient ticket sales. She also mentioned how grateful she was to connect with the community and tell others about the HRC. *No More Chains 2* book and DVD will be available soon.
- Commissioner Tosch discussed the Downtown on the Go event for Transportation Day.
- Commissioner Snyder talked about the College Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) being offered from Tacoma Housing Authority for students at TCC to offer students with affordable housing with the housing across from TCC.  
[https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/academic-support/college\\_housing\\_assistance\\_program](https://www.tacomacc.edu/academics-programs/academic-support/college_housing_assistance_program)
- Commissioner Boullt discussed some different areas around the Puyallup Tribe and the different issues around human rights that they face with resources.

### **New Business**

- Elections for 2nd Vice Chair – Julie Tran / Sarah Lee.
- Each candidate spoke regarding what they can bring to the Human Rights Commission as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.
- Commissioner Sarah Lee collected more votes for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.

### **Staff Reports**

None

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:33 pm**