

**CITY OF TULSA
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2009
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tommy Chesbro Alice Blue
Maria Barnes Dr. Sharlene Johnson
Ralph Morita Turner Goodrum
Gayle Hooks-Olden Ruth Gaines
John Wolfkill Claiborne Taulbert
Kate Atkinson

HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

(HRD) STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Turner-Addison Willene Leffall
Dr. Michael Smith

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Cheryl Brown Marla Mayberry

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Chesbro called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. New member Katherine Atkinson was welcomed to the Commission. Members and staff present introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES:

Commissioner Chesbro called for approval of the June minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnes and seconded by Commissioner Hooks-Olden for approval of the minutes. *Motion carried.*

III. GUEST SPEAKER: Carol Bush / Tulsa Citizen Crime Commission

Carol Bush did not attend.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT:

Commissioner Chesbro reported next month the Committee against Discrimination & Crimes of Bias will make a recommendation on a discrimination case against a Tulsa company that contracts with the City. The Committee is currently gathering information on the case and will ask the Commission to vote on the recommendation next month. Commissioner Chesbro stated he is ending his second term as Chair and

will need to form a Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers; Commissioner Chesbro asked for volunteers for the Committee. Commissioners Hooks-Olden, Barnes, Taulbert and Goodrum agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee; a slate of officers will be presented at the next meeting.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT (HRD) REPORT:

Willene Leffall distributed HRD's report for June-August and answered questions regarding the BRIDGE program (see attached). Dr. Smith answered questions related to the proposed ADA Transition Plan. Dr. Smith reported this time last year, HRD had 16 complaints and by the end of July 2009 there were 42; many complaints come from the Mayor's Action Center. Dr. Smith distributed the investigative case status report and stated the majority of complaints are issues related to accessibility (see attached); 8 cases are still open. Dr. Smith discussed a mediation/facilitation meeting that was held on July 14th with TPD; he is currently waiting on a conciliation agreement to be signed by TPD and the complainant. Dr. Smith stated the meeting was positive and educational for all parties. Commissioner Barnes stated that police officers have commented on how pleased they were with the outcome of the mediation/facilitation meeting and would like to have more of them. Dr. Smith referenced the status report handout, case number U33-09 and reported he is waiting on determinations from Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and Oklahoma Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

Dr. Smith distributed phase one of the City of Tulsa Business Disparity Study (see phase one attached). Dr. Smith gave details of two City prime contractors that have a low percentage of minority utilization. Questions were asked regarding the City's process for hiring contractors and purchasing. Dr. Turner-Addison recommended inviting the director of Purchasing, Larry Hood to the next Commission meeting to address these questions. Dr. Turner-Addison stated the City is currently working to revise policy, ordinance and changing the Professional Service Selection Committee. Dr. Turner-Addison discussed the Commission having the ability to enforce utilization on federally funded projects and having more ability, once phase two of the disparity study is complete; currently the utilization percentage of African Americans and Hispanics is down. Dr. Turner-Addison stated the results of the study would either authorize formation of a specialized program targeting specific groups that contract

with the City or support a set aside program that helps minority contractors. Questions were answered regarding what the Commission can do now instead of waiting on phase two of the disparity study; information would be fact checked and the Commission can make a recommendation to Legal. There was a brief discussion on possibly meeting before the next Commission meeting to discuss recommendation talking points and eventually involving the media.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. Education Committee:** Commissioner Johnson reported Teach for America teachers will be in Tulsa for the first time and will work with Houston Elementary School; Houston had the lowest test scores in the State. Commissioner Johnson stated Teach for America teachers are very enthusiastic and will make a huge difference in the community.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Brown	Commissioner Blue
Commissioner Mayberry	Commissioner Wolfkill
Commissioner Johnson	

- b. Housing Committee:** No report.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Gaines

- c. BRIDGE Committee:** Commissioner Wolfkill reported the BRIDGE Certification Review Committee met on August 10th and certified 3 businesses that provided trucking, photography and employment services. Commissioner Wolfkill stated the Committee discussed having a Small Business Administration (SBA) and Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) training to verify both organizations certification and reciprocity process; the training may be held September 28th, after the date has been confirmed with SBA & ODOT. Commissioner Wolfkill announced an Indian Country Business Summit will be held in Lawton Oklahoma on August 23rd - 25th and a Minority Women Business Summit will be held on August 20th. Commissioner Wolfkill further reported that businesses explain why they are disadvantaged at the Committee meetings and members ask questions before granting certification to businesses.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Epstein

Commissioner Wolfkill

- d. Sexual Orientation Discrimination Committee:** Commissioner Chesbro reported President Obama made a day in June or the month of June the GLBT awareness month. Commissioner Chesbro stated that Harvey Milk and Billy Jean King were given the Medal of Freedom; Harvey Milk was murdered in the 70's and was the first elected official in San Francisco that was openly gay. Commissioner Chesbro reported EDNA, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act which includes sexual orientation was introduced to the U.S Senate on August 5th. The Matthew Sheppard Act, dealing with hate crimes that include sexual orientation was passed by the House and is waiting on the Senate's approval; the act is expected to pass. Commissioner Chesbro stated the Committee will try to meet with Mayor Taylor to discuss Title 5 ordinances and moving forward with recommendations made since 1994 regarding the inclusion of sexual orientation in Title 5.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Chesbro

Commissioner Petrikin

Commissioner Blue

Commissioner Atkinson

- e. Police/Community Relations Committee:** Commissioner Barnes reported the Impact Committee met last month and had a presentation regarding different Hispanic groups. Commissioner Ernesto Mondragon of the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affair Commission gave the presentation and discussed details of various Hispanic groups' goals and missions. The Impact Committee will meet next month; Hispanic leaders were invited to the meeting. Commissioner Barnes reported the Crime Stat Committee met this month and encouraged members to attend; Crime Stat keeps you abreast of where crime is and what is being done to address crime.

Dr. Turner-Addison reported the Mayor's Police and Community Coalition (MPACC) are working to form a teen forum; the tentative place and time will be at the OSU Tulsa campus on October 24th. The team will coordinate with TPS in an effort to make the event an extra curricular assignment; Commissioner Blue suggested the Education Committee get involved.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Barnes	Commissioner Morita
Commissioner Chesbro	Commissioner Brown

f. Committee against Discrimination & Crimes of Bias:

Commissioner Blue reported the Community Service Council received a grant from the State to look at disproportion minority contact; the difference in arrest rates between African American youth and others. Commissioner Blue stated that African American youth are arrested more than anyone else and begin on the criminal justice path at an early age to adult prison. Data will be reviewed and efforts made to bring City leaders together to look at the issue and make changes. Dr. Turner-Addison stated the Impact Committee has many City leaders involved that could be helpful. Commissioner Blue discussed the different issues related between the Impact Committee and MPACC.

Commissioner Hooks-Olden asked about the progress of the brochure “What to Do If Stopped by the Police”. Commissioner Blue suggested handing the brochure out at the Teen Forum. Willene will follow up on the brochure status.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Hooks-Olden	Commissioner Johnson
Commissioner Blue	Commissioner Morita

g. By-laws Committee: – Commissioner Hooks-Olden reported the Committee is still waiting for Patience Crowder to work on Commission by-laws. Dr. Smith stated he will contact Ms. Crowder at TU to set up a time to meet.

Members of the Committee:

Commissioner Barnes	Commissioner Blue
Commissioner Hooks-Olden	

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Hooks-Olden requested information on her reappointment to the Commission.
- Commissioner Chesbro reminded members of the Nominating Committee to meet before the next Commission meeting to prepare for election of officers.

VIII. ADJOURMENT:

Commissioner Chesbro entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Commissioner Barnes so moved and Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. *Motion carried.*