

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
February 21, 2001
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Delph
Frederic Goff
Alice Lewis
Ed Peterson
Will D. Riley
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gilbert Blanks
Rosemarie Herbert

STAFF PRESENT:

Sharon Hasen, Staff

GUEST:

Mayor Martin Griffin
Jason Amen Hetep ,
Department of Civil Rights
Mike Sims, Comm. Dev.
George Brown, Citizen
Patriot
Derry Sims

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.

2. Guest:

Jason Amen Hetep, MI Department of Civil Rights, spoke to the Commission about sexual harassment. Jason gave examples of harassment in the workplace by both men and women. He said that the alleged sexual harassment must be proved severe and pervasive. He also explained the procedures followed by the Civil Rights Department when a sexual harassment complaint is filed with them. Jason answered questions that the Commissioners had and distributed information on the subject. Jason requested information explaining what the HRC does so that he might be able to refer people to the Jackson HRC. Chairman White stated that information would be sent to him. Jason also gave the telephone number to reach him which is, 517-334-9335, and the other telephone numbers listed in the brochures which he had distributed to the HRC.

Mike Sims, Assistant Community Development Director, spoke to the Commission about the Community Development Block Grant program. Mr. Sims described the applicants' proposals and recommendations, and answered any questions from the HRC. Mr. Sims told the Commissioners that their input is welcome regarding CDBG funding, and that they can make comments until April 10, 2001, when the City Council will vote on the final recommendations.

3. Police Liaison's Report:
No Police Report.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
A motion was made by Will Riley and supported by Ed Peterson to approve the minutes of January 17, 2001. Motion carried.

5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -
Chairman White urged Commissioners to raise the issue of jury duty and to approach the county to ask the prosecutor to speak at the next HRC meeting to further discuss this issue. He asked that Staff send a letter to the County Prosecutor asking for an update on the jury selection issue, and request his presence at the next HRC meeting.

A motion was made by Alice Lewis and supported by Teresa Delph to invite the prosecutor to attend the next HRC meeting in March to address the jury selection process and to give an update. The motion carried.

6. Staff Report:
Staff reviewed the financial report.

A motion was made by Will Riley and supported by Alice Lewis to accept the Staff Report. The motion carried.

7. Committee Reports:
Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman
Teresa Delph reported that the Oratorical/Essay contest held on February 10, 2001, at Jackson Crossing mall was very successful, and very well attended. She said that one of the judges was so impressed with the contest that he offered to serve again next year. She also reported that Eileen Lehnert, Editor of the Jackson Citizen Patriot, had requested a listing of the winners. Staff and George Brown, Citizen Patriot, stated that this had already been sent. The first place winners will be attending the February 27, 2001, City Council meeting to give their winning speeches. Mrs. Delph thanked Will Riley, Alice Lewis, and Harold White for their help in reading all of the essays.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman
Chairman White reported on a complaint recently received against a local store. He reported that this complaint was mediated with a satisfactory conclusion.

Ad Hoc Committee - Complaint: Will Riley, Chairman
Will Riley reported that the committee had recently met with the two complainants regarding Jackson Public Schools, and met again to review all of the information received. At this point a letter has been sent to one of the complainants asking for a one

page summary of what he would like addressed. Will reported that the next step would be to arrange a meeting with JPS administration once this information is received back. He further explained that the third complaint will be reviewed and investigated after the first two complaints because the third complaint appears to be a localized problem where the first two requires looking at the whole system.

Public Relations Committee:

No report.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

The Commission requested that staff send another copy of the meeting notice to them.

Ad Hoc Committee - Nominating

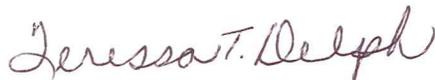
No report. Rosemarie's suggestion that Robert Whitman be considered at last month's meeting was discussed. Chairman White stated that it might also be good to consider Rev. Ramundo again. He felt that Rev. Ramundo would be a good asset to the Commission because he is a religious leader and is connected with both white and black groups.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Ed Peterson to spend no more than \$50 on flowers or a memorial as well as a card for staff since he had a death in his family. Alice Lewis supported the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph
Secretary