

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
City Hall  
July 19, 2000  
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gilbert Blanks  
Bescye Burnett  
Teresa Delph  
Rosemarie Herbert  
Ed Peterson  
Will D. Riley  
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Susan Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

Henry Jenkins, Staff  
Officer Hiller, JPD

GUEST:

Linda West, National  
Conference for Community  
Gail Parrish, National  
Conference for Community

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m.
2. Guest:  
Linda West, National Conference for Community and Justice, spoke about a program called Different People, Common Ground. An initiative intended to improve intergroup relation through out the community. A lengthy discussion followed the presentation as to what the HRC should do as a follow up to the Institutes for the Healing of Racism held last year. Staff reported that money has already been advanced to this program out of last year's budget.
3. Police Liaison's Report:  
Officer Hiller reported on the Police traffic stops in the City of Jackson and has been online since July 15, 2000, where you can see statistics of the breakdown of who are stopped, etc. Rosemarie Herbert requested a geographic breakdown of where the African American stops were made.  
  
In September the JPD will be conducting a citizen's academy. Currently they are recruiting teens for a cadet program for youth. Anyone can recommend a youth for the program.  
  
Officer Hiller also distributed a memorandum from Chief Portis regarding Patricia Graham. Ms. Graham has filed approximately eight citizen complaints against a Police Officer from March through April.
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:  
A motion was made by Bescye Burnett to approve the meeting minutes of June 21, 2000. The minutes were amended to reflect the word form in Page 1, Section 2, second paragraph, last line to be changed to from. Gilbert Blanks supported the motion to approve the amended minutes. Motion carried.

5. Chairman's Correspondence/Community Update -

Chairman White reported that the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes is having meetings throughout the State. He suggested that the HRC assign a member to attend the meetings so they can report back to the HRC keeping them informed. Staff stated that usually Susan Smith attends the meetings and that he attends when she is not able to.

Chairman White also mentioned Senate Bill 816 regarding including sexual orientation as a part of the hate crime legislation. This would make it a federal crime to discriminate against a person based on sexual orientation. Staff reported that this bill is expected to pass the Senate but not the House.

Chairman White reported that the NAHRW Conference will be held in October. The NAHRW is requesting the HRC purchase an advertisement. Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to purchase a credit card sized advertisement in the amount of \$40 for the NAHRW Conference. Bescye Burnett supported the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Delph recommended that the HRC nominate someone for an award from NAHRW. Rosemarie Herbert stated that she would like to nominate Henry Jenkins for the Advocacy Award. Staff stated that he would rather have the HRC nominate one of their members or someone from the community. Rosemarie Herbert made a motion to nominate Henry Jenkins be submitted for the NAHRW Advocacy Award. Ms. Delph supported the motion. The motion carried.

6. Staff Report:

The financial report was reviewed by Henry Jenkins. He further reported that the Common Ground people have been paid, and that in the future the HRC will be working with the Police Department to put together a program targeting African American youth to educate them on what to do if stopped by Police. Some laminated cards indicating what should be done when stopped by a police officer will be made and distributed to young African Americans at this program.

Love Inc. is having their regional conference in Jackson in the Fall of 2000. They requested a representative from the City of Jackson to provide a ten minute greeting on Friday morning. Staff will contact Susan Smith as HRC public relations person to request her to attend the conference on the part of HRC.

Staff further reported that last night the Department of Justice met with some community leaders, NAACP, Police Chief and some minister's to discuss some issues the NAACP were concerned about. Some of the issues were Driving While Black, and recruitment and retention of minority police officers. Harold White stated that he had a conversation

with the Police Chief regarding possibly reinstating the cadet program. He spoke of a program he had seen presented at a conference that targeted minority youth. The Chief asked him to submit the information to him so that it can be reviewed.

A motion was made by Rosemarie Herbert, and supported by Bescye Burnett to accept the Staff Report. Motion carried.

7. Committee Reports:

Community Needs Committee - Gilbert Blanks, Chairman

Gilbert Blanks reported now that school is not in session there is not much to report. He reported that Ed Peterson would assist in securing a day in October to conduct an in-service for new hired teachers to educate them in teaching minority students.

Gilbert Blanks asked what is happening with the goal setting session. Staff will try to find someone to do a workshop on strategic planning since Les Schick is unavailable to work with the HRC at this time.

Labor and Industry Committee: Rosemarie Herbert, Chairman

Staff reported that a gentleman will be coming in on Friday to complain against a local company because of alleged discrimination.

Public Relations Committee: Susan Smith, Chairman

No report. Staff reported that there is a new newsletter for Spring and Summer available.

Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance

Gilbert Blanks reported on the status of the Ad Hoc Committee - Civil Rights Ordinance. The Fourth Draft of the ordinance will be sent to the City Council and City Attorney for their review. The ordinance will also be forwarded to the community at a later date.

A motion was made Rosemarie Herbert to send Everett Perry a letter of appreciation for his work on the proposed civil rights ordinance. The motion was supported by Gilbert Blanks. The motion carried.

Chairman White thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for their hard work on the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gilbert Blanks made a motion that Staff contact William Morrison to ask if he is still interested in serving on HRC. The motion was supported by Bescye Burnett. If he is interested, the HRC will make a recommendation to the Mayor to place William Morrison on a City Council Agenda for approval to the HRC. Motion carried.

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Chairman White welcomed Will D. Riley to the HRC.

Bescye Burnett notified the HRC that she has a new address. Rosemarie Herbert requested that her term expiration date be updated on the HRC member list.

August 22, 2000, the Family Resource Center at Wilson School will have a dedication ceremony for Paul Dupuis. Invitations will be sent.

Teresa Delph offered to write the nomination form for the NAHRW Advocacy Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Delph  
Secretary