

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
City Hall
May 17, 2000
Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Gilbert Blanks
Teresa Delph
Susan Smith
Harold White

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Bescye Burnett, exc.
Rosemarie Herbert, exc.
Ed Peterson, exc.

STAFF PRESENT:
Henry Jenkins, Staff

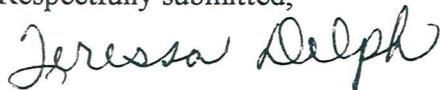
GUEST:

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman White at 6:30 p.m. The meeting operated as a meeting of a whole due to a lack of a quorum.
2. Discussion took place to recommend some people to the Mayor for appointment to the HRC.
3. Henry Jenkins reported that Evelyn Spears called and said a workshop will be held October 6-8, 2000, in Grand Rapids. This will be a International Institute for Healing of Racism Conference.
4. Gilbert Blanks asked when the NAHRW Conference will be held this year. Staff said that he would let the HRC know what the dates are.
5. Janice Fairley sent a letter to Henry to let him know that the HRC will be asked to meet with Chief Portis and the NAACP regarding the Driving While Black issue. A meeting will be held with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and also those citizens who expressed an interest at a previous meeting.
6. Henry Jenkins reported that the City Budget will come before the City Council for approval at the next City Council meeting on May 23, 2000.
7. Henry also reported that on June 4 and 5 the Buffalo Soldiers will be riding through Jackson. This will be on the next City Council meeting agenda. This is a tour to raise consciousness and awareness of Black entrepreneurship and to publicize the upcoming annual Black cowboys proam rodeo in Grand Junction, MI. There will be approximately 20 individuals on horseback.
8. Gilbert Blanks reported that he will meet with Dan Evans, Jackson Public Schools Superintendent, on June 14 to plan something for next year regarding the Junior HRC. He also indicated that Bobby Thompkins at Parkside indicated that he will work with Gilbert to get something going for next school year.

9. Chairman White discussed Gilbert Blanks' concern expressed at the last HRC meeting regarding remarks recently made by Ted Nugent. Staff stated that there has been no direct communication with Mr. Nugent, but that he has been in contact with a member of the LULAC organization. A letter was sent to the Voice of the People by LULAC that addressed their recent Cinco De Mayo celebration and encouraged Mr. Nugent and his supporters to become involved in the event and become more informed.
10. Chairman White discussed the that he would like to see a City Councilmember be in attendance at HRC meetings. At the last HRC meeting there was a motion that a letter be sent to the Council requesting a City Councilmember attend HRC meetings.
11. Chairman White introduced the members to "How to Improve the African American Youth's Academic Achievement." A series of workshops will be held. A pamphlet was passed around so members could see the workshops addressing this issue. An Education Consultant from African American Images, 1409 W. 95th St., Chicago, IL, 60643 can be contacted for more information.
12. Chairman White stated that he had a chance to speak with residents in the Chittock area, and also some people in the Robinson, Euclid area regarding the resident officer. He stated that it seems there is a different attitude on each side. He thinks perhaps this could be because drug trafficking is heavier on the Chittock side.
13. Discussion took place regarding Habitat for Humanity and their bid to build homes in the Trumbull School area.
14. Henry distributed a memorandum concerning a traffic stop summary report from Officer Hiller. Beginning April 15, 2000, the Jackson Police Department has kept a record of all traffic stops conducted by officers of the department. To date 1,348 traffic stops have been conducted. The stop record included gender, race, enforcement action, and reason for the stop. Traffic stops per day average 33. Chairman White stated that he would like to see a report from the State Police and the Sheriff's department.

The HRC meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teressa Delph
Secretary