



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

Monica Williams
Chief Diversity Officer

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

February 16, 2022 **VIRTUAL** HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Human Rights Commissioners Present: Al-amin Muhammad, Agnes McCray, John Rushing III, Chris Gilkes

Human Rights Commissioners Absent: Barbara Johnson, Lanessa Chaplin, Rasheada Caldwell, Mbonimpa Banabas, Liban Mohammed, Mia Wade, Nodesia Hernandez, Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Leo Sanchez

Community members present: Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex, Lael Pierce, Nichole Henry, Legislature Peggy Chase, Liam O'Connor

County staff present: Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy, Chief Diversity Officer/Onondaga County Monica Williams, Human Rights Specialist/Onondaga County Johanna Sellers

Attendance: Meeting began at 5:36

Greetings and Welcome

Approval of January minutes: No approval. No quorum.

Approval of February Agenda: No approval. No quorum.

Recognition of visitors: Visitors were introduced. No public comment.

Chair's Report: No report.

Administrator's Report:

- Submit pictures and stories for the 2021 annual report

Discussion: Commissioner McCray suggested having permanent name tags made for all of them, and possibly wristbands. Commissioners would like to put monies aside for t-shirts for them to wear out at community events. Commissioner McCray asked about having a social media platform for the HRC. Creating an open forum by way of website was discussed.

New business/Old business/Announcements:

- Public hearing topics and dates. Topic suggestions made by Commissioners include surveillance technology, I-81, housing and how community members feel about the environments they live in, drug/fentanyl problem in our community. Commissioners suggested having the first public hearing in the month of April and the second one in the month of June.
- Commissioners discussed when having tables at events that they use a HRC banner with the mission and purpose on it. Al-Amin suggested we stay ahead this year and discuss summer events now. He mentioned he will be hosting a BBQ for the community, Breakfast for Dad's in May, and a Memorial Day weekend cookout for the community. Other events to keep in mind are Jubilee Homes Showcase Sunday and Let me be Great in June.
- Commissioners discussed shelters for young teen escaping domestic violence. The Salvation Army is a good resource. Community member Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex gave us information about the new Salvation Army on the corner of Salina and Kirk Ave. It has more space for more capacity. There has been an increase in teens leaving their homes because of drug usage, parental abuse, and the effects of COVID on their family. Community member Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex also discussed the salary for people in the field of helping others and how it should be increased. The turnover rate of employees is high because they are not getting the pay they deserve and need.
- Commissioners discussed the creation of 3 subcommittees. One committee would be for policing. The other for advocacy. And the third one for outreach. Community member Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex suggested advocacy in healthcare. Commissioner McCray informed us there is no one enforcing the laws for ADA regulations.

Open to Community Members Events: Community member Lael Pierce discussed 3 upcoming events.

Meeting ended at 6:42 p.m.