

## **Human Rights Commission**

### **Business Meeting Notes**

**January 16, 2020**

**Commissioners Present:** Michealea Lemons, Melvin Nobles, Jr, Kim Tosch, Allen Ratcliffe, Lisa Snyder, Ronita Boullt, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Nunez, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran

**Commissioners Absent:** Sarah Lee, Natalie Collins

**City Staff Present:** Andreta Armstrong, Wesley Taylor

#### **Call to Order**

**Chair Lemons** called the meeting to order at 6:38pm

#### **Roll Call**

A quorum was present

#### **Approval of the January Business Meeting Agenda**

- **Commissioner Snyder** moved to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Tran** seconded.
- **The business meeting agenda is approved.**

#### **Approval of December Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes**

- **Commissioner Tran**, asked for corrections to the December business minutes, under the section of Commissioner Reports for the Policy and Advocacy “...*Is there a date of when people are assaulted?*” The statement should say “Is there a data base of when people are assaulted? Also, to have correction done to “Motion was presented for continuing support...” to “Motion was present for continuing to support...”
- **Commissioner Ratcliffe**, on the Approval of November Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes, it should read Commissioner, not Chair Ratcliffe, also the spelling of Ratcliffe should have an “e” on the end as this was missing from the minutes.

**Commissioner Ratcliffe** moved to approve the minutes, with the edits. **Commissioner Tran** seconded.

**The December study session and business meeting minutes is approved.**

#### **Public Comment**

Jeremy Oliver, student at University of Washington, Tacoma. Along with others are enrolled in an Urban Governance Class, part of the requirement for students is to attend a government meeting. The Human Rights Commission meeting was the first opportunity for the students to attend a meeting.

#### **Chair Reports**

- **Chair Lemons** – Chair is the process to setting up meetings with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chair and how they would like to shape the future of the HRC for the coming year.

## Commissioner Reports

- **Policy and Advocacy**

Commissioner Tran discussed the plans their committee has been working on to removing domestic violence as a chronic public nuisance from the Tacoma Municipal Code.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

A meeting was attended with CIRA regarding the data on how police respond to different communities with language barriers. There was also discussion around communities setting up block parties, so neighbors could spend time meeting and knowing who their neighbors are to make the neighborhoods safer.

Commissioner Tosch, will be collecting Purses and Backpacks for the Community Domestic Violence Advocacy Program through January 31, 2020.

**Commissioner Tran**, moved to have the collected Purses and Backpacks include information about the HRC with permission from the Puyallup Tribe. **Commissioner Snyder** seconded the motion.

**The motion is approved**

- **Racial Justice and Equity**

Chair Lemons, RJEC will be meeting the first week in February with Lawrence Garrett.

1<sup>st</sup> Chair Nobles, reminded the HRC to find something in the public that ties to Racial Justice and Equity in Tacoma as January 20<sup>th</sup>, is Martin Luther King Day. This is a time to celebrate the work done to provide racial justice and equity in the City of Tacoma.

- **Education and Outreach**

Commissioner Snyder, the committee is looking at what the different focuses should be for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Rumbaugh, discussed who in the community needs to be reached through their committee around education and outreach, and making sure these groups are being reached.

- **Housing Task Force**

Task force members met with Diane Powers and Andreta Armstrong to discuss possible work plans for this task force, will be multi-layered since the plans are to meet with different entities at City of Tacoma that work on housing issues.

A discussion the chair will have with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chairs is if the task force should be opened up to the entire commission since there will be different areas of community engagement which could benefit from having the entire HRC involved.

## New Business

- **HRC Retreat 2020** – No final date has been set for the retreat. Commissioners can start to brainstorm ideas and topics to discuss at the retreat in April, actual date in April has not been set.

## Staff Reports

- City staff, Wesley Taylor reported out one housing case:

**HRC # 4882 – Brooke Ervin v. Westside Estates Apartments – Pre-Finding Settlement**

**Commissioner Ratcliffe** moved to approve the proposed settlement. **Commissioner Tosh** seconded.  
**The Pre-Finding Settlement was approved.**

**The Chair adjourns at 7:30pm.**