

**Human Rights Commission  
Business Meeting Minutes**

**July 16, 2020**

**Commissioners Present:** Melvin Nobles, Al Ratcliffe, Taniesha Lyons, Sarah Rumbaugh, Julie Tran, Ronita Boullt,

**Commissioners Absent:** Lisa Snyder, Sara Nunez

**City Staff Present:** Andreta Armstrong, Human Rights Manager

**Call to Order:** Commission Nobles at 6:36 pm

**Roll Call:** Andreta Armstrong, Human Rights Manager

**Commission Approved the Business Meeting Agenda**

**Commission Approved Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes:** One correction; the spelling of Sarah Rumbaugh's name is with an "h" at the end.

**Public Comment:**

**Members of the Public Present to Make Comment:** Adria Buchanan, Executive Director for the Fair Housing Center of Washington  
Gerrit Nyland, Director of Client Information Systems, SW Catholic Community Services of Western Washington / Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

**Chairs Report:** No report was shared

**Commissioner Reports** No committee reports were shared.

- **Policy and Advocacy**
- **Racial Justice and Equity**
- **Housing Task Force**
- **Educations and Outreach Task Force**

**New Business:** The Commissioners voiced their concerns about the elimination of the Civil Rights Investigators and the impact that would make on the Community.

Adria Buchanan's comments centered on the City's Fair Housing Coordinator plays a major role in the City Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, as required by HUD. Ms. Buchanan said her agency has contracted with the City in completing a required report showing how the City is Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and with the elimination of the Fair Housing Coordinator, the City may become out of federal compliance—jeopardizing millions of dollars.

Gerrit Nyland's comments centered on the City's need to have a Fair Housing Coordinator to serve many of his client-base, those who are experiencing homelessness.

**Commission Actions:**

The Commission agreed that the Racial Justice and Equity Sub-Committee take the lead in drafting a letter in protest of the City eliminating the two Civil Rights Investigator positions. The letter would highlight the service the positions provide to the City. Also, Community Members, Adria Buchanan and Gerrit Nyland will work with the Sub-Committee in drafting the document. The letter will be forwarded to the City Council, City Manager, and the Chief Equity Officer of OEHR.

**Staff Assignments**

Andreta agreed to forward Commissioners a copy of her correspondence she sent to the Chief Equity Officer (to forward to the City Manager) highlighting the impact of the City not having Civil Rights Investigators.

Andreta also agreed to send Commissioners office stats of the Investigators routine duties.

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:30 pm**