

City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held their last bi-monthly regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., at Development Services Center, 1400 N Boulevard, 3rd floor SE Conference Room, Tampa, Florida 33607.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anthony Carswell	John Perry
Parker Homans	Reginald Tim
Amy Mandel	Elias Vazquez

CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Rebecca Cortes	Deborah Seigler
Margarita Gonzalez	Karen Sinnreich
Vanessa B. Mc Cleary	Thomas Snelling
Patricia Newton	Justin Vaske

GUEST

Elaine McArthur, Outreach & Training Manager, EEOC-Tampa Field Office

Call to Order and Roll Call

At 8:40 a.m., the Vice-Chairman, John Perry, called the meeting to order and called the roll. After the Chairman arrived, the Vice-Chair turned over the meeting to the Chairman.

APPROVAL of Minutes – December 9, 2015

Minutes were approved after the Board reached a quorum. Motion was made by Mr. Perry, and seconded by Ms. Mandel. The motion was accepted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

REGULAR REPORTS

Manager's Report

Vanessa McCleary reported the Housing and Community Development Division (HCD) has gained a finance supervisor and an office assistant; a vacant position remains for a community development specialist and a housing quality specialist has been selected that will start on Monday, February 15th. HCD has been working on ending veteran's homelessness. Several meetings have been held with the Veteran's Administration (VA), Hillsborough County, and other organizations.

She informed members that the next Affordable Housing Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2016, and one topic to be discussed is ALHAP (local housing assistance plan), which will be presented at upcoming public meetings; and preparations will begin on the annual action plan, once notification is received from HUD on the amount. Last year the amount was \$8 million dollars.

Supervisor's Report

Patricia Newton updated the Board about the status of office brochures, a Board rack card, and the website. She announced that a mediation unit was created and Arthur Finegold, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator, has agreed to volunteer his service to the City of Tampa. The office has had four cases for mediation this fiscal year.

The Board was also updated on upcoming events, workshops and training opportunities for staff and Board members. The Human Rights staff will attend HUD Region IV Fair Housing Assistance Program training in West Palm Beach, Florida from March 15th through 17th.

A status of case inventory was reported and the Human Rights Office has four fair housing cases. The goal is to have eight or nine cases by June 30, 2016. The office is investigating fourteen employment discrimination cases and two public accommodation cases.

OLD BUSINESS

Radio Show – Board's Appearance. The Chairman stated that a board member could appear on a show some time this year, conducted by Clinton Paris, the board's Hearing Officer, to establish awareness of the HRB. Ms. Mandel suggested that the Chairman appear on a show, and the Chairman said this could be a topic under New Business for the next meeting. The Chairman asked the board members to provide talking points and their involvement with City of Tampa staff to include under New Business for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

After a brief discussion, the Board approved and signed the Board's Civil Rights Statement, communicating the Board's support of the Mayor's position on immigration issues and diversity. The statement will be sent for release to Ashley Bauman, Director of Public Affairs.

Elaine McArthur, an EEOC Outreach & Training Manager, gave a presentation on Employment Discrimination 101 and answered questions. She has been with EEOC since 1993, but with the EEOC-Tampa Field Office since 2000. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3rd floor se conference room, Tampa, FL.

Adjournment

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Mandel, seconded by Mr. Tim, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted