

City of Tampa  
Human Rights Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2016

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held their quarterly meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., at Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor SE Conference Room, Tampa, Florida 33607.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Parker Homans  
John Perry

Elias Vazquez

**CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rebecca Cortes  
Vikki Duvall  
Margarita Gonzalez  
Vanessa B. McCleary

Patricia Newton  
Deborah Seigler  
Karen Sinnreich  
Justin Vaske

**GUEST**

None at this time.

**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.

**APPROVAL of Minutes – March 8, 2016**

Minutes for March 8, 2016 could not be presented for approval, since there was no quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**REGULAR REPORTS**

**Manager's Report**

V. McCleary reported there are two vacant positions in Housing and Community Development Division, the Community Development Specialist II and the Housing Program Compliance Coordinator. Staff is working with the City Architect on the ADA Transition Plan. The Nehemiah Project is in the second phase, the project will include 18 lots and approximately a million dollars to build new homes in Sulphur Springs. Local Housing Assistance Plan which is the required document for State Housing Initiative Program funds will be presented at the next City Council Workshop which will include the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) on March 24, 2016. V. McCleary continues to work with the Action Plan. The Housing Counseling section attended a HOPE Now event which was very successful and staff and our housing counseling partners were able to assist over 200 families with their foreclosure prevention needs. The City of Tampa will sponsor a Fifth Third Bank Financial Empowerment Mobile (eBus) that will be open to the public at the Cyrus Greene Complex, 2101 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., Tampa, FL on March 15, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. HCD staff will provide citizens with information on taking control of their financial future. Members were informed that June is Homeownership month.

### **Supervisor's Report**

P. Newton reported that she visited the EEOC-Tampa Field Office, and will partner to create a Fair Employment Practices Agency (FEPA) engagement event. At the previous meeting, she announced that a new mediation unit was added to the Tampa Office of Human Rights (TOHR), and that the first mediation was to take place today at 1p.m. The Board was also updated on upcoming events, workshops and training opportunities for staff and Board members. P. Newton attended the Mayor's African American Advisory Council meeting, providing them with information about the Human Rights Office and Board. The TOHR staff will attend HUD's Region IV FHAP/FHIP training conference in West Palm Beach, Florida from March 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. A Fair Housing symposium has been scheduled for April 8, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Board members were asked to attend. She attended an Empower Tampa meeting, regarding an upcoming summit for LGBT youth and their rights. The event will be held on May 7, 2016 at the Barksdale Recreation Center. She also reported that the office has engaged the Tampa Bay Area Legal Services to conduct fair housing testing.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The HRB members have signed the Board's Civil Rights Statement in support of the Mayor's position on immigration issues and diversity, and it has been sent to Ashley Bauman, Director of Public Affairs.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Radio Show – Board's Appearance. HRB members are to provide talking points at the next meeting on June 14, 2016. P. Homans asked if more than one person could go on the air and if the talking points could be sent individually via email to P. Newton. J. Vaske reminded the board to be careful when communicating to avoid a SunShine Law violation. Staff will send the emails by blind copy to avoid replying to all. P. Homans then mentioned that he has a friend that conducts a show at 10 p.m. called The Bone which features legal topics, and perhaps someone from HRB could appear on that show to provide awareness of the HRB.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor SE Conference Room, Tampa, FL.

### **Adjournment**

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by E. Vazquez, seconded by P. Parker, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted