

**City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2018**

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 9:07 a.m., at the Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3rd floor SE conference room, Tampa, FL 33607.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony Carswell	Sylvia Hubbard
Parker Homans	Ashley Roberts

MEMBERS ABSENT

Janet MacNealy	John Perry	Anna Ramos
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CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Betina Baron	Rebecca Cortes	Patricia Newton
Shakayla Birch	Adriana Escander	Vanessa Flemming (Externship)
Justin Vaske		

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Anthony Carswell who then made roll call. A quorum was not met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 13, 2018)

J. Vaske informed the members to withhold approval of the March 13, 2018 minutes, due to a lack of quorum. The minutes will be presented, along with the June 12, 2018 minutes, at the Board's next meeting on September 11, 2018.

REGULAR REPORTS

Supervisor's Report

P. Newton began her report by reminding the Board that today marks the second year of the heartbreaking Pulse Club tragedy and provided copies of an article on "Orlando Remembering the 49 Lives Lost". She mentioned several events to be held in Orlando, FL and that June 12th had been dubbed Orlando United Day – A Day of Love and Kindness.

P. Newton continued her report and updated the Board about several City initiatives:

- a) The City contracted with the Tampa Bay Times for \$15,000 to produce a tabloid in commemoration of 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. The tabloid, a Newspaper in Education publication, will contain information about fair housing in Tampa's past, present and future for teachers to use as part of a classroom curriculum. More than 46,000 copies will be distributed in Hillsborough County middle schools, with 6,000 in libraries, and 5,000 to the City of Tampa.
- b) Also, for the 50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, there will be a roll-out of two (2) murals at Rowlett Park in Tampa. As the artwork was shown, it was explained that the two pieces were conceptualized and designed by Mike Parker and the City of Tampa Arts Program will cover the cost of the project. In addition, the Office is planning to invite the community to a celebration once it is completed.
- c) Staff attended the 15th Annual Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium's Symposium on April 20, 2018, with the theme the *50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act: Past, Present & Future*. Adriana (AD) Escander is the newly elected chairperson of the nonprofit organization.

P. Newton asked B. Betina to send copies of the poetry submissions to the HRB Board, before reading the poems of the top three winners. The Board agreed that the poems were dynamic and espoused fair housing rights.

P. Newton ended her report by leading the Board and staff into a discussion about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the 2012 Masterpiece Cakeshop Case in Colorado, where a baker refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple. She asked for comments/feedback and referenced the article, "*How will the U.S. Supreme Court's Masterpiece Cakeshop Ruling Impact the Colorado Civil Rights Commission?*" J. Vaske commented that it seemed as though the court wanted to exit from making a decision, and that in Florida, there is no verbatim transcript, only minutes. It was noted that the U.S. Supreme Court did not offer a clear path to answer questions about where religious freedom ends and LGBTQ rights begin; yet, the Board stated unanimously that every person's human and civil rights must be respected.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman would like the Board to think about attending meetings on a monthly basis in 2019, due to an increase of case reviews, and asked for comments. A vote will be put on the floor at the next meeting.

P. Homans suggested that there should be enforcement on attendance. The Board's By-Laws indicate that a board member can be removed. The Chairman will work on the topic of attendance with R. Cortes.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. at the Development Services Center, 1400 N. Boulevard, 3rd Floor SE Conference Room, Tampa, FL 33607.

ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by S. Hubbard, **seconded** by A. Roberts, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.