

**City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2017**

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Tampa Municipal Office Building, 306 E. Jackson Street, 1st Floor- Mayor's Conference Room, in Tampa, FL 33602.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Anthony Carswell
Parker Homans

Sylvia Hubbard
Janet MacNealy

John Perry
Anna Ramos

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ashley Roberts
Clinton Paris, Hearing Officer

CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE

Betina Baron
Shakayla Birch
Rebecca Cortes

Adriana Escander
Vanessa McCleary
Patricia Newton

Thomas Snelling
Justin Vaske

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Chairman, Anthony Carswell who then made roll call.

GUEST

Honorable Mayor Bob Buckhorn

The meeting began with the Mayor extending holiday wishes to the Board. The Mayor stated his relief that the City is back to normal after the two latest hurricane disasters and the capture of the Seminole Heights serial killer. He stated the world got to see that "our city was ready", adding that he walked throughout the Seminole Heights community for 51 days. He was proud that everyone was prepared to do their job. T. Snelling commented that there were more signs of togetherness among businesses and the community. Also, there was police visibility in the neighborhood and they were having one-on-one conversations with residents, according to Chairman Carswell.

Turning his attention to the Board, the Mayor inquired about Board vacancies. P. Newton stated that Caine Kreimendahl resigned (Property Leasing) after accepting a teaching job in Kansas City, MO; and Janet MacNealy was appointed and approved by Council recently as his replacement. Reginald Tim's term ended upon serving maximum three consecutive terms (9 yrs.) (Industrial Management), and Amy Mandel resigned, leaving the Retail Merchandising Management vacant. The Mayor asked T. Snelling to send him details of the vacancies for review and possible recommendations for the vacant positions.

The Mayor shared that he is involved with Economic Development projects with Mayor Kreisman of St. Petersburg, who supports multi-cultural events/groups. The Mayor said that Mayors from other cities are the last line of defense against intolerance and that more mayors are joining forces to not allow discrimination. Comments followed between the Mayor, board members and staff.

T. Snelling commented that the Human Rights staff has been creating awareness about the office and more than 350 inquiries have been received this fiscal year, indicating that the word is getting out about human rights. V. Mc Clary interjected that this Board is now more active and relevant in part due to the Mayor's support. Chairman Carswell and A. Ramos agreed that the Board feels more significant and are attending workshops and reviewing case files. The Mayor informed the Board that he has a little over 400 days left in office, and he will continue to support to the Human Rights Board.

The Mayor and T. Snelling excused themselves from the remainder of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 10, 2017 & November 14, 2017)

The minutes for October 10, 2017, were reviewed by the members present. A **motion** was made by A. Ramos, **seconded** by J. Perry, to accept the minutes as presented, and the **motion passed** unanimously.

The minutes for November 14, 2017 were reviewed by the members present. A **motion** was made by J. Perry, **seconded** by S. Hubbard, to accept the minutes as presented, and the **motion passed** unanimously

REGULAR REPORTS

Manager's Report – V. McCleary stated that she has been working on the Consolidated Five-Year Plan, which has been adopted, and includes an assessment on impediments to fair housing. HUD does not want a zip code to determine where someone can live. She attended several school meetings and some issues people are facing, are the lack of affordable housing and rent increases, which cause loss of tenants. This also causes academic problems, when students move often during the school year. The focus of the plan is neighborhood stabilization, since 1.5 million was awarded for construction of 24 homes by next year, and 36 more expected, with opportunity for purchase.

The non-profit organization, Habitat for Humanity, builds homes for people in the 80-100% median income bracket. Five homes were built this year and the City has 120 lots available. There is a request for proposal (RFP) to find a builder and the City wants residents to know that homes between \$120,000 and \$160,000 are available for purchase.

With regard to Hurricane Irma, four resource centers were opened under HCD to give out resource information. Restaurants and churches were called upon to provide hot meals for senior citizens. A Disaster Recovery plan was established. HCD has been assisting Puerto Ricans who are relocating to the area. A proposal has been submitted to legislation for the city of Tampa to provide services; however, Hillsborough County leads on this initiative. There is concern that people won't return to Puerto Rico and resources from other agencies are uncertain.

HCD has partnered with the Mayor's Neighborhood University for the Mayor's Holiday Party on December 13, 2017 at the Tampa Convention Center, and an invitation will be sent to the Board. As for the homeless program, HCD has assisted about 250 families and the program has been recognized nationally. V. McCleary thanked the Board and staff and this concluded her report.

Supervisor's Report - P. Newton thanked the board for its support and asked that the Board and J. Vaske to put on their calendars these upcoming events:

- 1) The 15th Annual Fair Housing Symposium on Friday, **April 20, 2018** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pinellas Realtor Organization, and about 200 attendees are expected.
- 2) Fair Housing Online Training Session on Monday, **January 22, 2018**, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Development Services Center 3rd floor conference room.
- 3) The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act with a mural at Rowlett Park in Tampa and an educational piece for middle and high school students, which will be unveiled sometime in **April 2018**.
- 4) The National Association of Advancement for Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Fund Dinner on **February 8, 2018** at the Hilton Downtown Tampa.
- 5) The Tampa Bay Apartment Association presenting a fair housing workshop on **March 9, 2018**.
In case a member cannot attend one of these events, P. Newton stated that she will offer other events that may be of interest to the Board.

P. Newton reports that a rack card on sexual harassment will be available for distribution; and the workshop on Human Trafficking that took place on November 15, 2017, at the Stetson University-College of Law in Tampa, had nearly 40 City of Tampa employee in attendance.

With regard to case inventory statistics for FY2017, there were 72 cases in three areas of investigation (employment, housing, and public accommodations), and a total of Code), and 37 cases were closed. Three (3) cases were reviewed by the Board adopted in all three cases the Human Rights Office findings.

The Chairman thanked staff and asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The 2018 Meeting Schedule was presented to members for review. A **motion** was made by J. MacNealy, **seconded** by S. Hubbard, to accept the 2018 Meeting Schedule as presented, and the **motion passed** unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 8:30 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 J. Perry, **seconded** by S. Hubbard, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.