

**City of Tampa
Human Rights Board
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016**

The City of Tampa Human Rights Board held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Tampa Municipal Office Building, 306 E. Jackson Street, 1st Floor – Mayor’s Conference Room, Tampa, Florida 33602.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anthony Carswell	Amy Mandel	John Perry
Parker Homans	Clinton Paris	Reginald Tim
Caine Kreimendahl	Anna Ramos	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Elias Vazquez

CITY OF TAMPA REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Rebecca Cortes	Patricia Newton	Justin Vaske
Margarita Gonzalez	Deborah Seigler	

MAYOR BOB BUCKHORN

Mayor Buckhorn began by greeting the members and extending holiday wishes before turning his attention to the current affairs of the City. With regard to the latest comments on sanctuary cities, the Mayor informed the Board that there is no legal description; therefore, the City will continue to provide services as usual; there has been no change in City policy. He also reminded the Board that its role is important, because there are many voices of hate, which has caused many horrible incidents in our Country. He expressed that, along with him, the Board has an obligation, too, to stand up and disagree when it is appropriate, and if something is wrong, it’s got to be corrected. The Mayor concluded his comments by offering his support to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Chairman, Anthony Carswell, called the meeting to order and called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 13, 2016)

The minutes for September 13, 2016, were reviewed by members present. A **motion** was made by C. Kreimendahl, **seconded** by J. Perry to accept the minutes as presented, and the **motion passed** unanimously.

REGULAR REPORTS

Supervisor’s Report: P. Newton provided the Board with a year in review since assuming the role as Human Rights Investigation Supervisor in January 2016. She reported that the Tampa Office of Human Rights (TOHR) has been busy updating all marketing materials, attained a volunteer Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator and M. Gonzalez completed 20-hours of mediation training to apply for the Florida Supreme Court Certification. The Office entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bay Area Legal Services to collaborate on fair housing cases and events. A summer intern, Gabrielle Reimer of Providence College in Rhode Island, assisted the Office in preparation for an annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assessment audit. The Tampa Office of Human Rights will host the Tampa Bay Fair Housing Consortium’s 14th Annual Fair Housing Symposium on Friday, April 21, 2017 at the Tampa Convention Center, featuring nine workshops and two plenary sessions for an expected 300 attendees.

As far as investigations: four public accommodations cases were investigated, 11 employment cases were closed, and five intakes were completed and deferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She reported that the required number of cases for contract compliance will be surpassed, and thanked the Mayor for signing the EEOC FY 2017 contract. With the successful completion of the HUD assessment performance, the Office was awarded about \$70,000, including a \$22,500 partnership and education outreach grant to launch a Fair Housing Awareness campaign. TOHR entered a contract with Screen Vision Media in October 2016 for a 30-second video commercial is being aired in four movie theaters around the city, from December 2, 2016 to February 23, 2017, estimating 37,000 viewers. She concluded stating that staff attended 25 trainings, 20+ meetings, and 25 outreach events and activities, and Karen Sinnreich, Human Rights Investigator, retired on November 28, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

Recap of Cases Reviewed: The Chairman stated that Vanessa McCleary, P. Newton and R. Cortes compiled a list of the Board's annual events, including three case reviews as highlights. He also commended staff on how well organized the files were presented for each review. Other highlights were two trainings, one on employment (EEO) and one on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). He looks forward to the board receiving training on fair housing, possibly during a meeting in 2017.

The Chairman mentioned that E. Vazquez represented the board on October 19, 2016 in Orlando, FL at an Orlando Speaks event and a mock session in Tampa for a Hillsborough Speaks event. The Chairman added that on December 4, 2016, in honor of the 68th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Youth for Human Rights organization held a Stand Up for Human Rights walk in Ybor City in Tampa, he was one of the speakers. He presented a proclamation on behalf of the Mayor and released a dove to represent peace, inclusion and equality at the event. P. Newton and M. Gonzalez also participated in the march and handed out fair housing and employment brochures at a booth. J. Perry added that P. Newton and E. Vazquez participated in the Great American Teach-In by conducting presentations to seven classrooms, which the students enjoyed.

The Chairman passed out the contact list of all board members and staff for updates. No updates provided.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman asked if anyone had comments/updates.

- D. Seigler announced that she was retiring from the City of Tampa and her last day will be January 12, 2017.
- With regard to the board's awareness, A. Mandel suggested that board members obtain business cards with bullet points on categories represented. P. Newton advised the Chairman to send an email to Thomas Snelling and copy her and Vanessa McCleary, requesting business cards for the board members to use for outreach and awareness.
- The Chairman passed out copies of the 2017 meeting schedule and asked if anyone had questions about selection of dates. No objections.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 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 A. Mandel, seconded by J. Perry, and the **motion passed** unanimously. The meeting ended at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted