

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR APRIL 8, 2015

June 10, 2015

Bloomington City Council Chambers  
109 E. Olive Street  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Call to Order

Present

Absent

Rhonda Smith, Chair  
Commissioner Eman Elsayed  
Commissioner Gary Hoover  
Commissioner Kiranmayi Konam  
Commissioner Suresh Krishna  
Commissioner Janet Lancaster  
Commissioner Dontae Latson

Staff – Ernestine Jackson  
Equal Opportunity Associate

The Bloomington Human Relations Commission regular scheduler meeting was called to order by the Chair, Commissioner Rhonda Smith sat 6:08 pm. Roll Call; Present – Commissioner Elliott, Commissioner Hoover, Commissioner Konam, Commissioner Lancaster, Commissioner Latson, Commissioner Krishna.

Minutes of March 11, 2015 - Voted for approval by Commissioner Latson, seconded by Commissioner Elliott. Minutes approved.

**Audience Participation**

Students from Illinois Wesleyan were in attendance.

**Case Summary Report**

Jackson stated that the Commission has a case for Commission review. She stated that a Fact Finding will be held in the matter of another complaint on May 20, 2015. Jackson also stated that there were two in-house cases that will be completed for review with the Human Resources Director.

Jackson stated that the case presented was recommended for a no-probable cause finding.

Chair Smith asked for a recommendation from the Commission regarding **Case No.011YTD11-14.**

It was motioned by Commissioner Hoover, seconded by Commissioner Lancaster to approve the no-probable cause recommendation by staff.

Jackson stated that the complainant will receive a letter stating that the case has been closed as a no probable cause finding. The complainant has the opportunity to request a Commission review of the complaint within 14 days after they receive the letter.

### **Contract Compliance**

No report. Jackson stated that she has received several new contracts. However, there does not appear to be any issues with any of the ones that were received.

Jackson stated that the Ordinance states that the limit for submitting an Equal Opportunity Plan is \$5,000.00 a year. A new procurement policy is now in place and the limit has been raised to \$10,000.00. Raising the amount does not present a problem. The Ordinance will be changed to reflect the raise.

Commissioner Elliott stated that his term on the Commission will be up at the end of April and he has requested that the Mayor not reappoint him. As of April 30 he will no longer be on the Commission. He stated that he has enjoyed being on the Commission and wish the Commission well.

Chair Smith asked the Commission about setting a date for Commission goal setting for the fiscal year 2015-2016. She also asked if a student could be appointed. She stated that it would be interesting to have consideration for a student to be placed on the Commission.

Jackson stated that it would be something to be passed on to the Mayor for consideration.

The Commission decided to set the goal setting date

Commissioner Konam stated that she will be out of the country from May 29<sup>th</sup> until June 29, 2015.

The date for the goal session will be scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Chair Smith asked about having a facilitator for the meeting.

Jackson stated that she would make sure that there would be a facilitator for the meeting.

### **New Business**

Jackson reminded the Commission that they do not meet in July. However, Cultural Fest is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. Juneteenth is scheduled for June. It will be held in Forest Park.

Commissioner Latson stated that there will be a Law Enforcement Educational Summit, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Armory. Local law enforcement agencies will be attending to give information regarding what police have to encounter when they have to stop individuals. He also stated that the MCLP will be having their graduation April 25<sup>th</sup> and he will be the speaker for the event.

Commissioner Konam state that she has information regarding tickets.

Jackson stated that a meeting was held regarding recruitment of minorities for the City of Bloomington. Jackson stated that this is very important move for the City. She stated that she and Salina Grismore will be leading this effort along with Nicole Albertson the Human Resources Director. She stated that recruitment for Police and Fire will be the target area for recruiting efforts. She talked about the importance of hiring minorities, African American Males in particular, in the city. Jackson stated anyone that wants to work for the Fire Department must be an EMT. She indicated that in order to educate young people regarding this requirement, there must be an effort on everyone to work with the schools and other agencies to explain the requirements of the job.

Jackson stated that the Commission should be directly involved in this effort to change the perception that the community has regarding the Police and Fire Department.

Chair Smith said that the meeting was very positive and willing to have a conversation regarding this important issue.

### **Adjournment**