

# **ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 25, 2014**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Amy Danzer (filling in for Chair, Tom Wellington) at 6:11 p.m. on August 25, 2014. The following Commission members were in attendance: Amy Danzer, Mary Hayes (by phone), Willie McAdory, George Morgan III and Robert Howden. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia, Charlotte Scalise and Heidi Meyer. The following Commission members were absent: Tom Wellington, Judy Jobses, Robert Currie and Victoria Taylor.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was cast by Robert Howden to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 14, 2014, as written. The Motion was seconded by Willie McAdory. All were in favor.

### **III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**A. TESTING:** Joseph Aguglia provided an update on the effort to obtain volunteers to participate in the anticipated testing program the Commission is trying to coordinate with City funding. The Request for Proposals will be published in Pittsburgh, Erie, Buffalo and Lake County/Ashtabula (Ohio) areas soon. HRC staff has located an agency which will provide its own testers, which would eliminate the issue of finding volunteers, but the agency has not yet provided information regarding the cost of such program. More information is being gathered.

**B. GRANT PARTNERSHIP:** Joseph Aguglia reported that the Commission is partnering with a group in town that is under new direction that is writing a grant for HUD funding. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the group is agreeing to refer discrimination cases to the HRC.

**IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:** Joseph Aguglia indicated that the yearly budget meeting for the County is held in September, but that he is not expecting any changes in the budget for the HRC from either the County or the City.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. TESTING:** (See "Director's Report.")

**B. CELEBRATE ERIE – AUGUST 14-16, 2014:** The HRC staff had an informational table at the Celebrate Erie event on Friday through Sunday. Thank you to Commission Member, Robert Howden, and Advisory Board Member, Dianna Ames, for volunteering some of their time to assist.

**C. 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR – AUGUST 22, 2014:** The HRC staff had an informational table at this event at Pfeiffer-Burleigh school in Erie, which was well attended by the community.

**D. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 5, 2014:** The HRC staff also had an informational table at this event at the John F. Kennedy Center in Erie, which was well attended by the surrounding community.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. REPRESENTATIVE CURT SONNEY’S SENIOR EXPOS – SEPTEMBER 5 AND 12, 2014:** The HRC staff plans to have an informational table at the Senior Expo in Harborcreek on September 5<sup>th</sup> and in Corry on September 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. each day.

**B. OUTREACH:** Charlotte Scalise reminded Members to please let the staff know about any events that a representative of the HRC could attend in order to raise awareness about the Commission and its Mission.

**C. COMMUNITY HOUSING RESOURCE BOARD (“CHRB”) FUNDING THROUGH THE CITY OF ERIE:** The Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) funds that used to go to the CHRB are now being administered by the City of Erie, and the City is currently accepting proposals for the use of such monies. It is the City’s interpretation that this particular grant does not cover funding for testing. The deadline for utilizing the funding is June 30, 2015. The HRC staff is working on ideas for proposals. Commission Members should direct any ideas they may have to HRC staff.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. Motion was cast by Robert Howden and was seconded by George Morgan. All were in favor. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on September 22, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted by Commission Staff, Heidi Meyer.