

ERIE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JULY 22, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Tom Wellington at 6:10 p.m. on July 22, 2013. The following Commission members were in attendance: Tom Wellington, Amy Danzer, Robert Currie, Ebony Davis and Willie McAdory. The following Commission staff members were also present: Joseph Aguglia and Charlotte Scalise. The following Commission members were absent: Mary Hayes and Judy Jobes. Also present was a guest, Doug Smith.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was cast by Amy Danzer to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2013, as written. The Motion was seconded by Robert Currie. All were in favor.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. HUD PROGRAM STATUS: Joseph Aguglia reported that he and Doug Smith received telephone and email contact from Kenneth Carroll at HUD, regarding HRC's participation in the FHAP program and giving HRC the option of being suspended from the program or voluntarily withdrawing from the program. Joe explained that HRC was put on a PIP in December of 2012 and that Mike Jansen at HUD had told Joe that the PIP could be extended. However, Kenneth Carroll has told Doug Smith that HUD is going to suspend HRC's FHAP status. Joe stated that for a county of the size of Erie, HUD expects HRC to generate approximately 8 to 10 housing cases per year. HRC presently has about 5 housing cases. Joe explained the FHAP program to the new Commissioner(s), and there was discussion regarding whether HRC should voluntarily "withdraw" from the program or whether HRC should have HUD proceed with the "suspension" of HRC from the program. The issue was put to a vote, and 5 of the 5 Commissioners present voted for "SUSPENSION."

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. LAND BANKING: Charlotte gave a brief report on the land banking meeting that was held at City Hall on July 17, 2013 and answered questions from Willie McAdory. There will be more discussion on land banking in the future as the issue unfolds within the County.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. FORMULATING A DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMISSIONER'S ROLE: Joe Aguglia is working on drafting a "cliff notes" summary of the HRC Ordinance so that the Commissioners not already familiar with the role of the Commissioner can better understand the role of a Commissioner. It was also decided that Joe and Willie McAdory would meet privately to discuss the issue and any further questions that Mr. McAdory may have.

B. FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR - AUGUST 23RD: The HRC will have a display/informational table set up at the First Annual Family Resource Fair at the Pfeiffer-Burleigh school gymnasium on August 23, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. The event is free to the public and is designed to provide the community with information as to the resources/services available to the community. The event is being held in conjunction with the Eighth Annual Back to School Free Haircut event the following day at the school. Commissioners are asked to assist with the manning of the HRC table at the event and should contact the office to let staff know if they can assist and at what time.

C. 2013 CELEBRATE ERIE – AUGUST 16-18TH: The HRC will have a display/informational table set up at the 2013 Celebrate Erie event. The event runs from August 15 - 18, 2013, but the HRC need only have its table manned from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday (August 16th), Saturday (August 17th) and Sunday (August 18th). Commissioners are asked to assist with the manning of the HRC table at the event and should contact the office to let staff know if they can assist and at what time. In the past, the HRC has generated cases from contact with people at this event.

D. PRIDE PARADE AND RALLY - AUGUST 24TH: The HRC will have a display/informational table set up at the PRIDE Rally at Perry Square on August 24, 2013. The Parade to the Square is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., and attendees should be at the Rally in the Square around 2:00 p.m. Commissioners are asked to assist with the manning of the HRC table at the Rally in the Square starting at 2:00 p.m. and lasting an undetermined amount of time. Commissioners should contact the office to let staff know if they can assist and at what time.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no further comment from the public.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Motion was cast by Robert Currie and was seconded by Amy Danzer. All were in favor. The next regularly-scheduled Commission meeting will be held on August 26, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by Staff, Charlotte Scalise.