



**DURHAM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Conference Room
Golden Belt Center, Building 2, Floor 3, 807 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701**

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

***Members of Commission: Commissioners Phil Seib, Chair, Ashley Taylor-Jacobs, Vice Chair, Norris Wicker, Ricky Hart, Gerri Robinson, Richard Ford, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith, Ricardo Correa, Felicia Arriaga
Council Persons Don Moffitt, City Council Liaison, Jillian Johnson, Alternate City Council Liaison***

Call To Order

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

Roll Call

Juanita English, Administrative Assistant, called the roll for the meeting.

Present: Commissioners Phil Seib, Chair, Ashley Taylor-Jacobs, Vice Chair, Norris Wicker, Ricky Hart, Gerri Robinson, Richard Ford, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith, Ricardo Correa, Felicia Arriago

Absent: None

City Council Liaison Present: Council Person Don Moffitt

City Department Staff Present: James Davis, Human Relations Manager, Juanita English, Administrative Assistant

Orders of the Day

Ceremonial Items

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, welcomed new Commission member, Felicia Arriaga.

New Business

Discuss and Organize Public Forum on Conditions in Durham County Jail:

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, welcomed to the meeting, invited guests, Greg Williams of Inside-Outside Alliance, and Major P. Martin of the Durham County Sheriff's Office.

The Special Events Committee provided a handout to the Commission about plans to conduct a public forum on the conditions in the Durham County Jail; copy of handout attached, (see Attachment 1).

The Commission discussed the plans to conduct a public forum on the conditions in the Durham County Jail.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked the Special Events Committee to continue planning the public forum on the conditions in the Durham County Jail, and inform the Commission of the plans at the August meeting.

Greg Williams of Inside-Outside thanked the Commission for agreeing to hold a public forum on the conditions in the Durham County Jail. He asked if the Commission would allow prisoners to write testimony letters for the public forum.

The Commission agreed to allow prisoners to write testimony letters for the public forum, and mail the letters to the Durham Human Relations Commission at 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701, with a deadline of Tuesday, August 9, 2016 for mailing the letters.

Major P. Martin of the Durham County Sheriff's Office thanked the Commission for inviting the Durham County Sheriff's Office to the planning meeting to conduct a forum on the conditions in the Durham County Jail, and he expressed his appreciation on the openness of this issue.

Durham Human Relations Commission (DHRC) Long-Range Calendar

"National Night Out" Durham neighborhood events will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

DHRC August 2016 Executive Committee meeting for committee chairs will be held Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

DHRC August 2016 Commission meeting for all Commission members will be held Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Attachment 1

Town Hall Forum: The Impact of the Durham County Jail on Durham Residents

On any given day, the Durham County jail, located in the heart of downtown Durham, holds just over 500 people, many of whom live in the city of Durham. In response to concerns by Durham city residents, the Durham Human Relations Commission will host a Town Hall for the community to better understand the impact of the Durham County Jail on our city. The forum will include speakers from a range of perspectives, as well as provide an opportunity for questions. The forum will include hearing about families with loved ones in the jail, the role of the Sheriff's office, issues related to people with disabilities, understanding the impact on young people in our community, the experiences of Spanish-speakers, and the demographics of the Durham Jail population.

Proposed Speakers:

- Policy Counsel from DisabilityRightsNC
- Family member of someone in the jail (recommended by Inside Outside Alliance)
- Scott Holmes or Delvin Davis to present snapshot of demographics of Durham County Jail (race, gender, bail amount)
- Representative from the Sheriff's office
- High school college counselor who works with formerly incarcerated youth
- Someone who can speak to the experiences of Spanish speakers (TBD)

Proposed Format:

Moderator: Yolanda Keith

Panel Discussion - Each panelist has 5 to 7 minutes (total 30 minutes of Forum)

Questions from Moderator - 15 minutes (including questions that we might receive from incarcerated people in advance)

Audience Q & A - 15 minutes

Location ideas:

- City Hall Chambers
- Holton Career Center
- Library

Promotion:

- Flyer
- Email

Date:

- July 28th
- July 26th back-up