



**DURHAM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
MAY 2016 MEETING**

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

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

*Members of Commission: Commissioners Phil Seib, Chair, Norris Wicker, Vice Chair, Ricky Hart, Gerri Robinson, Richard Ford, Jacob Kliatchko, Ashley Taylor, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Ian Kipp, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes, Yolanda Keith, Ricardo Correa
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 7:04 PM.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Phil Seib, Commission Chair, Norris Wicker, Commission Vice Chair, Ricky Hart, Gerri Robinson, Girija Mahajan, Susan Austin, Risa Foster, Sejal Zota, Diane Standaert, Franklin Hanes

Commissioners Absent – Excused: Commissioners Richard Ford, Jacob Kliatchko, Ashley Taylor, Ian Kipp, Yolanda Keith, Ricardo Correa

City Council Liaison Present: Council Persons Don Moffitt, Jillian Johnson

City Department Staff Present: Constance Stancil, Department Director, Juanita English, Administrative Assistant

Orders of the Day

1. Ceremonial Items

None

2. Public Comments

Greg Williams of Inside-Outside Alliance spoke to the Commission about the conditions in the Durham County Jail. He informed the Commission that Inside-Outside Alliance organization is an all-volunteer group with every member residing in Durham County. He asked the Commission to support his organization's efforts on this issue, and to conduct a public forum about the conditions in the Durham County Jail. He provided the Commission with a document from the First Five Grieving Committee of the Durham County Jail with grievances of the Durham County Jail, dated March 18, 2016; copy of document attached, (see Attachment 1).

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, added this issue to the meeting agenda under new business for discussion at the end of the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion to approve the April 2016 DHRC Meeting Minutes held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016; Commissioner Norris Wicker seconded the motion; the motion was approved with eight (8) votes "For" the motion, zero (0) votes "Against" the motion, and two (2) votes "Abstained" the motion.

4. Presentations

None

5. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, conducted an Executive Committee meeting held for all Committee Chairs at 6:30 PM.

6. Committee & Special Project Reports

Standing Committees:

Community Outreach Committee:

Commissioner Norris Wicker, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that he had nothing to report because he could not have a conference call with committee members liked he had planned because of miscommunication.

Human Relations Hearing Committee for Housing Appeals:

Commissioner Gerri Robinson, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that there was nothing to report.

Policies & Procedures Committee:

Commissioner Susan Austin, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that there was nothing to report.

Special Events Committee:

Commissioner Ashley Taylor, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting to give a report, however she provided a report to the Commission by email on Friday, April 29, 2016, about the Human Relations Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at Holton Career & Resource Center; copy of report attached, (see Attachment 2). In her report, she announced that the 2016 award recipients at the 2016 Human Relations Awards Ceremony were as follows:

Carlie B. Sessoms Award Recipient: Beatrice Chestnutt
Housing Award Recipient: Stephen Hopkins
Human Rights Award Recipient: Steve Schewel
Human Rights Youth Award Recipient: Tayla Mebane

Commissioner Risa Foster, Committee Member, commented to the Commission that she thought the Human Relations Awards Ceremony was a success, and that the Holton Career & Resource Center was a very good venue for the event.

Website/Marketing Committee:

Commissioner Richard Ford, Committee Chair, was not present at the meeting to give a report.

Ad hoc Committees:

Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee:

Commissioner Diane Standaert, Committee Chair, provided a committee report to the Commission concerning the impact of the Bull City Connector route change, and the committee's proposed recommendations regarding the impact of the Bull City Connector route change; copy of report and proposed recommendations attached, (see Attachment 3). She informed the Commission that the committee's proposed recommendations were on the meeting agenda to be discussed.

7. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Constance Stancil, Department Director, informed the Commission that she had contacted Commission Liaison, Emanuel McGirt, Senior Assistant City Attorney, and he had indicated that Commission members can call in on a conference call at a Commission meeting and be counted present and participate in the meeting and vote by phone.

8. Human Relations Manager's Report

Constance Stancil, NIS Department Director, provided Commission members with the Human Relations Manager's Report for April 2016, and the HUD Fair Housing Case Report for April 2016.

8.01 Human Relations Communications/Announcements

Constance Stancil, NIS Department Director, provided Commission members with the Human Relations Division Calendar for May 2016. She informed the Commission that Delilah Donaldson, Senior Human Relations Manager, has retired and is working under contract for six months through June 30, 2016. She introduced James Davis, and informed the Commission that he will start to work on Monday, May 16, 2016, with the NIS Department, Human Relations Division as Human Relations Manager. She informed the Commission that James Davis will be leaving Orange County Government Human Rights & Community Development as a Civil Rights Specialist, and he also served as Interim Director of Housing. She informed the Commission that the Human Relations Division would have their annual HUD monitored FHAP Agency performance review on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 10 & 11, 2016.

Juanita English, Administrative Assistant, provided Commission members with an updated DHRC Membership Roster from the City Clerk's Office, by email on Monday, May 2, 2016; copy of roster attached, (see Attachment 4).

9. Old Business

Update on Durham Detained Youth in Ice Custody:

Commissioner Girija Mahajan introduced Pablo Friedmann, and organizer advocating for the family of Wildin David Guillen Acosta. He provided the Commission with an update on the Durham detained youth in ICE custody, Wildin David Guillen Acosta. He informed the Commission that with the great amount of local support in Durham, Congressman G.K. Butterfield was able to advocate on a federal level and contact the director of ICE, and the director agreed to delay his deportation until his lawyers could make an appeal to the Board of Immigration, and the appeal was granted, so he will not be deported at this time. However, while he is waiting for his appeal, ICE chose to keep him incarcerated instead of giving a bond or providing him with a non-incarcerated form of monitoring, for no reason, other than claiming that he is a national security threat. He thanked the Commission on their work on passing the resolution to City Council against the ICE actions in Durham, and on the City Council's resolution against the ICE actions in Durham. He asked the Commission to send a letter to the director of ICE asking why David Acosta is being detained while waiting for his appeal.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, thanked Pablo Friedmann for his update, and he asked him to send an email to him stating in writing his request for the Commission.

10. New Business

Proposed Amendments to Rules of Procedure & Powers & Duties:

Commissioner Susan Austin, Chair of Policies & Procedures Committee, provided a handout to Commission members with the committee's proposed amendments to the DHRC Rules of Procedure & Powers & Duties; copy of handout attached, (see Attachment 5).

Note: The proposed amendments will be voted on at the next meeting.

Proposed Recommendations Regarding Bull City Connector Route Change:

Commissioner Diane Standaert, Chair of Bull City Connector Route Change Impact Committee, read the committee's proposed recommendations regarding the impact of the Bull City Connector (BCC) route change as follows:

1. The BCC should focus on serving the Durham community, not primarily Duke.
2. The BCC route should be restored or improved to again serve the Durham Station.
3. The BCC route should be restored or improved to again serve Duke South.

John Tallmadge, Director of Regional Services Development of GoTriangle, was unable to attend the meeting, however, Mary Kate Morookian, Transit Service Planner of GoTriangle attended the meeting in his place. She informed the Commission that they thoroughly read the proposed recommendations, and that they appreciate the time and effort that the Commission put into the issue of the impact of the Bull City Connector route change, and on the proposed recommendations. She informed the Commission that GoTriangle plans to incorporate the recommendations into their five year plan.

Other attendees concerning this issue were Pierre Owusu, Senior Transportation Planner, Transportation Department, City of Durham; Alison Carpenter, Transportation Demand Manager, Duke University; and Nikki Brown, Spirit House.

Commissioner Risa Foster made a motion to approved the proposed Bull City Connector recommendations; Commissioner Franklin Hanes seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved with ten (10) votes "For" the motion, and zero (0) votes "Against" the motion.

Conditions in Durham County Jail:

The Commission discussed the issue of conditions in the Durham County Jail that was presented to the Commission during the "Public Comments" portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Ricky Hart stated to the Commission that he thinks the Commission should not get involved with the issue of conditions in the Durham County Jail because it is run by Durham County Government and the Durham County Sheriff's Office.

Some Commissioners stated to the Commission that they think the Commission should look into the issue of conditions in the Durham County Jail, make recommendations, and conduct a forum for open community discussion.

City Council Liaisons Don Moffitt and Jillian Johnson stated to the Commission that they think the Commission has the right to look into this issue and make recommendations.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, stated to the Commission that he thinks this issue is a human relations issue because Durham County inmates are Durham citizens and they have human rights.

Constance Stancil, NIS Department Director, recommended that Greg Williams of Inside-Outside Alliance contact Partners Against Crime (PAC), especially PAC 1 and PAC 2, to get on their agenda, in order to gain community support. She recommended that the Commission organize a public forum in collaboration with the Inside-Outside Alliance and Partners Against Crime (PAC).

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, asked the Special Events Committee to research this issue and propose a recommendation on conducting a forum or forums on the issue of conditions in the Durham County Jail for discussion at the next meeting.

Election of Officers:

Commissioner Franklin Hanes, Chair of Nomination Committee, informed the Commission that the nominations for Commission Chair are Commissioner Phil Seib and Commissioner Ricky Hart, and that both are willing to serve as Chair if elected. The Commission voted for Commission Chair with nine (9) votes for Commissioner Phil Seib, and one (1) vote for Commissioner Ricky Hart. Commissioner Phil Seib was elected for a second term as Commission Chair.

Commissioner Franklin Hanes, Chair of Nomination Committee, informed the Commission that the nominations for Commission Chair are Commissioner Ashley Taylor-Jacobs and Commissioner Ricky Hart, and that both are willing to serve as Vice-Chair if elected. The Commission voted for Commission Vice-Chair with nine (9) votes for Commissioner Ashley Taylor-Jacobs, and one (1) vote for Commissioner Ricky Hart. Commissioner Ashley Taylor Jacobs was elected as Commission Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, informed the Commission that all Commission members on Commission subcommittees would remain appointed as members of the subcommittees, and all Commission subcommittee chairs would remain appointed as chairs of the subcommittees.

11. Durham Human Relations Commission (DHRC) Long-Range Calendar

The DHRC June 2016 Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM, and the DHRC June 2016 Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Phil Seib, Commission Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM.