



**DURHAM HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
JULY 2020 MEETING
VIRTURAL MEETING BY ZOOM
Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2020
Time: 7:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

*Members of Commission: Commissioners John Rooks, Jr., Chair, Pierce Freelon, Vice Chair, Mikel Barton, Nathan Plummer, Jeff King, Andrea Hudson, Alexandra Valladares, Tom Cadwallader, Joy Spencer, Amanda Smith, Christina Crosby, Erin Carson, Darius Whitney, Eric Chacon
City Council Members: Javiera Caballero, City Council Liaison, Mark-Anthony Middleton, City Council Alternate Liaison*

Call to Order

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

- Roll Call

Juanita English, Administrative Technician, Sr., called the roll for the meeting.

Commissioners Present: (13) John Rooks, Jr., Chair, Pierce Freelon, Vice Chair, Mikel Barton, Jeff King, Andrea Hudson, Alexandra Valladares, Tom Cadwallader, Joy Spencer, Amanda Smith, Christina Crosby, Erin Carson, Darius Whitney, Eric Chacon

Commissioners Absent: (01) Nathan Plummer

Current Membership: (14) Total

City Council Liaison Present: None

City Department Staff Present: Phil Jordan, Human Relations Manager, Juanita English, Administrative Technician, Sr.

Orders of the Day

1. Ceremonial Items

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, welcomed new DHRC member, Commissioner Eric Chacon, to the Commission. Commissioner Eric Chacon introduced himself to the Commission.

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, wished farewell to former Commissioner Sejal Zota, whose DHRC second term ended June 30, 2020, and he thanked her for all her years of dedicated service to the DHRC.

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, wished farewell to former Commissioner Jennie Belle, since she resigned from the Commission because she was hired for the position of Community Engagement Strategist for the City of Durham, Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, Community Engagement Division, and he thanked her for her service to the DHRC.

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, wished farewell to former Commissioner Lana Dennis, since she resigned from the Commission, and he thanked her for her service to the DHRC.

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, congratulated Commissioner Alexandria Valladares, on being sworn in as a member of the Durham Public School Board.

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Joy Spencer made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the DHRC March 2020 Meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020; Commissioner Jeff King seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved with thirteen votes “For” the motion.

4. Presentations

None

5. Executive Committee Report

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, reported that he did not conduct a DHRC Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

Note: Executive Committee Meetings are held by phone at 12:00 PM on Thursday before each Tuesday DHRC Monthly Meeting.

6. Committee Reports and Discussion

Standing Committees:

Annual Awards Event Committee

Commissioners John Rooks, Jr., Chair, suggested possibly having an awards ceremony virtually by Zoom. Commissioner Pierce Freelon commented that everyone may be zoomed out and suggested possibly doing a video.

Community Outreach Committee

Commissioner Alexandra Valladares, Committee Chair, reported that 100% Hispanic/Latino infants, 90% Hispanic/Latino school-aged children, and 80% Hispanic/Latino adults are at risk for coronavirus.

Commissioners Alexandra Valladares, Committee Chair, reported that she needed to resign as Committee Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. She asked that Commissioner Mikel Barton, Committee Member, chair the committee. Commissioner Mikel Barton, Committee Member, agreed if Commissioner Joy Spencer, Committee Member, would co-chair with him. Commissioner Joy Spencer, Committee Member, agreed to co-chair with him. Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, appointed Commissioner Mikel Barton and Commissioner Joy Spencer as Co-Chairs of the Community Outreach Committee.

Commissioner Alexandra Valladares, Committee Chair, reported that a Food Drive was being planned to be held at Ashbury United Methodist Church located at 806 Clarendon Street in Durham. Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, informed her that he has access to food that he would like to donate to the Food Drive. Commissioner Alexandra Valladares, Committee Chair, stated that she would be very appreciative of the donated food for the Food Drive by Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair.

Policies & Procedures Committee

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, reported that Commissioner Nathan Plummer, Committee Member, was running late for tonight's meeting and that when he arrived to the meeting, he wanted to ask him to chair the Policies & Procedures Committee to replace former Commissioner Sejal Zota, former Committee Chair.

Social Media/Marketing Committee

Commissioner Andrea Hudson, Committee Chair, informed the Commission that she did not have any updates to report, and that she would post community items that are sent to her.

Note: Please send community items for posting to DHRC Facebook page to Commissioner Andrea Hudson, Committee Chair and copy DHRC Chair and Vice Chair.

Ad hoc Committees:

City Staff Grievance Committee

Commissioner Mikel Barton, Committee Member, reported that Commissioner Nathan Plummer, Committee Chair, had reached out to the City of Durham Workers Rights Commission, and has been waiting to hear from them.

Public Housing Accountability Committee

Commissioners Tom Cadwallader, Committee Chair, reported that McDougald Terrace residents are back in their apartments. He reported that there is a moratorium on evictions, with evictions stayed through July 31, 2020, and that evictions are to start back on August 1, 2020. He commented that evictions should be stayed through the end of the year, December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Christina Crosby, Committee Member, reported that she reached out to Anthony Scott, Director of Durham Housing Authority, and he has agreed to work with the DHRC on how the HUD funds are being spent.

7. Commissioner Communications and Announcements

Commissioner Amanda Smith asked if the DHRC could get a tent for the nurses administering COVID-19 tests outside in the sun at Lincoln Community Health Center (LCHC). Phil Jordan, Human Relations Manager, offered the NIS Department tents for LCHC to use since they are not being used during the pandemic.

8. Human Relations Manager's Report

Phil Jordan, Human Relations Manager, reported that the Human Relation Division (HRD) has seven cause cases that have violated the Fair Housing Act, and they have elected to go to district court, and that the HRD may have eight cause case by the end of the month of July. He reported that there is an uptick in cause cases, and they all involve the same apartment complex and the same protected class, National Origin.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

- DHRC Officer Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioners Mikel Barton and Amanda Smith, Nominating Committee, reported that Commissioner John Rooks, Jr. has been nominated for DHRC Chair, and Commissioner Pierce Freelon has been nominated for DHRC Vice Chair.

Commissioner Tom Cadwallader made a motion to approve Commissioner John Rooks, Jr. for DHRC Chair, and Commissioner Pierce Freelon for DHRC Vice Chair; Commissioner Jeff King seconded the motion; the motion was unanimously approved with twelve (12) votes "For" the motion. Note: Commissioner Erin Carson had left the meeting before this vote was taken.

11. Commissioner Reflections/Community Updates

- Open to Commissioners

None

12. Durham Human Relations Commission (DHRC) Calendar

- August 2020

DHRC August Monthly Meeting is scheduled to be held virtually by Zoom on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

National Night Out in Durham originally scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

Adjournment

Commissioner John Rooks, Jr., Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.