Allegheny County Human Relations Commission

Minutes of April 3, 2024

Date/Time: April 3, 2024, at 8:30 AM

Location: 920 City County Building, 414 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15219 / dial in

- 1. Call to Order: 8:35 AM
  - a. Commission members present
    - i. Chairperson Arthur Pang
    - ii. Vice Chairperson Kellie Ware, Esq. (dial in)
    - iii. Rev. Mary Ann Trifaro
    - iv. J. Nicole Rhodes (dial in)
    - v. Tanya Vokes (dial in)
  - b. Staff members present
    - i. Ellen Buannic, Human Resources
    - ii. Erin Johnson, Equity and Inclusion
    - iii. Frances Liebenguth, Law Department
- 2. Introduction of Guests: None
- 3. Approval of Minutes: Vice Chairperson Ware entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 6, 2024. Commissioner Vokes motioned to approve, motion was seconded by Commissioner Trifaro and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 4. Chairperson's Update: Please review the pamphlet circulated by staff for edits or comment. Once approved, commission will have them printed through either the County print shop or through private businesses. Chairperson Pang noted he has a few diverse businesses in mind to contact for the job.

Chairperson Pang discussed meeting with Rachel Shepherd, Director of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PhgCHR), to discuss City and County overlap for managing cases, and how the commissions are intended to work together. Previously, the Allegheny County Law Department had spoken with PhgCHR regarding workshare/resource allocation for cases; as they are federally funded, workshare was not an option. Much like the ACHRC, Director Shepherd is exploring how to bring more public awareness of the commission through outreach.

- 5. Staff and Committee Reports
  - a. Law Department: Ms. Liebenguth is overseeing the updated complaint form to be up and running on the County website.
  - b. Human Resources Department: None
- 6. Strategic Initiatives and Process Improvement: Awaiting further discussion with the PghCHR, as well as directives from the County Executive.
- 7. Community Events: Commissioner Trifaro noted that PA Representative Dan Miller is presenting a Disability and Mental Health Summit April 18 and 19 at the Beth El

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Congregation of the South Hills.

April celebrates National Arab American Heritage Month, National Financial Literacy Month, and Earth Day falls on April 22.

May celebrates Jewish American Heritage Month, and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Vice Chairperson Ware recently co-authored and published the book, Black Lawyers of the Burgh: An Anthology.

Amendment to minutes from meeting of May 1, 2024: Chairperson Pang noted that Mental Health Awareness Month is also celebrated during the month of May.

8. Announcements and Open Floor: Ms. Johnson noted that the County will be presenting a Doing Business with Allegheny County Seminar April 18 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

Last day to register to vote in the primary elections is April 8.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

## **Review Group #1**

Arthur Pang, Rev. Mary Ann Trifaro, and J. Nicole Rhodes

## **Review Group #2**

Leslie Paul Jamerson, Tanya Vokes, and Kellie Ware, Esq.

## **Motions Commissioner**

J. Nicole Rhodes