

Allegheny County Human Relations Commission
Minutes of February 1, 2017 Meeting
Date/Time: February 1, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 1, Allegheny County Courthouse
First Floor
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

I. Call to order: 8:37 a.m.

Commission members present
Dan Styche, Acting Chairperson
Nicola Henry-Taylor
Jessica McCurdy, via phone
William Price
Carey Cummings

Commission members not present
Stephan Broadus, Chairperson
Mary Gibson

Staff members present
Holly Grabowski, Employee Relations Coordinator, Department of Human Resources

- II. Introduction of Guests: Acting Chairperson Styche recognized and welcomed Austin Davis, Executive Assistant and Ian Jenkins, Executive Assistant
- III. Approval of Minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting: Commissioner Price made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry-Taylor and carried unanimously.
- IV. Chairperson Update: No update.
- V. Staff and Committee Reports:
Law: None.

Ms. Grabowski stated that Ms. Liebenguth could not be present for today's meeting however, they could anticipate Ms. Liebenguth's availability increasing in the near future. She further stated that the request for alternate representation was not a possibility due to limited resources.

Commissioner Price stated that he has ruled on several cases and made recommendations to deny or dismiss and needs Ms. Liebenguth's recommendation on next steps. There are four separate cases with pre-hearing motions that he will need status updates on in addition to any subsequent filings.

Vice Chairperson Styche made a request to Mr. Davis for alternate representation from the Law Department. Mr. Davis stated he would follow up with County Solicitor Andy Szefi. Commissioner Cummings cited that the Commission is unable to move forward with cases without a County litigator.

Commissioner Henry-Taylor requested that Ms. Liebenguth review what was given to her and provide the Commission with a status update.

Human Resources: None

- VI. Community Events: Commissioner Cummings ran into a representative from the International Convention Protecting Women's Rights who had asked to speak to the Commission regarding local efforts. The Commission agreed and will determine an appropriate date.

Vice Chairperson Styche announced that he, along with Commissioners Price and Cummings would be participating in the Bethel Park's Independent Middle School's seminar for 8th grade boys next Friday, February 10, 2017.

Commissioner Cummings suggested that the Commission may want to consider getting involved with immigrant community groups to make them aware that the Commission is available. She further stated that doing outreach and inviting them to attend a Commission meeting would help create awareness. This led to a discussion as to what community organizations worked with immigrants including but not limited to the Jewish Community Center, Islamic Center and Catholic Charities.

Commissioner Cummings cited that as the Commission continues to reach out to the different communities it could cause an uptick in cases increasing the need for a County solicitor.

- VII. Announcements: Commissioner Price stated that he has taken over for Commissioner Gibson on the Furthering Fair Housing Committee. He attended a meeting telephonically and reported that they are still in formation mode and are reviewing their by-laws. He advised that he would keep the Commission posted as things develop. Commissioner Henry-Taylor announced that she would serve as Commissioner Price's back-up on the Committee.

Vice Chairperson Styche announced that the Hampton School District would be attending the March meeting which will be held in Conference Room 1 of the Allegheny County Courthouse. Since they are expecting between 10 – 12 students reserving the Gold Room wouldn't be necessary. He further stated that the school district asked if the Commissioners would be available to meet prior to the student's attending the March meeting. Commissioner Henry-Taylor stated that she would be available to join Vice Chairperson Styche at that meeting.

Vice Chairperson Styche announced the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission summit will be held in June. Commissioner Price expressed interest in attending.

- VIII. Adjournment: A motion was made by Commissioner Price to adjourn at 8:56 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cummings and carried unanimously.