

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, August 5, 2013 3:30-5:00PM

Agriculture Building Conference Room

4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

Attendance: Nina Anderson, Sondra Cannon, Dave D'Amico, Jeff Delaney, Sami Elmansoury, Fatima Jaffari, Rosa Lee, Ricky Pierce, Chanderjit Sawhney, Inderjit Sawhney, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, John Sorrentino, Sherri West, Danny Weiss, Linda Zucaro

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:30, followed by the Salute to the Flag. Vice Chair John Sorrentino conducted the meeting as Darryl Hughes was unable to attend.**

- II. Approval of June 2013 Meeting Minutes – the minutes of the June Full Commission meeting were approved with minor corrections.**

- III. Treasurer's Report – Sondra Cannon distributed to all present the report of expenditures and the current account. As of 5/31/13, the balance was \$2200.00. As of 8/05/13, expenses of \$284.40 for logo materials, along with future anticipated expenses of \$14.11, bring the current budget balance to \$1901.49.**

- IV. Standing Committees and Support Teams**
 - A. Membership – Linda Zucaro introduced prospective members, Nina Anderson and Sami Elmansoury, who were unanimously approved and welcomed. She also spoke of the recent deaths of two members, James L. Terrell, representing the African-American and Education communities, and Kay Guadagno, Monmouth Medical. Their service to the Commission was highlighted. After a suitable time, Linda will seek replacements. Moving on to membership attendance, Linda summarized the policy in the MCHRC bylaws, which requires every member to attend at least one in four Full Commission meetings. An inquiry as to the member's intentions, by phone and letter, is then followed by a formal vote at the next Full Commission meeting. Those members that will be contacted**

are Manny Castillo, Leroy Hill, and Randy Thompson, with a formal vote on their continued participation taken at the October 7 meeting.

- B. Communications – Carolyn Schwebel reported that all press releases and public communications are presently sent to 55 different outlets, and that John Schwebel has updated the website with an “In the News” link: <http://monmouthcountyhrc.org/Home.shtml>. She encouraged all to check the link regularly for articles on Commission activities. John has updated the logo labels for the October workshop and he distributed copies of the logo and Equalizers pens (www.equalizers.org) to members in attendance, along with the MCHRC flier. Carolyn also discussed the complicated procedure to have the Commission listed on the NJ State’s 211 information site and she will notify us when the process is completed. She also expressed her disappointment by the membership turnout at the June meeting. Only 14 members attended, and only one of those who said they would come to a night meeting, actually came. (Members, note that the October 7 meeting will be held in the evening, so, especially for those who find it difficult to attend the afternoon meetings, please make every effort to attend on October 7).
- C. Incident Response and Reporting - Linda reported that a recent call to the hotline was routed appropriately, and summarized the procedures when a hotline call is received. While it was unclear that a written protocol has ever existed, current procedure is for all calls to be received at a phone-line on Dave D’Amico’s desk, who makes a determination whether to route the call to the Prosecutor or to the Liaison to the Commission, with all voicemail messages since its inception saved. With James Terrell’s passing, a volunteer was solicited, with Jeff Delaney agreeing to temporarily serve until Danny Weiss becomes available. Jeff Delaney will follow through with the recent hotline call.
- D. Resource Development- Rose Lee, the new Chair, will work with Linda Zucaro to understand the responsibilities of the position.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Update on second Police Academy seminar-Oct. 15-16-John Sorrentino discussed the plans to date for the workshop, indicating that potential speakers have been contacted and he is awaiting their replies. The flier should be ready shortly, as he hopes to finalize the schedule of speakers in the next two weeks, and he is also working on complying with the grant from the Prosecutor's office. John also reported that there was interest from other counties, with the possibility of collaborating with them in the future to present a statewide training workshop.**
- B. Update on 2014 Project Proposal on Veterans Services Announcement-In the absence of Angel Quiles and Darryl Hughes, Sondra Cannon reported on their recent planning meeting. Their recommendation is to for the MCHRC be the convener for a Spring 2014 discussion among providers that work with younger veterans, either at a Full Commission meeting or a public meeting expressly for that purpose. To comply with the mission of the MCHRC, the bias investigated would be age discrimination. Sami Elmansoury agreed to help in this endeavor.**

VI. New Business-

- A. Sondra initiated a discussion on the issues raised by the Trayvon Martin case, requested by Angel Quiles at their meeting on the Veterans proposal. Members discussed various possibilities for a future dialogue on race and community outreach, with NJ and/or Monmouth County policies highlighted. Dave D'Amico mentioned past MCHRC participation in Greekfest, and recommended that the past practice of all MCHRC members having t-shirts with the MCHRC logo, attend local events and answer questions about the role and services provided by the organization. Mention was also made of resurrecting the idea of an MCHRC Events calendar, noting that there are regularly occurring events, like the October Latino Festival and the June Gay Pride Festival, that would serve to highlight the role of the MCHRC. Discussion on these ideas will continue at the September Executive meeting.**

- B. The October 7 meeting of the MCHRC will be held in the evening to accommodate members who find it difficult to attend the afternoon meetings. Linda reported that the program topic will examine the aging LGBT community, with a Meridian film on the issue shown, along with a Q&A hosted by Danny Weiss. Organizers are working on a venue.**
- C. Fatima Jaffari asked members if the MCHRC was interested in working with her and the Interfaith community in a Youth Interfaith Initiative to begin in the Fall, with youth (grades 7-12) from various denominations from the Freehold to the Lincroft areas of the county working on a project that would focus on community youth-oriented and social justice community service. Based on her earlier work, "Project Understanding," and working with the Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought (<http://interfaith-mcwret.org/main/>), Fatima asked for 3 MCHRC volunteers to contact her to work on the project (jaffarikhan@yahoo.com), and announced that there will be a meeting on August 20, 2013, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lincroft, 1475 W Front St Lincroft, NJ, to discuss the proposal. A motion was made and approved to sponsor the project by the members present.**

VII. Adjournment of the meeting was at 5:15PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary