

Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations (CCRRCR)  
Minutes of CCRRCR meeting  
Wednesday, July, 27 2016  
5:05 pm  
Second Floor Conference Room – 209 City Hall

Commission members present:

Rev. Kenneth Simmons, David Granville, Barbara Kloberdanz, Zaw Win, Gary Wilson, Esq., Rev. Shelia Wallace

Staff

Richard J. Morrisroe, Esq., Executive Director  
Carolyn E. Manney, Assistant Director

Commissioners Excused:

John Calvin Davis

Chairman Kenneth Simmons called the meeting to order 5:08

Chairman Simmons opened the meeting by giving remarks pertaining to his tenure with the Commission. Chairman Simmons acknowledged the opportunities and knowledge he has gained by serving on the Commission. But due to his new position with the City of Buffalo and other obligations time does not permit him to be an effective chairman. Chairman Simmons submitted his resignation and asked that the Commission accept it.

VC Granville responded by thanking Chairman Simmons on behalf of the Commission for his commitment and volunteer efforts to the Commission during his 2 years of service. VC Granville stated he will work in the capacity of Acting Chairman as he has the past few meetings until the Commission acts in such a way to nominate and vote in a new Chairman.

ED Morrisroe stated Commission members will be issued identification cards due to the new security procedures to prevent delays. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

VC Granville turned to the agenda (see attached) a motion was made to approve the minutes for April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and June 22<sup>nd</sup> by B. Kloberdanz and seconded by Z. Win. The motion was approved and passed by a unanimous vote.

Next, C. Manney stated there has been no change to the assistant director report since the last meeting. C. Manney stated she will continue to monitor employment

applications to maintain Ban the Box due diligence. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Next, discussion ensued led by ED Morrisroe regarding his report (see attached) stating that his outreach efforts have continued. ED Morrisroe attended community meetings for Ellicott, Niagara and University Districts. He has since been invited to attend community meetings for Fillmore and Masten Districts. The aim in attending the meetings have been to introduce himself but also to let the community know the Commission is here and available to service them.

ED Morrisroe stated C. Manney will be handling outreach or education efforts referencing Ban the Box. ED Morrisroe stated he will be meeting with Jeff Conrad, Regional Director for Center for Employment Opportunities as well as Khalid Emerson, with Erie County Coordinator for the Reentry Task Force. Both of the programs assist in providing employment services and educating individuals on their rights after incarceration. ED Morrisroe goal is to partner with the above programs to ensure reentering individuals are being treated fairly. In the event that does not happen the Commission is here to assist when necessary. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Next, ED Morrisroe stated the Anti-Bullying Campaign is coming up and plans to partner with the Buffalo Board of Education as in past with the help of Chief Diversity Officer Crystal Rodriguez. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

ED Morrisroe would like to partner with the Buffalo Employment and Training Center in efforts to accomplish the Commissions goals toward Workforce Diversity. ED Morrisroe believes another way to assist with workforce diversity is to reach out to businesses that have signed the Opportunity Pledge to put their support into action by hiring individuals from diverse backgrounds. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Next, ED Morrisroe stated the CCR & CR will begin to capture all traffic that walks through the door even if we cannot directly assist the individual. Previously the Commission only captured a directly assisted individual which is what the City Charter requires. Now that we have the staffing we will document all forms of citizen contact to include referrals to other agencies, as well as individuals we were not able to assist at all. This information will be included in the C. Manney report going forward. Further discussion will be held at future meetings.

Next, ED Morrisroe would like the CCR & CR to be more engaged with the Police Department. This would include S. Wallace acting as our liaison with them. The goal is

to be proactive and not reactive in community policing. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Next, ED Morrisroe believes that the Commission has to take a new approach to engage the community which is going to require creativity. A place to start would be Social Media Education and Edutainment Campaigns. Such as a Facebook page, interactive seminars and poetry slams.

There is the idea of separation of church and state, without getting involved in one's belief system. In building unity the church has played a huge role historically in community building, such as the Civil Rights Movement. My question then would be how can we engage others beyond the Opportunity Pledge?

This idea came after ED Morrisroe was invited to speak at B. Kloberdanz church in October, they are offering an honorarium. The theme is Healing and Racial Unity. ED Morrisroe thought this opportunity might be a starting point in which the Commission could build financial equity to put towards further creativity ideas. ED Morrisroe will have to research how the processes of receiving funds are to be handling on behalf of a Commission. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Next, VC Granville opened the meeting for discussion for questions or comments regarding the Executive Director's report.

VC Granville suggested that ED Morrisroe should share with the Commission when he is being invited to district meetings. This would allow the Commission members to show their support.

VC Granville asked if someone would like to take on the responsibility of examining ED Morrisroe's ideas and categorizing them into relevant committee goals.

B. Kloberdanz stated she believes additional time is needed to review the ED Morrisroe's suggestions. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

Old Business:

Next, discussion ensued by B. Kloberdanz regarding the following committees

1. Citizens' Rights
2. Police Oversight
3. Community Relations

B. Kloberdanz provided a document (see attached) which states the Commissions goals and expectations for the 2016-2017 budget year based on the roles of each committee.

S. Wallace mentioned that the Commissioners do not have direct contact with citizen complaints therefore some language should be corrected to reflect the staff of the CCR & CR.

VC Granville suggested that the Commissioners should review the expected 2016-2017 budget goals and bring their suggestions for corrections to the next meeting. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

B. Kloberdanz would like clarification if the Commissioners are expected to act as overseer, but the staff is actually completing the goals. Further discussion will be held at future meetings regarding this matter.

#### New Business

1. Committee member's roles and meeting schedule.
2. What action needs to be taken to replace the position of the vacating of Chairman?
3. Provide all commission members with full copies of the Bylaws to review.

A motion by S. Colston to adjourn was made at 6:25 pm, seconded by B. Kloberdanz, passing unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn E. Manney  
Assistant Director  
CCRCR

Date approved: 9/28/16