

Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations (CCRCR)
Minutes of CCRCR Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Commission Members Present:

Charlie Torres, David Granville, Kenneth Simmons, Barbara Kloberdanz, Alexandra Lopez, Ekua Mends-Aidoo, John Calvin Davis, Crystal Rodriguez

Staff:

Jason Whitaker, Executive Director – Present
Lizbeth Gonzalez, Confidential Secretary – Present

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

Old Business: Ms. Rodriguez made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Lopez

New Business: Executive Director's Report

Mr. Whitaker stated that he has been very much engaged and involved with the community. He has been a speaker on various platforms with citizens services speaking at their block chat sharing the purpose of the commission helping to really address and deal with what has been in the news what has been talked about in regards to the commission our division not being of much use as it pertains to police complaint. Mr. Whitaker states that is just one entity, one portion of what we have done or what we do. He expresses a strong talking point for him is that police complaints is just one of the things we do certainly the purpose of the commission is to deal with a broad range of discrimination and the building up the community relations component.

Mr. Whitaker had the opportunity of being a speaker for the NAACP. President Reverend Mark Blue invited him to speak about the purpose of the commission and certainly pushed who we are and what we do to combat again a number of the concerns. He also mentioned about a great opportunity for us to be connected with the Criterion which reaches 10,000 people and an opportunity for us to further our message and get things out.

As pertains to what the commission is doing what we are involved in that will certainly help to promote a lot of what we will do in the future speaking of that on the virtual community meetings, which is again was established during this pandemic pretty much just brainstorming come again didn't have the opportunity to meet to share this before you are beforehand which again I apologize didn't want to make sure we were wasn't trying to do anything.

Mr. Whitaker reports on the Commissions Virtual Discussion Meeting on Race and Reconciliation. We had a great turnout for the first virtual meeting, which was on Race and Reconciliation. Reverend Blue was the guest speaker and he did a wonderful job just speaking on the topic and the goal. Mr. Whitakers states the vision he personally has was not only to stay connected, be present, be engaged, but also making sure that these serious topics are talked about. The idea is to have a number of those forms probably monthly or every other month with the purpose to speak on those important topics. Having national speaker coming into partnership with a number of community organizations and businesses within the city, which can help with funds for some of those speakers we would like to bring in.

Mr. Whitaker sent out a draft copy of the annual report to the Commissioners for review and changes. Mr. Whitaker was informed that the Annual Report is due to the Common Council by September. Davis made a motion to receive Mr. Whitakers annual report and send any recommendations to him by Monday at 5:00pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Torres stated that a meeting will be held next week to go over changes to the annual report.

Ms. Rodriguez agreed to set up meeting to review new reform due to all the changes that have been taking place as result of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Lizbeth will be emailing virtual meeting information for the next meeting. Motion to adjourn at 6:23 PM by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez.

DRAFT