

Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations (CCRCR)  
Minutes of CCRCR Meeting  
Wednesday, September 25, 2019  
Room, 1316B Conference Room, City Hall

Commission Members Present:

David Granville, Barbara Kloberdanz, Alexandra Lopez, Ekua Mends-Aidoo, Rev. Kenneth Simmons, Charlie Torres, Zaw Win

Staff:

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

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 5:57 PM

New Business- Executive Director's Report

Mr. Whitaker acknowledged each of the commissioners in attendance and thanked them for the commitment to the board. He began by taking a moment to congratulate both Rev. Kenneth Simmons and David Granville for being reappointed to the board. Next, he gave an update on the reappointment of John Calvin Davis. Mr. Whitaker stated that we were aiming for the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with the Common Council for Mr. Davis' reappointment hearing, however we are still waiting on approval. Mr. Whitaker then gave an update on the statues of Mr. Colston. During a telephone conversation, Mr. Colston expressed continued interested in serving on the board despite his medical issues.

Mr. Whitaker continued his report by expressing his committed efforts to the goal of establishing a stronger presence within the community. That includes the continued meetings with the BPD at various venues and functions. Other activities and involvement includes meetings with multiple block clubs, community organization and various leaders throughout the city. Mr. Whitaker then mentioned some of the most notable events he had the opportunity to be a part of within the past few months such as the Police Advisory Board Community Meetings. These meetings were organized to hear the thoughts and concerns about policing in Buffalo. Mr. Whitaker was able to give a presentation at all three events and expressed how the Commission is available to assist the community when needed. Mr. Whitaker was also intricate in establishing a visit to one of these meetings from District Attorney John Flynn who addressed the community on a myriad of issues. Mr. Whitaker then mentioned the opportunity to present on behalf of the CCRCR at P.A.C.T. (Police and Community Together)/Citizens Police Academy on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at BPD headquarters. This new effort by the BPD aims to show how our office serves the citizens of Buffalo as well as how we work with the BPD on behalf of each citizen. The program started October 1<sup>st</sup> and extends through November 19<sup>th</sup>. A graduation ceremony will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM to celebrate the accomplishments of the class. This will be the second time Mr. Whitaker will address the Citizen Police Academy on behalf of the CCRCR.

Mr. Whitaker concluded his report by informing that there were no new complaints filed since our last meeting.

Upcoming Events: On October 15, 2019, the Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration will take place in the lobby of City Hall. Then, on October 22, 2019 will be a "Lights On! After-School Spotlight on Bullying Prevention City-Wide Celebration" at East Community High School. Mr. Whitaker serves as a board member on the bully prevention board who's responsible for this city-wide celebration.

Mr. Whitaker proposed to set tentative dates for the board to meet for its quarterly meetings. The meeting times would be every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday within the month of the meeting quarter at 5:30 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall. Advance notice and reminders will be sent out with each meeting date. Mr. Torres stated that the By-Laws Committee needs to review and make necessary changes to those by-laws in regards to the number of meetings and commissioners appointment dates.

Mr. Torres then suggested that Mr. Whitaker begin to work on his annual executive report for 2019 based on what the by-laws require.

Mrs. Lopez concluded by extending an invitation to each of the Commissioners to the Hispanic Women League Annual Dinner on October 26. Additional information will be emailed as it becomes available

Next meeting will be on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM by Mr. Torres and seconded by Mrs. Lopez.