



City of Cedar Rapids  
Civil Rights Commission  
**Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, November 16, 2015  
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair  
Mr. Leland Freie  
Ms. Ashley Reynolds

**Staff Present:** Mr. Bernie Walther, Investigator  
Ms. Judy Goldberg, Investigator  
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order** – Dr. Emily Bowman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – Leland Freie moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting with one spelling correction. Ashley Reynolds seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Old Business -**

**1. Outreach Report**

Bernie Walther, Investigator, presented the monthly outreach report showing events and trainings that were held in October. Mr. Walther stated upcoming outreach opportunities include Foundation 2 staff training, a Leadership of Five Seasons event and mediation training for Civil Rights staff.

**New Business –**

**1. Quarterly Trainings Update**

Mr. Walther stated the EEOC training date has not been set as the contract is still under review. Staff is hoping to have the training in February or March.

Mr. Walther stated staff will participate in Mediation training this week and the Mediation training for the public will be February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cedar Rapids Police Station. The training will be open to the public but geared towards Human Resources representatives, landlords and realtors.

Mr. Walther stated John Marshall Law School submitted a tentative agenda and proposed contract for Fair Lending training. The agenda was sent to the Cedar Rapids Realtors Association to see if they are interested. Staff is looking at an April date with the Cedar Rapids Library as the location.

**2. Upcoming Outreach Events**

**a. Selma**

Mr. Walther stated the date for the movie night of “Selma” will be January 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00 PM at the Whipple Auditorium in the Cedar Rapids Library. The movie will start at 1:30 or 2:00 PM. Representatives from the Cedar Rapids Human Resources Department, the Linn County Human Resources Department and the Cedar Rapids Community School District may participate in a public employment job fair at the event. There will also be information pertaining to the Fair

Housing Poster Contest. Staff is hoping to have the Mayor or a Council member present an MLK Day Proclamation at the event.

**b. Human Rights Month Proclamation**

Mr. Walther stated a Human Rights Month Proclamation will be presented at the December 15<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting at 4:00 PM. Members of the public from the African American Museum, Catherine McAuley Center, Diversity Focus and the ADA Advisory Committee will be invited to accept the Proclamation with staff. Mr. Walther stated Commissioners are welcome to attend and accept the Proclamation with staff as well.

**c. Traveling Display**

Judy Goldberg, Investigator, stated staff is borrowing a traveling display, of Iowa Civil Rights history, from the African American Museum to be displayed in City Hall. It will be displayed in the City Hall lobby in December.

**3. Downtown Banners**

Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant, stated the Civil Rights Commission banners were displayed on 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE and 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW throughout the month of October. Due to a mess up the banners were displayed free of charge this year. The Commission has first right to display the banners in October in years to come.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

*Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey*