

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRCRC)

MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2015 5:30 p.m.

Civil Rights Commission

50 2nd Avenue Bridge

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Mr. Keith Rippy, Chair
Ms. Salma Igram, Vice Chair
Dr. Emily Bowman
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Laura O’Leary
Mr. Robin Tucker
Mr. Keith Wiggins

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Ashley Reynolds
Dr. Ruth White

Staff Present: Mr. Johnny Sevier, Training & Outreach Coordinator

Guests: Susie Weinacht, Cristy Hamblin

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Rippy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

No public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

Commissioner Igram moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner O’Leary seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. Cedar Rapids Police Department Young Services Project Update

Cristy Hamblin of the Cedar Rapids Police Department updated commissioners on the Youth Services Project. Ms. Hamblin noted the Department has several ongoing projects under this umbrella. She began by informing commissioners of the history of the Georgetown project, which began two years ago. She noted the project was designed to examine disparate rates of criminal charges, which negatively impact youth of color. She shared the statistic that of the 233 criminal charges at schools in 2012-2013, 51% were charged to students of color. Ms. Hamblin also shared the top ten offenses that occurred amongst this population and noted they were minor charges, not serious crimes. In response to this data, she noted that the CRPD has developed a mentoring program with the following mission statement: “Through collaboration and change in policy and practice, youth of color will have access to equal educational opportunities.” This is the second year of the program, which is targeting Roosevelt Middle School and Jefferson High School. The program has partnered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and is currently working to de-stigmatize the program as well as reach out to the community for mentors. Ms. Hamblin also shared information about the Youth Citizens Academy and the Adult Citizens Academy where citizens can see what it is

like to be a police officer. She handed out brochures to commissioners on the Adult Citizens Academy. Finally, Ms. Hamblin noted the CRPD is also reaching out the community by meeting with faith-based organizations in an effort not only to build relationships and educate the public about the role of the CRPD, but also to recruit future police officers from diverse backgrounds.

VI. Report from Chair

Commissioner Rippy noted the CRCRC continues to work with the City Attorney to update the 28E Agreement with Marion. This is an ongoing project.

VII. Committee Reports

Development and Personnel Committee

Commissioner O’Leary stated she had nothing new to report.

Finance Committee

Commissioner Igram stated she had nothing new to report; the committee has not met.

Outreach Committee

Commissioner Bowman noted that Bernie Walther was in the process of finalizing dates for EEOC training and mediation training, but at the time of the committee meeting these dates were still tentative. The CRCRC “app” is now up and running thanks to Alicia Abernathey. Commissioners should put January 17 on their calendars as the CRCRC will host a film screening of *Selma* at the CR Public Library that day.

Marion Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Commissioner Tucker stated he did not attend the last Marion meeting due to illness. He noted that the Marion Community event has been pushed back to early 2016. The next Marion meeting is Wednesday, November 4th; the MCRC meets the first Monday of each month.

VIII. Director’s Report

Commissioner Rippy called attention to the Director’s Report included in the meeting packet and asked commissioners to read it. Commissioner Rippy noted Janet Abejo is serving as the person in charge (PIC) during Ms. Yates’s absence.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Bowman