



Human Relations Advisory Council (HRAC)
County of Lehigh

MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2023

The meeting of the HRAC was held at 12:00 p.m. by Zoom video conference. A recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Community-Economic-Development/Human-Relations-Advisory-Council>.

ATTENDING

Angela Baio (AB), Carmen Bell (CB), Liz Bradbury (LB), Tony Branco (TB), Nagi Latefa (NL), Guillermo Lopez Jr. (CHAIR), Luis A. Perez Jr. (LP), Paschall Simpson (PS)

Staff: Yorman De La Rosa (YDLR), Cyndi King (CK)

Absent: Maryanell Agosto (MA), Commissioner Zach Cole-Borgi (ZCB), Frank D. Kane (FK),

CHAIR called the meeting to order.

Roll call. Quorum obtained. Meeting is being recorded. Public will have access to that recording on the department's website (see opening paragraph above).

CHAIR took a moment of silence in observance of Nagi Latefa's mother's passing. CHAIR and other members of the HRAC offered their sympathies. Nagi spoke fondly of his mother calling her "the most influential person" in his life.

CHAIR asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; LB made the motion; seconded by CB; TB abstained from the vote as he was absent from the

previous meeting. Therefore, with no questions received and upon voice vote with one abstention, the minutes were approved.

No citizens present to share input. CHAIR asked for an update on the proposed ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS

LB began by reminding the group that the October 25 meeting of the BOC was supposed to be the first reading of the proposed ordinance (PO). LB, GL, and ZCB attended the meeting. LB recounted the question-and -answer session (available on https://lehighcounty.zoom.us/rec/play/vGeJ6HKDTIa0apBISqhsUirkqiDobKMMhuM6guU2WJPiHjMNo8ImZeoQNOcVZx8ypiH_E1MCofeHPp6V.NKotdH9FhYiRwi9- at 2:23:54). Continuing the discussion, TB wondered whether Allentown's Mayor Matt Tuerk might advocate for the PO and consider including Allentown's Human Relations Commission (HRC). LB said she has already spoken with Allentown's mayor; she also applied to be on the Allentown Human Relations Commission and, to-date, has not heard from the city. LB reported that she attended the city's meeting in May and they did have a quorum. LB agreed it would be a good idea to ask Mayor Tuerk to advocate for this law and also to ask state representatives to talk with County Executive Phillips Armstrong for passage of the PO . LB believes that Pete Schweyer, Mike Schlossberg, and Josh Siegel would all be in favor of the passage of the PO in Lehigh County as it would make the county a better place. LB recommended those individuals [be contacted prior to the next BOC meeting on November 8]. CHAIR added that HRAC has made three attempts with Allentown's HRC to meet but illness postponed two of those meetings and personnel changes postponed a third scheduled meeting. LP offered to contact Commissioner Zakiya Smalls to ask for her support of the PO at the 11/8 BOC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NL asked for the sample ballot link on the County's website:

<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Portals/0/PDF/Voter/2023GEUMOVAv5.pdf?ver=v4dq1YlbMwkYfoTgUO50nw%3d%3d>

CHAIR would like to invite Norman Bristol Colon, PA Chief Diversity & Equity Officer, to an upcoming HRAC meeting to give his perspective on what the state is doing and how it is moving forward. A motion for CHAIR to invite Norman Bristol Colon was made by LB and seconded by NL. However, AB noted that a motion was not needed at

the will of the CHAIR to invite a guest. The guest speaker will be included in an upcoming agenda.

CHAIR mentioned a volunteer breakfast and Age-Friendly Walk taking place on 11/8/23. CB reported the event is sponsored by Age Friendly Lehigh Valley (an initiative of United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley) takes place at ArtsQuest, 8-10 a.m.. The volunteers were part of the AARP regional walk audit which will improve regional transportation and infrastructure in Lehigh and Northampton counties. Over 180 volunteers audited locations and submitted their plans which the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission will use to draft improvements to pedestrian and motorist safety throughout the valley. Vision Zero is another initiative where mortality and fatality rates are reduced to zero.

CHAIR noted that LINC is having a roundtable on 11/9/23 called Allies in Action – Skills to Fostering a Culture of Belonging at Work. CHAIR is one of the panelists.

CLOSING AGENDA ITEMS

CHAIR called for any other citizen's input (none) and any other announcements (none) or anything for the good of the order with there being none, he called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by CB. Seconded by NL. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. King