

Human Relations Advisory Council (HRAC)

Discussion/Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2023

The discussion/meeting of the HRAC was held at 12:00 p.m. by Zoom video conference.

ATTENDING

Maryanell Agosto (MA), Carmen Bell (CB), Tony Branco (TB), Nagi Latefa (NL), Guillermo Lopez Jr. (GL), Luis A. Perez Jr. (LP), and Paschall Simpson (PS).

Staff: Frank D. Kane (FK), Yorman De La Rosa (YDLR), Deputy Solicitor Sarah Murray (SM), and Cyndi King (CK)

Absent: Angela Baio (AB), Liz Bradbury (LB), Commissioner Zach Cole-Borghi (ZCB)

Guest: Genesis Ortega, Communications Manager – City of Allentown

Chair GL asked FK whether any decision has been made surrounding the Ordinance that HRAC crafted. FK responded it is up to the Law Department to create a proposal to the Board of Commissioners.

Going forward, the HRAC meetings will be scheduled in advance and posted, open to the public, and recorded. Copy of the minutes will be on display in the DCED office, Room 519, of the GC and also posted on DCED's website. HRAC elections will be in May. Chair GL suggested for members to think about what roles they would like to play.

Chair GL is interested in partnering with the City's HRC. FK agrees there should be a natural alignment with both Allentown and Bethlehem and their respective efforts.

TB reminded the group that next meeting will have to approve this meeting's minutes and the previous meeting's minutes.

CB suggested agreeing on the same time and day of the week each month to hold the HRAC meetings. CB suggested the first Monday of each month at noon. TB suggested if it falls on a holiday, we go to the following day.

FK outlined the way in which the meetings will be structured to include the public and public comment.

CB asked the group's future intentions once the Ordinance has been sent to the BOC. Will the County entertain Human Relations complaints and employee issues? What should a permanent, standing committee do? LO recalled a discussion when the HRAC was formed that it wanted to follow what the Allentown HRC was doing & get a standing idea of how they handle their complaints. Chair GL wants a contact at the State HRC; TB believes LB will have that info.

TB made a motion to adjourn the discussion; seconded by CB and approved by the majority. Discussion adjourned.

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