

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Full commission Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2009/3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Human Services Building, Room 139

Agenda

Members Attending: Philip Smith, Janice Sweeney, Ray Rodriguez, Sondra Cannon, David D'Amico, Mark Kinmon, Fatima Jaffari, Toby S. Mack, Linda Zucaro, Diane Schwartz, Rosibel Gomez, John Schwebel, Carolyn Schwebel, Earl Teasley, Ted Lee, Angel Quiles, Sherri West, James Pierson, Leroy Hill, Myrna Bethke.

- I. Call to Order and Salute to the Flag took place at 3:30PM.**
- II. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes, February 2, 2009, moved by Dave D'Amico, seconded by Carolyn Schwebel, and approved.**
- III. Chairperson's Report – Earl provided information concerning changes at the County Human Relations Commission. Our past liaisons to the County, Lynn Miller and Barry Johnson, are no longer to serve in this function. A new Director, Mr. Charles Brown III, has been appointed and has promised to work with us to appoint a new liaison. In the meantime, we will continue to work with Louise Pierce, assistant to Barry Johnson. Freeholder Liaison, Amy Mallett, is also included in all communication and has a standing invitation to attend all meetings.**
- IV. Treasurer's Report – Phil Smith reported that he will meet with Mr. Brown to discuss any changes in procedures for the future. As of 2008, every expenditure was routed through the Purchasing Department. Planning for the Monmouth County Fair usually takes place beginning with the April meeting, but, due to the personnel changes mentioned above, will commence at our next Full Commission Meeting. It is possible that longer shifts will be necessary for coverage over the four days of the Fair. Earl mentioned that we have an annual budget of \$3000, and, to this date, we have encumbered all but \$200 of that money. However, we will get a refund of \$1800 from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the host of the recent Police Core Team workshops, because we met their requirements for reimbursement.**
- V. Core Team Reports**
 - A. Police/Community Relations**

Earl noted that a meeting took place last week, with the announcement that Mark Kinmon would assume the role of Chair of the Police/Community Relations Core Team, which will hold a short meeting after the Full Commission Meeting to discuss future dates and location. Two activities took place on March 18 & March 26, 2009, "Building Trust in the Post-9/11 Environment," at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, with 37 officers attending, with diversity from Monmouth County and throughout the state. Earl reported effective networking with other participants with the hopes that future workshops will continue to provide training and more effective communication among law

enforcement officials throughout the state. Bus expenses, a total of \$1800, will be reimbursed by the Wiesenthal Center. Dave D'Amico mentioned our plan to do other types of training, but due to some logistical problems and the retirement of Jack Hill, we were unable to take part in these events. Janice Sweeney suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Chief Hill for his hard work.

B. Youth Awareness

Linda Zucaro reported that Pat Collum will no longer be able to Chair Core Team due to changes in his employment. Therefore, Fatima Jaffari and Linda Zucaro will serve temporarily and hold a meeting on April 27, 2009.

C. Economic Issues - Linda Zucaro reported that attendance at the Core Team meetings has been poor, so no meetings have been held, but the A-Team is planning a Monmouth County Affordable Housing Bus Trip on May 7, 2009, for invited municipal officials. Linda asked the Executive Committee for \$300 to donate to cover the costs of the bus used for the trip.

VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams

- A. Membership - Leroy Hill reported that he has received no responses to date for new applicants, but Leroy plans to follow through with some prospective members, and plans to report to the Executive Board at the May meeting. With respect to any Resigning/Retiring/Removed Members, Earl mentioned the presentation of certificates at the annual meeting in June. John Schwebel motioned to honor Barry Johnson and Lynn Miller along with other retiring members in June, and Janice Sweeney suggested adding Barbara McMorro to the list of honorees. Earl will present Chief Hill's certificate at his retirement dinner.
- B. Communications - Carolyn Schwebel- a request for speakers from the Wolf Hill School was made, and several members have responded. Carolyn raised the issue of communications within the Commission, and she reminded people that the use of the Directory should only be used for official communication on matters concerning the Commission, and not shared with anyone outside the Commission. Phil reminded the group that we might want to publicize the fact of the MCHRC's Speakers Bureau, perhaps via a press release. A discussion of whether to list the names of the membership on the MCHRC's website took place, tabled until the next meeting. Contact with Freeholder Mallett's office will be made to determine the appropriate procedure for publishing the membership.
- C. Resource Development - Kay Guadagno was absent, but she continues to work on securing a banner, which is quite expensive, so no action will be taken until we can find a less costly one.
- D. Incident Response and Reporting Team - Earl Teasley/Dave D'Amico - Earl mentioned a call regarding a Brookdale employee, which Earl will turn over to the Vice Chair.
- E. Immigration Working Group - no meetings have been held, but a brief update on 287g and related immigration issues were

mentioned. Dave D'Amico suggested that we reach out to the Sheriff's Office to appoint a liaison to the Commission. Earl asked Toby Mack to work with the Sheriff's Office on this matter.

VII. Old Business

- A. Development Workshop Update – Sondra Cannon led the discussion, with the following ideas attached to the minutes. Sondra asked that any additional comments be sent to her at Brookdale (scannon@brookdalecc.edu), with the aim of determining the key priorities and commitment of the Commission with available human and capital resources. Earl expressed appreciation to Sondra for her hard work.
- B. Letter to Brookdale C.C. Board of Trustees/Response from the Board Chair- Earl reported that there was a lengthy discussion at the Executive Meeting on the sending of his December letter to the Board of Trustees at Brookdale, and the response letter from the Chair of the Brookdale Board of Trustees to each member of the MCHRC. The discussion was tabled until further information on the particulars of authorizing the letter and use of the Directory is understood.
- C. Nominating Committee for Officers 2009 – 2011

Linda reported the following slate:

Linda Zucaro – Chair
Fatima Jaffari – Vice Chair
Sherri West – Secretary
Philip Smith – Treasurer

Dave D'Amico questioned the way the candidates were selected. Janice Sweeney asked anyone else was interested in any of the other offices, and nominations from the floor were made. Earl Teasley was nominated for the Chair, which he accepted. Earl thanked the Nominating Committee for their work. Voting will be by secret ballot and will take place at the June 1, 2009, meeting of the Full Commission, for a two-year term.

D. Muni HRC's – Asbury Park – Chief Kinmon has discussed the creation of an Asbury Muni HRC with town officials and reported great interest. He will meet on April 7, 2009, with the city attorney to draft an ordinance for a May 6th presentation to the City Council. He foresees no obstacles to its passage.

VIII. New Business

- A. Staffing for upcoming events, especially June 7th New Jersey Pride, was discussed and volunteers encouraged to sign up.
- B. The Monmouth County Executive Superintendent has begun discussions towards regionalization of school districts within the County, and Janice Sweeney thought someone from the Commission

should be represented in this effort, recommending that Earl contact the Superintendent on the matter.

- C. Angel Quiles mentioned his continuing efforts to bring veterans issues to the MCHRC's attention.

IX. Calendar

- a. Next Full Commission Meeting – June 1, 2009, 3:30 p.m.
- b. Next Executive Committee Meeting – May 4, 2009, 3:30 p.m.

- X. Adjournment at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sherri West, Secretary