

**MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Executive Board Meeting**

Monday, September 14, 2009/3:30p.m. – **5:00 p.m.**

AG Building Conference Room

4000 Kozloski Road, Freehold, NJ 07728

**Agenda**

Attendees: Earl Teasley, David Cohen, Phil Smith, Leroy Hill, Charles D. Brown III, Sherri West, Dave D'Amico, Sondra Cannon, Luis Valentin, Fatima Jaffari.

- I. Call to Order and salute to the flag at 3:30PM.
- II. Approval of the July 6, 2009, meeting of the Executive Board.
- III. Chair's Report-Earl mentioned that a few requests to the Hotline of a political nature have come before the Commission. Earl reminded us that as a Commission the issues need to be cleared through the Executive Board before any action takes place.
- IV. Treasurer's Report-Phil reported that Fair expenses estimated at \$700, leaving us with a balance of around \$800. Phil has to prepare a budget for the next year, but next year's budget will be 5% less. Phil will prepare an estimated budget after asking all core teams to provide an estimate of expenses relating to various activities for 2010, and he will have the information for the next meeting. Phil plans to work with Louise to develop a specific budget for 2010, including plans for participation in next year's county fair. Plans to participate in a community Latino Festival on Oct. 3, from 11:00AM to dusk were discussed with an appeal to Latino-speaking members to participate. Earl asked Phil to work with Cecilia Reynolds. Earl also mentioned the prospect of a retreat which may accrue some expenses.

Charles Brown spoke about the reduction in our current budget of \$2850 by 5%, mandated of all departments. Mr. Brown also mentioned that all of the programs sponsored by the County were cut by approximately 15%.

One important thing is to plan with enough time to secure appropriate expenses. If a department finds itself with excess funds, the County is not encouraging departments to spend the money, so the budget of 2010 needs to be specific with projected costs tied to specific activities. Reimbursements from the Simon Wiesenthal Center (in the amount of \$1800) are additions to the MCHRC's annual budget. Mr. Brown wondered if the MCHRC could defer upfront payments, but this is not possible, so future budgets should list anticipated expenditures associated with this activity. If the reimbursement is delayed, unless the money is in the account to cover the expense, County Finance will not advance the expenses. Earl mentioned that the MCHRC's budget has been cut by 40%

over the past three years, and this is a concern with respect to the County's commitment to human relations. Until we are using all of the money we're allocated, it's hard to complain about these matters. One of the concessions made to the MCHRC when budget cuts were first made, was the provision of in-house services, and these will be continued.

V. Core Team Reports

- A. Police and Community Relations- Dave D'Amico reported that the last meeting was adjourned because Chief Kinmon was not going to be present. At this time the Chief is too busy to hold the position, so he has designated one of his lieutenants, Lt. George Corbin. Dave will initiate the membership process shortly and, from there, to finalize any plans for him to assume the chair of the committee. Earl tasked Dave to convene a meeting of the core team to continue work. Dave also mentioned that the New York Tolerance Commission is interested in developing another training on cultural diversity and racial profiling (November 2009). The prospect is to get one bus for the trip into the city, for a total cost of \$975. The Jersey Shore PFLAG in cooperation with My Q Space in Asbury Park will be sponsoring "Bias, Prejudice, and Stereotypes Directed at the GLBT Community," with Dave D'Amico speaking on Oct. 11, 2009, at 1:00PM, at the Western Branch of the Monmouth County Library, 1001 Rt. 35, Shrewsbury, New Jersey.
- B. Youth Awareness- Leroy Hill mentioned the prospect of a workshop now schedule for next spring. Linda Zucaro has been nominated as chair, replacing Pat Collum. Plans for a spring workshop were discussed briefly. Earl has written to the Superintendent for a replacement to this committee, and awaiting a reply. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, at 4PM at the Shrewsbury Presbyterian Church.
- C. Economic Issues- Sondra Cannon is doing outreach to verify the membership of the committee and possible issues to discuss, with a meeting scheduled toward the end of the month, possible locations of Brookdale's Long Branch or Eastern HEC.

VI. Standing Committees & Support Teams

- A. Membership- Leroy has forwarded an application to Mr. Mossad, Islamic Center of Monmouth County in Middletown. Earl also suggested some additional people for membership, including Tyler Blackmore, of Asbury Park High School, and Samantha Caiola, associated with the Asbury Park Boys and Girls Club.
- B. Communications- Kay Guadagno presented in Carolyn's absence, but circulated a draft of a flier that the MCHRC can use for all events. In addition, Kay asked if we wanted to order any more items for future events. Earl suggested that we should order these items in the amount of \$300. Leroy reported on a recent speaking engagement on the Human's Relation's Commission's perspective on bias, hate, and goal development. Fatima Jaffari reiterated the positive aspects of speaking to the community.

- C. Incident Response and Reporting-No new calls came into the center during the month of August.
- D. Immigration Working Group-Sherri reported on developments, including the results of the meeting held on Sept. 1, 2009, where the group discussed the following: outreach to community groups in light of the implementation of 287g; developing a current list of immigrant groups; to invite the Sheriff and Prosecutor to address the full Commission for information on 287g, and to obtain census information on the current immigrant population in Monmouth County. Prosecutor Valentin, representing his department, mentioned the efforts to secure the trust of the community and police departments at the municipal level, and from community groups. Prosecutor Valentin welcomes the opportunity to address the Commission to allay fears and concerns relative to 287g. But the implementation is beyond his control in that it is a federal program, with the Secretary of Homeland Security designating certain law enforcement groups with that status. Most recently, Attorney General Milgram held a press conference echoing the concerns of local law enforcement for the potential violation of state laws. To the extent that the Commission hears of violations of the policy, Prosecutor Valentin asked they be brought to his attention. A decision was made to extend invitations to both the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office to speak to the full Commission. Dave D'Amico agreed to participate in working with the group in the future. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2009, at 5PM in MAN 118 at Brookdale's Lincroft campus.

## VII. Old Business

- A. Ad Hoc Committee to Review By-Laws-has been postponed to a later date in the absence of some of the members.
- B. Founders' Celebration-postponed to the spring, the 20th anniversary of the MCHRC in April of 2010. Prosecutor Valentin recommended the creation of a formal planning committee for the event, with the offer to help in the planning of the event. Dave D'Amico mentioned that Bob Honecker, one of the founders, might be solicited for sponsorship, and Kay also discussed reaching out to organizations active as supporters. Given budget constraints the event will have to be self-supporting. Earl asked Sherri to send an email to the membership asking them to volunteer for the committee, with replies to Earl by September 25, 2009.

## VIII. New Business-Latino Fair (see comments above)

## IX. Calendar

- a. Next Full Commission Meeting – October 5, but extended times of 4- 7. Discussion about the location and times to have a full discussion of the by-laws along with inviting the Sheriff and Prosecutor to discuss current immigration policy.
- b. Next Executive Committee Meeting – November 2, 2009, 3:30 p.m.

- c. Pan- African Chamber of Commerce is having a Forum on September 26, 2009, from 9:00- 12:00, for individuals interested in starting a new business, \$15 entry breakfast, at the Riverstreet Commons.
- d. Fatima announced the Interfaith iftar at the Islamic Center in Freehold, from 7:00- 8:30PM.

VIII. Adjournment at 5:00PM

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary