

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday October 1, 2012 7:00-8:30PM

Sea Bright Public Library

1097 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ 07760

Members in Attendance: Charles Brown III, Sondra Cannon, J. Manuel Castillo, Pat Collum, Talisha Crank, Dave D'Amico, Jeff Delaney, Kay Guadagno, Darryl Hughes, Rosa Lee, Ted Lee, Ricky Pierce, Chanderjit Sawhney, Inderjit Sahwney, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Philip Smith, John Sorrentino, Randy Thompson, Sherri West, Robert Williams. Visitors: Det. Steven Ramseur, Ray Martinez, NYPD.

- I. The call to order at 7:00PM was followed by the salute to the flag.
- II. Approval of Minutes - The minutes from the August 2012 meeting were approved with minor corrections.
- III. Treasurer's Report – There were no expenses for the past month, and the current balance remains at \$2100. See a copy of the budget report following the minutes.
- IV. Core Team Reports
 - A. Police/Community Relations – John Sorrentino discussed the December seminar, "Closing the Gap: A Law Enforcement Response to Disabilities." Forty people have registered to date, but the room at the Fire Academy can seat 160, so he asked members to invite others in the law enforcement and related communities. Vendors are signing up, and Linda and John are arranging food to be served at the event. He can email additional fliers to anyone requesting them, and copies were available at the meeting.
- V. Standing Committees and Support Teams
 - A. Membership – In Linda Zucaro's absence, Carolyn Schwebel discussed two prospective members, Mary Lee Gilmore, from the Monmouth County Fair Housing Association, and James L. Terrell, former Assistant Superintendent of Neptune Township schools. Their applications were circulated to the members, after which they were both unanimously approved. Julian R. Williams, formerly of

- B. Communications – Carolyn mentioned a recent speaking request from the Fair Housing Board, recently given by Linda Zucaro, on the history of the MCHRC. She also reiterated the criteria for the third Earl Teasley humanitarian award, with the request to submit nominations to Carolyn by email.
- C. Incident response and Reporting – Carolyn stated that one incident report was received, dealing with discrimination, and Charles Brown from the County will follow up. Dave D’Amico agreed to co-chair the committee, with Charles Brown III agreeing to be the other chair.
- D. Community Resource Development- A new chair is needed and Jeff will shortly draft someone.

VI. Featured Speakers: Detective David D’Amico, Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office and Steve Ramseur, the President of the Monmouth County Bias Officers Association, addressed the group and answered questions on the status of bias crime in the county. Dave reviewed the some 21 incidents over the past three months, a typical number which the Prosecutor’s Office receives, including the recent anti-Semitic vandalism in Manalapan. Both discussed the difficulty in finding resolution to some of the incidents, addressing the sensitive issues of race, religion, and gender which constitute most of the reports received in their office. While Monmouth County leads the state in the number of reported incidents, Dave attributed that to the excellent training that police officers receive in the course of their careers, making them more vigilant and responsive when issues of bias and discrimination are in question.

VII. Unfinished Business -

- A. Sherri West reported on the progress of the Chhange Center’s Big Read grant, mentioning that the book selected for the community-wide project, *A Lesson Before Dying*, deals with issues of discrimination, race, and criminal justice. She asked members to speak to her about their interest in participating in the project, and both

Darryl Hughes, Meridian Health, and Kay Guadagno, Monmouth Medical Center, followed up in discussions after the meeting.

VIII. New Business

- A. The Hispanic Festival will take place on Saturday in Freehold from 12-6PM, and volunteers were urged to contact Dave D'Amico who will attend and have MCHRC materials to distribute.
- B. Sherri West asked for members' comments on holding more Full Commission meetings in the evenings. There was some sentiment for holding more evening meetings, a matter which will be discussed in more detail at the November Executive meeting.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Submitted by Sherri West, Secretary
October 1, 2012