

Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

Special Meeting

July 26, 2017

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in special session July 26, 2017 in the Busch Building L45 Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Todd Thomas.

Present	Pamela Hernandez, Brittany O'Brien, Angela Myers*, Heather Hardinger*, and Todd Thomas, Chairman. *Angela Myers arrived at approximately 5:35 PM. Heather Hardinger arrived at approximately 5:55 PM
Absent	Christina Ryder, Carlye Wannemacher, Larry Dinges
Staff	Brendan Griesemer, Planning and Development, Nicholas Woodman, Law; Anita Cotter, City Clerk; Kris Wright, Clerk's Office; Melissa Haas, Public Information Office
Guests:	Citizens Tim Havens, Arthur Hodge, Alissa Zhu, Springfield News Leader

The following was discussed under Unfinished Business

Draft Letter to City Council	Todd Thomas, Commission Chair, noted the purpose of this special meeting is to prepare a letter to be presented to City Council at their next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting. Mr. Thomas stated Carlye Wannemacher has provided each Commissioner a draft of her content ideas for the letter.
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Using Carlye Wannemacher's draft letter as a starting point, the commissioners collaborated and made several additions and revisions. The commission members agreed the following points should be in the letter.

- Speak to the perception of a lack of diversity.
- Address concerns and questions raised by citizens at the July 19, 2017 regular session of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations.
- Publicly address the Alberto Estrada discrimination case.
- Focus on the issues rather than asking questions.
- Request clarification on how citizens can access volunteer and leadership opportunities
- State a call to action.
- Request a response to the MCHCR's letter in a public manner such as a press conference or media release.

Angela Myers read a final draft of the MCHCR letter, which is attached as Exhibit A.

Brittany O'Brien moved to adopt the letter as read by Angela Myers and have Todd Thomas, MCHCR Chair, attend the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting on August 7, 2017 and read the letter in its entirety. Angela Myers seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Adjourn

With no further business to come before Commission, Pamela Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Heather Hardinger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:27 PM.

Prepared by Kris Wright