

# Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

October 18, 2017

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session October 18, 2017 in the Busch Building First Floor Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Todd Thomas.

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| <b>Present</b>             | Larry Dinges, Heather Hardinger, Brittany O'Brien, Christina Ryder, Carlye Wannemacher, and Todd Thomas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Absent</b>              | Angela Myers, Pamela Hernandez, and Bob Roberts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Staff</b>               | Bob Atchley, Planning and Development; Nicholas Woodman, Law; Kris Wright, Clerk's Office.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Guests</b>              | Tim Havens, Reverend L.E. Brown, Cynthia McNeil, Isabelle Walker, Jessie Green, and Alissa Zhu, Springfield News-Leader.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Approval of Minutes</b> | Carlye Wannemacher moved to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2017 meeting. Todd Thomas provided clarification to his comments made at that meeting. He stated the Mayors Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations cannot investigate complaints against the City of Springfield. Christina Ryder seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. |

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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| <b>Public Comment</b> | Mr. Tim Havens addressed the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations. He expressed concern for several topics, which are included as Exhibit A. |
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Todd Thomas declared the public comment period closed.

## **The following was discussed under Unfinished Business**

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| <b>Promotional Items</b>                        | Carlye Wannemacher expressed her opinion the Strategic Plan should provide a full schedule of events for 2018, including an itemized list of necessary promotional supplies. The commissioners came to a consensus that this item will be continued to the next MCHCR Meeting on November 15, 2017.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>LGBTQ Survey</b>                             | Christina Ryder distributed copies of a proposed survey for distribution throughout Springfield. Ms. Ryder noted ten locations have been identified for distribution of the surveys. Brittany O'Brien asked for clarification on the process for ensuring duplicate surveys are not submitted. Christina Ryder responded the surveys will be numbered with a unique identifier. Todd Thomas suggested a unique identifier being the surveyor's initials and year of birth. Ms. Ryder expressed her opinion distributing the survey during November and December can provide the MCHCR with data analysis by January or February 2018. Brittany O'Brien requested the LGBTQ survey be included on the agenda for the January 2018 meeting. |
| <b>NAACP Freedom Banquet – October 21, 2017</b> | Todd Thomas noted the MCHCR purchased a table and ¼ page advertisement for the upcoming NAACP Freedom Banquet at a cost of \$500. He distributed tickets to the event. Mr. Thomas noted there are two extra tickets. Heather Hardinger made a motion to donate two tickets to Sheryl Clay at the NAACP to give those tickets to a high school or college NAACP group, who may not otherwise be able to attend the banquet. Carlye Wannemacher seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Outreach Brochure** The final draft of the Outreach Brochure was continued to the November 2017 meeting for additional discussion.

**Strategic Plan** Todd Thomas presented a first draft of the Strategic Plan. Heather Hardinger expressed her opinion this should be a continuous working document as the MCHCR moves forward. Several elements of the Strategic Plan were discussed including educating the City council on current and future activities, and providing a quarterly report with concerns and suggestions. Additional discussion included meeting with the Mayor once per year. Carlye Wannemacher will add the MCHCR logo and provide a revised Strategic Plan at the next meeting for further review.

**The following was discussed under New Business**

**Scope of Authority and Expansion of Powers** Heather Hardinger expressed her opinion the MCHCR should have a better understanding of their advisory role and duties, to be more effective and stated she would like to receive additional training to understand her role on the commission better. Nicholas Woodman, City Attorney, responded the MCHCR is an advisory committee and only authorized to enforce City ordinances.

**Adjourn** With no further business to come before the Commission, Heather Hardinger moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Christina Ryder and was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM

Prepared by  
Kris Wright