

**Mayor's Commission on Human Rights
and Community Relations**

February 19, 2020

The Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations met in regular session November 20, 2019 in the Busch Building 2 West Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Carlye Wannenmacher.

Present	Heather Hardinger, Chair; Pamela Hernandez, Communications Officer, Carlye Wannenmacher, Vice Chair; Mike Jungers, Daniel Ogunyemi and Cynthia Rushefsky
Absent	Mary Bozarth and Bob Roberts
Staff	Bob Atchley, Bob Jones and Judy White, Planning and Development Department
Approval of Minutes	Mike Jungers moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 MCHRCR Meeting. Pamela Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
Welcome Cynthia Rushefsky	Heather Hardinger, Chair welcomed new Commission, Cynthia Rushefsky
New Business	Review of the City of Springfield's Draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) Bob Jones review the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. This is part of HUD plans that we received since the City is grantee recipients. The Consolidated Plan is completed every five-years and in process and this is part of that plan. The purpose for HUD's goal is to reduce or eliminate barriers to fair housing choice. This is mandated by statute that HUD run programs in a manner to support fair housing. Questions of enforcement of fair housing is included and to identify impediments in the public section as well as in the private section as much as possible. Public items include taxes, zoning, public housing, building codes and in the private area would include discrimination in lending practices. One of the primary impediments identified by the public meeting was lack of knowledge on the part of tenants and property owners in what fair housing is. Another impediment identified is poverty, if you do not have enough money it limits where someone can live. Also, aging is becoming a need regarding accessibility in adapting housing. Ms. Rushefsky asked about the City's recommendations and would like to have this area expanded explaining the areas that need to be looked at. Needs affirmative commitment or recommendations to certain program, i.e., what needs to be done going forward and these are the things that we have started doing that meet the impediments. Some of the items are the promotion of universal design in housing that can be funded by the HUD programs; HOME (Housing, Options Must Expand) that is working to have realtors identify through the multi-listing services which houses have disability accessibility. Bob will give more information on programs regarding education opportunities and on-going programs. Also, need to address where the gaps are that HUD funds. An action item to development a resource guide of a list of agencies and programs that provide information of the needs in fair housing. Heather Hardinger would like the Commission to develop a resource guide providing the programs available and where they exist that can be updated twice a year and placed as an on-line resource along with a printed booklet that can be placed in City properties and libraries. Will bring this project back to the Commission after the Inclusion Survey has been completed.

Review of Springfield/Greene County Park Board's Draft Anti-Bullying Policy

Pamela Hernandez reported that sub-committee has been working to improve the municipal equality index from HRC for the City of Springfield. There is a scorecard that ranks City services and programs for LGBT and the Youth Bullying Prevention Policy is one that we have identified and the Park Board will vote on in March and the Park Board can reach a large portion of the City's youth so they have developed a policy that states that they have created an inclusive community, all persons are valued, respect the right of each persons thoughts and opinions freely, mutual respect and reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination and expect those employed, volunteering, and participating in co-sponsoring to also abide by the above. Pamela asked if the Commission had any suggestions or changes and Heather asked what is a personal digital assistant? Pamela responded that it is a PDA, palm pilot. Suggest changing the language to digital devices. Daniel Ogunyemi asked how will this be monitored or enforced or more inviting? Pamela will check with Parks on their procedures to promote as a bully free zone. Other suggestions were poster campaign, sidewalk chalk, and street art.

Another element of the HRC scorecard is that the Police Department has announced Officer Jennifer Charleston will be the LGBT liaison officer.

Unfinished Business

Update on the Inclusion Survey

Since the launch of the survey over 1,000 responses has been received. Overall comments have been positive. Hope to leverage the data to further investments in this type of research and study. Need to look at what we are learning from this survey and where we go now, how can businesses help and what can citizens do. Zone 1 is behind and may do targeted Facebook ads through PIO. Need to distribute surveys through libraries, homeowner associations, senior centers, and colleges. Another avenue is to provide Greg Burris surveys to distribute to the Give 5 Program. Pamela will communicate with Cora Scott on the need for printed materials and then notify the Commissioners where they can receive the materials in order to keep track of points of distributions.

Discussion of Attendance at Facing Racism Institute

Bob Atchley confirmed that two members of the Commission can attend and one staff member. The two members attending are: Daniel Ogunyemi and Cindy Rushefsky.

Leadership and Diversity – Stedman Graham

Two members of the Commission attending are: Daniel Ogunyemi and Pamela Hernandez.

Collaborative Diversity Conference – Missouri State University

Heather Hardinger can attend and any other Commissioner wanting to attend, please let Heather know.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by Judy
White

Heather Hardinger, Chair