

LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

ADVOCACY MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2017

The Advocacy Board meeting of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission was held Monday, February 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 9:05a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 7 – Commissioners David Allgood, Aukram Burton (*phone*), Victor Eddie, Reginald Glass, Kennedy Lockett, Angelica Matos, and Heather Williams.

ABSENT: 1 – Commissioner Dawn Wilson (*excused*).

ENFORCEMENT BOARD: None.

MINUTES

Commissioner Allgood moved to accept the January minutes as presented, Commissioners Williams seconded. Motion passed with no discussion or objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (*by Martha Lawfer*)

- Naturalization Ceremony – The Ceremonies that we have been invited to for this year are: March 16th, June 8th, and October 26th. They are held at the Gene Snyder U.S. Courthouse in Courtroom 2 at 11:00a.m.
- Staffing – The Contract Compliance Analyst position will be posted next week.
- JCPS Board of Education Quarterly Meeting – The Education Committee will meet with the Board of Education at 3:00p.m. Monday, February 27th in the Superintendent's Conference Room, VanHoose Education Center, 3332 Newburg Road.
- Budget – The Commission's budget was submitted Monday, January 20th. Our Budget reduction was originally 5%, but it will now be closer to 2%. I do not expect the 2% to affect our operations.
- Board Vacancies – Currently, we have one open slot for the Advocacy and two for the Enforcement Board. Potential candidates for both Boards have been submitted to the Mayor's office for appointment.
- Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition ("IMC") – The Commission was going to partner with IMC for community conversations this year. Commissioner Matos communicated she does not have any update regarding the Commission's partnership with IMC. Commissioner Lockett suggested contacting Pastor Vincent James, Sr. who is the President of IMC.
- Redlining Presentations – The presentations are being rolled out. The initial dates are February, March, and April. We will be partnering with the Metropolitan Housing Coalition on March 28, 2017, from 5:30 – 7:00p.m. at the New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 E. Liberty Street. These initial presentations are to familiarize the community with the redlining issues. We will also be encouraging people to become ambassadors so a person can volunteer to do the presentations for their own groups.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT *(continuation)*

- Fair Housing Assessment Lens – The Lens we completed will be an example of how Louisville is moving forward to erase the effects of redlining. We will indicate how it was developed under Carolyn's leadership.
- Honors Received for Carolyn Miller-Cooper
 - **Louisville Bar Association** – On Thursday, February 16th, the Louisville Bar Association Trailblazer Award will be awarded to Carolyn at 3:30p.m. at the Louisville Bar Association, 600 W. Main Street.
 - **Metro Council** – On Thursday, February 23rd, District 10 Councilman Patrick Mulvihill will recognize Carolyn during Black History month at 12:00p.m. at City Hall, 1st Floor Conference area, 600 W. Jefferson Street. Each council member is allowed three (3) people in the limited seating area and standing room for others.
- HUD Partnership Grant – From the Partnership grant, we had a number of our housing brochure translated and printed into different languages. We have a total of 16 different languages. We will be sending them to the Americana, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and Catholic Charities.
Commissioner Matos asked, "Are the brochures online?" Marty replied, "No, but will work on getting them online."

COMMITTEE VACANCIES *(handout)*

Chair Glass referred to the Committee List handout indicating there is a chair vacancy on the Housing/Hate Crime committee and asked if anyone would be interested in chairing. Commissioner Lockett communicated he is interested in serving on the committee; however, he will abstain from chairing until he has further knowledge of the committee responsibilities.

The Education and Cross Cultural Committees, Chair Glass notes that the Co-chair slot for both committees are vacant. Commissioner Matos communicated, "Dr. Gail Bingham will serve as Co-chair for the Cross Cultural Committee."

Commissioner Allgood asked, "Is there a staff assigned to the Disability Rights Committee?" Marty responded, "No, but Kevin Gettis has been generally assigned to the Disability issues and will ask him to be involved with this committee."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISABILITY COMMITTEE – Commissioner Allgood reported he has no report. He will get with Kevin Gettis and get something together for the general assembly to get a parking placard bill passed.

CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE – Commissioner Matos communicated she sent out an Email last night that included notes from the Americana *Empowering Ethnic Community Leaders* meeting she attended a couple of weeks ago in efforts to get the Cross Culture Committee going. The notes are what the international communities are trying to accomplish. The next meeting is scheduled for March.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Commissioners Matos and Eddie communicated that they would be able to attend the February 27th Education Committee meeting with the Jefferson County Public Schools Board of Education.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (*continuation*)

Chair Glass communicated that he plans to add an item to Chair Wilson's Agenda for JCPS Board of Education. "*How does JCPS get engage in preparing parents to be parents in order to prepare their children for school?*"

Marty Lawfer communicated that S.E.I.G.E. (*Support Epilepsy in Guiding Epileptics*) sent a letter to the Commission. The group would like more cooperation from the Jefferson County Public Schools with their organization, and an awareness of children who have epilepsy. Marty communicated that she will forward the letter to Commissioner Allgood to follow-up.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE

Chair Glass communicated that the Braden Institute at University of Louisville reached out to him about serving on their Review Board that Carolyn was a member. He has accepted and will be meeting for the first time on February 21st.

CALENDAR (*handout*)

Chair Glass mentioned that the calendar has all Board meeting dates and the major events that the Commission participates in where we ask Commissioners to volunteer their time. The annual Americana World Festival held each year at Iroquois Amphitheater in Iroquois Park is Saturday, June 3rd. We ask for volunteer to man the Commission's table from 12:00 – 6:00p.m. The annual WorldFest is the second outreach we ask Commissioners to participate, it is held each Labor Day weekend. This year will be Saturday, September 2nd and Sunday, September 3rd from 10:30a.m. – 8:00p.m.

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Commissioner Burton communicated Diniyah sent out an Email to the Board. On Saturday, we had our first lecture by John Chenault, and this Saturday we will have Kiki Petrosino, Fellow at the Center for Humanities & Society at University of Louisville. She will speak on "*Writing the Ancestors: Literacy, Family, & the Creative Process*". The following week, John Chenault with University of Louisville Pan African Studies will return doing a Lecture: "*Motherhood, Slavery and the Invention of Race.*" The last Saturday of the month, I will do a Lecture on "*Black Images in the Media: Past, Present, and Future.*" Lectures are free and open to the public during the month of February from 3:00 – 5:00p.m. at 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

Then on Sundays during February, we will have the Griot Film Series that will focus on the African Diaspora about Black Experiences. Next Sunday, we will feature Brandon Hill from Cincinnati who will screen his film "*Welcome Home: A Journey into Afro-Costa Rica.*" The following Sunday will focus on Cuba "*Roots of My Heart*". The Sunday after will focus on Columbia. We will have Manuel Disariò from Columbia presenting "*Sons of Benkos*", a documentary exploring African culture in Colombia through music. The films are from 3:00 – 5:00p.m. There is a suggested \$5.00 donation; however, no one will be turned away.

We also have an exhibit about Muhammad Ali; it is collaboration between the Center and the Courier Journal. The Courier Journal went into the archives from the 60's through to Ali's passing. At this time, we have a soft opening of the exhibit that consists of 25 images of Ali, looking at his younger career all the way through to his death. An additional 50 images will be added to the exhibit. The exhibit will be up for a year, and will participate in the Second Annual "*I Am Ali*" Festival which will take place June 3 – July 15, 2017. The festival will also coincide with the NCAA Tournament.

KENTUCKYONE HEALTH “POWER OF ONE” AWARDS RECEPTION

Chair Glass noted that on February 27th, at 5:30 p.m. KentuckyOne Health Division of Diversity and Inclusion and the Kentucky Branch of the Black Nurses Association will have its First Annual “*Power of One*” Awards Reception honoring my 107 year old mother, Willie Mena Glass. She was KentuckyOne Health’s first African American Registered Nurse.

COMMUNITY UPDATE (by Stella Dorsey)

- *Stand-up Sunday* – Chanelle Helm inquired about the Board sending out a statement regarding an incident. They are planning to be in Frankfort on Wednesday. They are asking the Black Lives Matters and other organizations to support them to put a blockage on **HB14 | 2017 An Act Relating to Hate Crimes**.
- *Resilience Flyer* – Yvette Gentry hosted a session at Central High School on Thursday. I encourage the Board to attend a session. The aim of these sessions are to get people to take a different look at the behaviors of our children, and make some kind of a compassionate stance regarding what the children have encountered. What the children have endured has a great impact on their behaviors in the classroom. There are several sessions; the next session is Wednesday, February 13th. An Email of the flyer will be sent out to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Fund for Rachel Cooper – To help Carolyn’s daughter, Rachel, while at Center College, a *Shield of Faith* fund have been set up at the Police Officers Credit Union. The fund is to provide a stipend for Rachel for incidentals while at college. The checks will be cut monthly and given to Rachel. For anyone wanting to contribute, check(s) can be made out to Yvette Gentry and given to Dinah.

NEW BUSINESS

New Appointment Resignation – Chair Glass noted that he spoke with Commissioner Joseph Mallard who communicated that he asked the Mayor’s office to rescind his appointment due to him receiving a federal grant that required him to travel out of the country on a regular basis with his Art Work. He regrets not being able to serve at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diniah Calhoun
Executive Assistant