



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

January 6, 2020
4:30 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805

Meeting called by: STATUTORY MONTHLY MEETING
Type of meeting: FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
Note taker: LESLIE HERNANDEZ, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IV

Metro Commissioners: Lana Keesling, Chair; Kody Tinnel, Vice Chair; Jesus Trevino; Dorian Maples, Larry Wardlaw, Michelle Chambers, and Aisha Arrington.

Agenda

Call to Order
Roll Call of Commissioners
Reading of Minutes
Office Report
Old Business
New Business
Concerns/Comments from the Public
Adjournment

Call to Order and Roll Call at 4:31 p.m.

Commissioners Keesling, Tinnel, Trevino, Wardlaw, Arrington and Maples present.

Other Persons Present: Nikki Quintana, Executive Director
Leslie Hernandez, Administrative Assistant IV
Jenny Gosheff, Staff Attorney

December 2nd meeting minutes were read and approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/19 – 9/30/20):

- **Intakes (by 9/30/20): 110 (contract number) 26(current status)**
- **Case Closures: 108 plus PC (contract 260)**
 - o 103 No Probable Cause
 - o 3 Settlements
 - o 2 Withdrawals
 - o 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - o 0 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

HOUSING CASE PROCESSING (7/1/19 - 6/30/20):

26 Cases closed for contract

- o 4 HUD Settlements
- o 1 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- o 16 No reasonable
- o 5 Reasonable cause
- o 2 Conciliated Reasonable cause (\$)

24 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

December 4, 2019: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted Fair Housing Training for Upstar Realtors Association.

December 10, 2019: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted Fair Housing Training per a settlement agreement.

December 10, 2019: Director Quintana met with EEOC Outreach Coordinator, Brian Shoemaker, and Local and State Coordinator, Jeremy Sells, to discuss possible training partnerships in the future. Sells and Shoemaker were also introduced to the full staff.

December 10, 2019: Director Quintana attended the Public Safety Roundtable for the City of Fort Wayne.

December 11, 2019: Director Quintana attended the NIHRA Diversity and Inclusivity meeting.

December 11, 2019: Director Quintana attended the quarterly YMCA DIG (Diversity, Inclusivity, and Global) meeting.

December 11, 2019: Investigator Holifield attended the disability, sensitivity, and competency in health settings training.

December 12, 2019: Director Quintana attended Leadership Fort Wayne.

December 18, 2019: Director Quintana conducted Anti-Harassment Training webinar through Steele Business Consulting.

December 20, 2019: The staff conducted their internal holiday party.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

- Commissioner Keesling raised a question about how the leadership team is doing. Director

Quintana stated that we're still in the process in switching procedures around. She will be meeting with Staff Attorney and both Senior Investigators soon to figure out what the best way to go will be.

- New Investigator: DeMarkus Muhammad will start doing intakes and start his own cases.

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- Admin Hernandez reviewed the rolling budgets.

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

- **Mediations:** No Mediations in December

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Office Repairs-** Ramp/rail, door, and window meeting with Barry Marquart January 8th. Dan Brenner has retired and Barry Marquart has taken over that position. Director Quintana stated that she spoke with Dan about updates that are necessary for the building. In this meeting Dan let her know that some updates won't be able to be done because of the budget. He let her know that if she'd like some things done in the year 2021, she should submit it in 2020 to be added to their budget.
- **MLK Club celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.-** sponsorship \$175 (table and ½ pg ad) Motion to approve - Commissioner Tinnel, 2nd – Commissioner Arrington – Approved.
- **Final Order-** Amanda Hughes v. Hamilton Public House EO-0056-A18 /24D-2018-00087
- **Marketing Plan 2020-** meeting with Leichty Media and Brainstorm Collaborative. Director Quintana hopes to have a plan and present it in the next meeting.
- **Partnership with FHCCI –** Amy Nelson. We've partnered with FHCCI before and paid Amy and her team \$750. Amy would like to partner again to provide Fair Housing training for a \$750 fee again. Motion to approve – Commissioner Tinnel, 2nd – Commissioner Maples - Approved.
- **Current Case Age:** 242

OLD BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Tinnel would like to congratulate Commissioner Chambers on her election to City Council and thank her for her service on the Commission. Commissioner Keesling suggested we present her with a plaque and take it to Council.

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Keesling: Before our adjournment we have opened to the public, so do we have a public comment?

Steve: Yeah I'd love to comment in just a moment. Should I come closer or stay right here?

Wardlaw: You can come closer so we can hear you.

Steve: My name is Steve Gerber. I kind of got familiar with your office on a trial by fire I guess you would say. I was out at Yellowstone National Park this summer and I came back to Fort Wayne to find that I had missed a registered letter from Metro. As soon as I found out that I had one I tried to get my hands on it. I was able to do that and much to my chagrin I found out a tenant of mine had filed a complaint with the Commission. I've had duplexes in Allen County Fort Wayne.

Jenny: Just for a brief second, Chair Keesling because this is a public meeting open to the public this case that you're referencing is still ongoing and under investigation. If it's not public, then we can't speak about it on the record at this meeting.

Keesling: Right, so if you have any general comments you want to make you can do that, but specifics regarding your case, we cannot hear them.

Steve: My general concern here is that I have found the process to be very very adversarial, very adversarial. As somebody speaking in general terms I support what you are here to do, I really do, I'm for that all the way. So I find myself touching the fringes of what you're all about here. You got my concern. You got my cooperation, my intent to cooperation. But the process has been really really difficult for me as a citizen to navigate.

Keesling: I think what we should do would be if you can write out your issues and provide the Commissioners with something in writing as to what your concerns are.

Steve: Okay.

Keesling: That would be the appropriate method to move forward.

Steve: Okay, who should I address this to?

Keesling: Just the Metro Commissioners, there are seven of us.

Nikki: I think you can send it to our office and we can make sure it gets to the Commissioners.

Keesling: Right, if you send it here then they will make sure that we all see your letter.

Steve: Okay

Keesling: I think it should be addressed in writing is where it should go to.

Steve: I have no problems doing that I've just had really bad luck with getting responses, telephone responses, letter responses. I was told I'd get some things in writing and I've never gotten in writing. We've never even met. We've never even met face to face. I was not prepared to even speak to you today. I was coming to observe and try to learn what really is going on. How do you guys operate? Where do you get your guidelines from? So I can learn about it, so I can better comply. That's what I'm trying to see. So as I said this was not planned but when you turned to me and said do you have something you want to say, yeah I got something I want to say. I'm not getting really cooperation. I'm learning the hard way.

Keesling: So if you could put your concerns and your comments in writing and send it in, we would be happy to read it.

Steve: Should I address it to one person in particular?

Keesling: If you can address it to the full Commission.

Steve: I can do that, that's certainly not a problem. I try to be one of the good guys, I really do.

Keesling: So if you address it to all of us, just to The Metro Commissioners, we would be

happy to read it and address it as we can.

Steve: Okay, that'll be great. I will do that, because I do want to address these issues.

Keesling: Okay, great. Thank you.

Steve: Thank you for your time.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:57 pm