



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

January 3, 2021
12:00 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 714055

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

Metro Commissioners: Aisha Arrington, Chair; Tabitha Ervin, Vice Chair; Dorian Maples; Lana Keesling; Larry Wardlaw; Dr. David Lombard; and Tony Burrus

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 12:03 p.m.

Commissioners Arrington, Ervin, Keesling, Wardlaw, Burrus, and Dr. Lombard present.

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

- December 6th meeting minutes were approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/21 – 9/30/22)

- **Intakes (by 9/30/22): 90 (contract number) 16 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/22: 265**
 - 35 No Probable Cause Cases
 - 7 Settlements (\$84,938.47)
 - 1 Withdrawals
 - 0 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - 0 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

HUD

HOUSING CASE PROCESSING (7/1/21 - 6/30/22):

21 Cases closed for contract

- 3 HUD Settlement
- 0 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- 16 No reasonable cause
- 0 Withdraw after Resolution
- 2 Reasonable cause

27 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

December 1, 2021: All investigative staff attended EEOC vaccine mandate training.

December 1, 2021: Admin Reyes, Staff Attorney Gosheff, and Director Quintana attended MUNIS training at the controller's office.

December 7, 2021: Senior Investigator Sorg attended the HANDS board meeting.

December 7, 2021: Director Quintana conducted anti-harassment training at Longe Optical.

December 7-8, 2021: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended portions of IAOHRA training conference.

December 9, 2021: Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended EEOC ARC training.

December 10, 2021: Senior Investigator Woods attended the Work to Include meeting.

December 14, 2021: Senior Investigator Sorg and Director Quintana conducted fair housing training to the Upstar Realtors Association Diversity and Equity Committee.

December 15, 2021: Senior Investigator Sorg conducted fair housing training for new realtors at Upstar Realtors Association.

December 2021: Throughout the month of December the staff attended virtual United Front trainings.

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

- None

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Admin Reyes reviewed current budget status and went over calendar of events.

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

Mediations: The Commission had two conciliations. Both conciliations were successful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2022 Fair Housing Conference**

Metro will be hosting the event in April which is national fair housing month. The event is scheduled for April 27th. Metro hopes to host the event at the Coliseum and is awaiting confirmation. Metro would like to bring Dr. Matthew Desmond as the keynote speaker. He is the founder of the Eviction lab and Pulitzer Prize winner for his book Evicted. His speaking fee is \$20,000.00 plus travel first class. Metro continues to partner with Community Development-OHNS on this event and OHNS has helped cover cost beyond that of our sponsorships. This year Metro would like to assist in covering the cost of the speaker and put additional funding towards the event as we are looking to expand the event. Metro has HUD funding to assist in covering the cost of the event and our HUD GTM, Beverly Noble, continues to inform us that good use of these funds would be for outreach and educational events like this one. Director Quintana requested that the Commission approve the use of \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars) towards the Fair Housing Summit this year.

Commission Chair Arrington asked what happens with the sponsorships Metro receives.

Director Quintana informed the Commissioners the sponsorships go toward the cost of the event. Commission Chair Arrington asks how much money is in the budget for this.

Commissioner Keesling explained that the additional monies in our EEOC and HUD budget can go to cover the cost for events like this.

Commission Chair Arrington asked how much of the additional funding we must use.

Director Quintana answered that there is no set amount.

Commissioner Wardlaw stated we do not normally charge for this event.

Director Quintana explained normally the event is free, but Metro is determining if there will be a charge for the event.

Director Quintana asks for Commission approval for \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars) towards the Fair Housing Summit.

Commissioner Wardlaw shares his concern if there is an opportunity to get a little more sponsorship from the community.

Commissioner Dr. Lombard shares his concern if Dr. Desmond will be an appropriate speaker because he has never heard him speak and because of the cost of the speaker. However, he expressed approving \$15,000 to be used towards the Fair Housing Summit.

Director Quintana shares she did hear Dr. Desmond speak and feels very strongly he will be excellent for our event.

Commission Chair Arrington makes a motion to approve \$15,000 to be used towards the Fair Housing Summit. Commissioner Keesling seconds. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve.

- **Presentation of Metro Video**

This video will be going on Metro's Facebook page and will be used in Metro trainings in the future.

- **2022 Marketing Plan**

Meetings have been set with Liechty Media

Current Case Age: 137.48

OLD BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Burrus asked about the survey. Director Quintana informed the Commissioners that Metro will be meeting with Rachel Wednesday to kick-off the survey process.

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:34 pm