



METROPOLITAN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

August 2, 2021
4:30 PM
METRO CONFERENCE ROOM
2310 PARNELL AVENUE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805
Teleconference: 260-427-8590 PIN: 659105

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

Metro Commissioners: Lana Keesling, Chair; Aisha Arrington, Vice Chair; Dorian Maples; Larry Wardlaw; Tabitha Ervin; 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 4:31 p.m.

Commissioners Keesling, Arrington, Burrus, Ervin, Wardlaw and Maples present.

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

- July 12th meeting minutes were read and approved.

OFFICE REPORT

EEOC

EMPLOYMENT CASE PROCESSING (10/1/20 – 9/30/21)

- **Intakes (by 9/30/21): 110 (contract number) 70 (current status)**
- **Contract number of case closures by 9/30/21: 275**
 - o 206 No Probable Cause Cases
 - o 21 Settlements (\$83,283.00)
 - o 7 Withdrawals
 - o 5 Lack of Jurisdiction
 - o 2 Right to Sue or Full Credit Transfer to the EEOC

Commissioner asked if the settlements and conciliated numbers we have are high. It looks like the highest number we have had.

Director Quintana stated it is not the highest we have had. She feels it is rising, because in the previous year pandemic it did affect how many cases we mediated due to people not wanting to meet in person. Prior to last year we would have \$1,040 to \$1,050 in settlements. Compared to last contract this is a big improvement.

HUD

HOUSING CASE PROCESSING (7/1/20 - 6/30/21):

52 Cases closed for contract

- o 3 HUD Settlements (\$1,812)
- o 1 Lack of Jurisdiction/withdraw/admin
- o 48 No reasonable
- o 0 Reasonable cause
- o 3 Conciliated Reasonable cause (from previous contract year \$2,500)

15 Pending (Open being investigated)

ATTENDED EVENTS/OUTREACH:

July 12 and July 19, 2021: Director Quintana attended the Welcoming Week committee meetings.

July 19-July 21, 2021: Senior Investigators Sorg, Woods, Staff Attorney Gosheff and Director Quintana attended the EEOC conference virtually.

July 22, 2021: Senior Investigators Sorg, Woods, and Staff Attorney Gosheff attended the Region V virtual HEMS training.

July 22, 2021: Senior Investigator Sorg and Staff Attorney Gosheff conducted anti-discrimination training per a settlement agreement.

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

PERSONNEL ISSUES:

We hired an Administrative Assistant III and she will start August 9, 2021.

We have one position posted:

- Investigator

We are currently training our two new Investigators.

BUDGET/CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Admin Reyes will take questions and comments.

LEGAL UPDATE/MATTERS:

Mediations: The Commission had one conciliation. The conciliation was successful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Fair Housing Event 2021 – Reviewed**
This event is usually done in April. Due to the pandemic, we pushed it back and will be hosting on October 13th at the Memorial Coliseum. We are partnered with Community Development: Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services. They help us on the financial aspect. We will have keynote speaker, Aaron, he's with fair housing in New York. We will also have six break-out sessions that vary from Amy Nelson to Stephen Dane.
- **Welcoming Week**
Assisting with Diversity Awards and Cultural Awareness Training. Very similar to what we did last year, we will be working alongside with YMCA. Commissioner Ervin is assisting in the training, along with Director Quintana and Francisco Townsend. In the past there have been nine awards, this year we are trying to finalize what we want them to look like and whether we are going to give less or more awards. Commissioners will be kept in the loop because it may be something we want to sponsor. As we believe in supporting those type of awards, it is part of our mission when we think about the outreach and education.
- **Metro on the Move**
We are in our last month of initiative. We have completed eight weeks. We have partners who have interest in continuing this throughout the year.
Current Case Age: 128.92

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

CONCERNS FROM THE PUBLIC:

MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:46 pm