



AGENDA
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017 – 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL

1. CALL TO ORDER

___ Joe Allen ___ David Dove ___ Jerome Kahn ___ J.W. Martin, Jr.

___ Olivia Martinez ___ Natasha Russell-Iverson ___ Mike Sullivan** ___ Sue Wray

STAFF LIAISON: Meryl Dye, Assistant City Manager

*** Chairperson ** Vice Chair-Person**

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY AUDIENCE – Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2017

4. REPORTS

- A. HHRC Attendance Record
- B. Informal Complaint Report – Two (2) Informal Complaints in February 2017.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Review of HHRC Goals & Activities
- B. Other

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS

- A. Commissioners
- B. Staff

8. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 – Council Conference Rm

1. **Call to Order** – Present: David Dove, Jerome Kahn, J.W. Martin, Jr., Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell-Iverson, Mike Sullivan (V. Chair), Sue Wray and Meryl Dye (staff liaison).
2. **Community Policing Program** – Officer Darrell Tossie attended the meeting to give an overview of the renewed Community Policing Program within the Hutchinson Police Department. The program was in effect about 20 years ago under a federal grant. When grant funds expired, so did the program. The program was renewed this January after the City Council authorized the hiring of additional police officers which allowed 3 existing officers to be reassigned to the Community Policing effort. Off. Tossie is one of those officers along with Officers Anna Ruzhanovska and Stephen Schaffer. One officer is assigned to the Lincoln School neighborhood and one assigned to the SW Bricktown neighborhood, based on the number and types of police responses to those areas. Officer Tossie floats to areas within the community where he might be needed. The officers are learning about resources in the community so they can better interact with neighbors within the assigned areas. He believes by building strong ties with people, taking a proactive approach and spending more time on problem-solving, that challenges can be better addressed. While the Community Policing Program involves the permanent assignment of officers to certain segments in our community, it is really a philosophy that is being incorporated throughout the police department.
3. **Introduction of Applicant for HHRC Vacancy** – Joe Allen was in the audience and introduced as a candidate for appointment to the HHRC. Joe has been in Hutchinson for about 2 years, and has served on the ADA Advisory Board until it was dissolved a few months ago. He is employed as a clinical manager at Health-E-Quip, and is supported by his employer in getting involved in the community. He believes the HHRC is a good fit for his personal interest in promoting equality based on culture and orientation. Jerome Kahn made a motion to recommend Joe Allen for appointment to the HHRC. Dove seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Minutes** – Dove made a motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2017. Wray seconded the motion and the motion passed.
5. **Reports** – Dye reviewed the purpose of the Attendance Record and Informal Complaint Report. She discussed the one informal complaint received in December, but there were no complaints in January.
6. **Unfinished Business** – Dye discussed the Wichita Business Journal annual event to recognize a long list of “Leaders of Diversity” from the Wichita business community. In December, the HHRC briefly discussed doing the same in our community and inviting diversity leaders to tell their story in a community forum to describe obstacles they had to overcome and be an inspiration to others. Dye also shared information about a new program in Wichita involving a series of community conversations about race. The program called “Candid Conversations” is held at various public locations, and includes talks by historians, police experts and Wichita Police Chief

Gordon Ramsay. The series is sponsored by several groups including humanities groups, schools, police, and community organizations. Dye suggested having a similar program in Hutchinson, and using a group facilitator to help decide topics, to lead discussion and to have questions as conversation starters. Dye also suggested inviting particular people to participate at each session, but also urging the public to be a part of the conversations. Russell-Iverson suggested holding the conversations at the public library auditorium because it would serve as neutral territory, and light refreshments would be permitted. HHRC members were interested in such a project. Dye suggested doing detailed planning at the next meeting.

Dye asked members if they wish to participate in HCC's Cultural Appreciation Day in April and the Women's Show on April 22nd. Several members expressed interest. Dye will register for a booth at both events.

Sue Wray suggested having discussion about the Charter for Compassion, an international program aimed at building a compassionate world which provides a community tool box for building a Compassionate Community. Dye will send a web link to HHRC members to learn more, and add this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. **Adjournment** – Wray made a motion to adjourn, and Martin seconded the motion for adjournment.

Minutes Prepared by Meryl Dye, Assistant City Manager (Staff Liaison)

Next Meeting – March 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room

HHRC Attendance Record

	2016												2017											
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
HHRC MEMBERS																								
1 Dove, David (second 3 yr term expires 9/11/2018)	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	N	X	X	C	X												
2 Flores, Cynthia (first 3-yr term expires 9/11/2017; resigned 8/2016)	A	A	A	X	A	---	O	---	---	---	A	---												
3 Givan, Chris (partial term expires 9/11/2016; resigned 10/2016)	X	X	X	X	A	X	A	---	---	---	N	---												
4 Hopkins, Paula (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2017; resigned 6/2016)	A	X	X	X	---	---	Q	---	---	---	C	---												
5 Martin, J.W., Jr. (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018)	X	X	A	X	X	X	U	X	X	A	E	X												
6 Martinez, Olivia (second 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018)	X	A	X	X	X	X	O	X	X	L	L	X												
7 Perrin, Linda (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2016; resigned 7/2016)	X	X	A	A	---	---	R	---	---	L	---	---												
8 Russell, Natasha (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018)	X	X	X	X	X	X	U	X	X	E	X	X												
9 Sullivan, Mike (second 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2019)	X	X	X	X	X	X	M	X	X	D	X	X												
10 Wray, Sue (first 3 year term expires 9/11/2019)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	X	X												
Key																								
Quorum x 5																								
No Quorum <5																								
Not A Member -----																								

**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS
INFORMAL COMPLAINT SUMMARY - 2017**

February – An African American male worked for a local restaurant wherein he had requested some time off to attend court over child custody issues, and the manager agreed. However, he was removed from the schedule altogether. When he spoke with the manager, he didn't get a response about the schedule. In discussion he mentioned to the manager some racist comments toward him made by a white female coworker as he helped her with a customer who had a nose bleed. He also told the manager about another coworker coming to work high. The manager then fired him on the spot and told him to get off the property before calling the police on him. Dye referred Complainant to make a formal discrimination complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Race and Retaliation.*

An African American male said he suffers from bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. During an episode related to his disabilities, he had an incident involving police when he damaged another person's property. He was charged with a misdemeanor and has to pay restitution. He was also sent to the state hospital for treatment. He is now is on medications. He was recently refused access to a local employment agency, and told to stay off their property. He believes this denial is due not only to his criminal record, but also due to his disability. Dye referred Complainant to make a formal discrimination complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Disability.*

January – No Complaints