

HUTCHINSON
Human Relations
COMMISSION

MINUTES
HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
Zoom Call Meeting

1) **Call to Order** – Present: Russel Iverson*, Frischenmeyer**, Juma, Grissom, Armstrong, Smith
(Absent:) Cowser

2) **Oral Communications by Audience** – None

3) **Approval of Minutes**

a) Motion to approve January meeting's minutes with spelling corrections motioned by Russell-Iverson. Seconded by Frischenmeyer. The motion passed unanimously.

4) **New Business**

There was no new business.

5) **HRO Report**

The City Manager informed the commission that the hiring committee for the Human Relations Officer is conducting interviews for the position and should have a candidate soon.

Investigative updates

One complaint that was made did not fall under Human Relations Commission Ordinance; and was dismissed.

6) **Communications and Comments**

Chairperson Russell-Iverson raised concerns about the hiring process of the HRO and the City Manager's attitude towards the position of the HRO. Russell-Iverson said that she believes the City Manager does not have respect for the position and has not taken into account considerations that the community and commission have fought for. One example is relocation the HRO's office space. She asked HRO Sotelo if he has access to office space. Sotelo informed the commission that he has not visited the office mainly because there was an agreement to work remotely as an interim. He believes this will resolved once a someone is hired to fill the position.

Chairperson Russell-Iverson asked community member Sarah Blake to comment on the issue of the office space of the HRO. Mrs. Blake informed the commission that she was asked during the first interview to facilitate interviews. She was not comfortable with being the facilitator and how this came about. Mrs. Blake informed the committee that the committee members were concerned and had mistrust about the qualifications of some of the

candidates that were given. They are in the process of possibly reviewing other candidates that were not interviewed.

Russell-Iverson said that other members distrusted the process hiring an HRO. She questioned why there were only “very good” applicants; and why other strong applicants were not given an interview.

Commissioner Armstrong informed the commission that the PIO is now occupying the office space for the HRO. Commissioner Juma does not believe that moving the HRO to a different office space is a concern.

Chairperson Russell-Iverson informed the commission that she was approached by a community member to discuss an event planned for educating the community about the different social impacts of the COVID-19 virus. Russel-Iverson moved to allow the Human Relations Commission to be a partner for this community event. Frischenmeyer seconds. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioners Armstrong and Cowser were absent for the vote.

7) Adjournment

Russell-Iverson encouraged the commission to be focused on educating the community non-profits on equity diversity and inclusion.

Armstrong commented on a historic day in the inauguration of the first woman, first African American, first south Asian America to hold the office of the Vice President of the United States of America.

Russell-Iverson reminded the commission that there is truth to the idea that youth are the future. She reflected on the Human Relation Officer, Dave Sotelo and Commissioner Grissom and how they have stepped up, saying she appreciates their efforts.

Commissioner Grissom updated the commission on the Youth Commission’s surveys for youth in Hutchinson. The chair of the Youth Commission will present at Hutch Talk20.

8) Adjournment

Motion by Russell-Iverson, second by Firschenmeyer, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.