

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 8, 2015

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 3:00 pm on November 8, 2015 at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Cindy Lolley, Jaida Moore, Cassandra Campbell, Benjamin Golley, Chief Jake Simmons, Michael Varner, Peter Hough, Judge Ellar Duff, Dr. Kenneth Spells

Members Absent: Greg Caffey, Megan Williams,

Cassandra L. Campbell opened the meeting with roll call.

#### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Judge Duff to accept the minutes from September 13, 2015 and seconded by Dr. Spells. Motion passed 9 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent.

#### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRAINING (A.J. FRENCH)

A.J. presented a proposal to hold an event to invite approximately 100 members from the community to share their experiences with mental health and wellness. The event would be an educational forum held at Lewis and Clark Community College on 01/16 or 02/05/16 from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. A.J. has offered to coordinate the event and secure vendors. Vendors would be encouraged to purchase gift cards from local merchants to use as giveaways for participants attending the event. Suggestions were made to invite the Director of Mental Health Services, faith based communities and mental health groups to the event. A.J. has asked for the Commission to assist with promoting the event and helping to spread the word to the community.

#### PRINCIPIA COLLEGE 2016 THEATER WORKSHOP INFORMATION (JACKIE BURNS & CHRISSY STEELE)

Jackie and Chrissy will be creating a program at Alton High School in the spring of 2016 to teach students about social change through theater. The program will be lead by current Principia students. They are also working on creating a mini theater festival with performances to share with the community. There will be a selection process for students to be able to participate in the workshops. Dr. Spells was asked to confirm if students attending alternative schools would be able to participate in the workshops. The Commission was invited to attend any of the workshops and share our own personal experiences related to social change.

#### NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Varner presented information about Listen, Talk and Learn event. The event is free of charge for the community and would be able to accommodate approximately 40 participants. Judge Duff offered to reach out to the YWCA to see if we are able to hold the event there. Mr. Varner offered to provide proposed dates for the event at our next meeting.

Mr. Golley received an email regarding our current meeting date and time. After a brief discussion it was agreed that we would vote on a new meeting date and time during our next meeting.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Tomieka Marshall and Deana Anderson informed the Commission about a free community Thanksgiving event that will be held on November 25, 2015 from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Deliverance Temple. The event is called Holiday Harvest and they will be providing free Thanksgiving meals to those in need in the community. The Commission is invited to the event to attend and volunteer if available. Donations are also accepted at Deliverance Temple.

Josh Young had a question regarding a report on Channel 4 news related to grievances. Mr. Young wanted to know if he could receive assistance with the process of how the timeline works with filing grievances. Chief Simmons informed Mr. Young that information related to his grievances have not been answered at this time. Chief Simmons informed Mr. Young that Internal Affairs investigation grievances would be mailed after they have been reviewed. Mr. Young also had questions related to the Nuisance Abatement Task Force. Chief Simmons suggested that Mr. Young speak with the Mayor regarding this request.

With no further business, a motion was made by Chief Simmons to adjourn and seconded by Judge Duff. Motion passed 8 ayes, 0 nays, 3 absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassandra L. Campbell