

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

August 3, 2016

A regular meeting of the Community Relations Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm on August 3, 2016, at Alton City Hall, 101 E. 3rd Street, Alton, Illinois.

Members Present: Greg Caffey, Peter Hough, Ellar Duff, Megan Williams, Cindy Lolley, Al Womack, Chief Simmons

Members Absent: Benjamin Golley, Mike Varner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the June and July minutes. Seconded by Judge Duff. Motion Passes.

- 7 Ayes: Caffey, Lolley, Womack, Duff, Hough, Simmons, Williams
- 0 Nays
- 2 Absent

REVIEWING AND ADOPTING CALLS TO ACTION

- Directory of Services: Ms. Lolley has a list of local churches and organization in the community to contact regarding services. She will contact all to see what free services they offer. Mr. Varner will be helping to contact both local churches and organization
- Implicit Bias:
 - YWCA of Alton will be hosting Debby Irving, author of *Waking up White*, September 10, 2016 at 10 am at the Alton Middle School Auditorium. Volunteers will be needed the day of the event if anyone is interested in volunteering.
 - The Talk, Listen, Learn event from February was well received. We could capitalize and plan similar sessions in different parts of town. Judge Duff is on a committee with a woman who could possibly facilitate diversity training if we wanted to partner with her.
 - Mr. Hough requested every Commissioner take the Harvard Implicit Bias questionnaire. After each person takes the questionnaire Commissioners should meet one on one to discuss the questionnaire and how better the Commission should help resolve racial issues. The Commission could then examine if going through the questionnaire could be helpful with other organizations. Mr. Hough will send the link to everyone.
- Policing and Building Trust within the Community:
 - Chief Simmons discussed the partnership between the City of Alton and University of Missouri St. Louis and former St. Louis City Police Chief, Dan Isom. The City and UMSL will be working together to establish a three year strategic community policing plan. The process to establishing the plan will take place in three stages. The first is an internal assessment of the police department, workloads of officers, and crime mapping. The second phase will be the community phase which will consist of community surveys being available for all citizens to take and focus groups consisting of a diverse group of around 30 citizens. The third phase will be the focus group members

and police officers working together with consultants to review all data and jointly development the strategic plan.

- Mr. Hough explained that Chief Isom still needs to raise \$4400 to fund the community portion of the project. That Chief Isom did not want this money from the City so there is not a misconception that the City paid for an outcome. Mr. Hough asked the Commission to help raise the funds.
- Chief Simmons also discussed a unity march being held Saturday, August 6. There will be a police dunking booth after the march.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Carrollton Bank- Ms. Williams explained that the Carrollton Bank financial education programs will begin on September 28 at the YWCA. We will need volunteers to help work the events. There will be a total of 5 sessions. Homeownership will be first. For those individuals who attend the first 4 session, they will be entitled to attend the 5th which will be a credit fair in which they can review their credit history with a banker and develop an action plan.
- Citizens Awards- Commissioners reviewed the form. Commissioners are to send changes to Judge Duff within 14 days so we can vote on the form in the next meeting.
- Amnesty Day- No further information. Judge Duff will follow-up again.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Williams proposes working jointly with Land of Lincoln to provide Landlord/Tenant education classes. Ms. Williams made a motion to allow her to pursue the partnership with Land of Lincoln to have Landlord/Tenant educational classes. Seconded by Judge Duff. Motion Passes.
 - 7 Ayes: Caffey, Lolley, Womack, Duff, Hough, Simmons, Williams
 - 0 Nays
 - 2 Absent

APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

- Ms. Williams made a motion to lay over the appointment of new officers. Chief Simmons seconded the motion. Motion passes.
 - 7 Ayes: Caffey, Lolley, Womack, Duff, Hough, Simmons, Williams
 - 0 Nays
 - 2 Absent

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- There are no comments

ADJOURN

- Ms. Williams made a motion to adjourn. Judge Duff seconds the motion. Motion passes.
 - 6 Ayes: Caffey, Lolley, Womack, Duff, Hough, Simmons, Williams
 - 0 Nays
 - 2 Absent

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan L. Williams