DOVER HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2013

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, DOVER

Present: Ellen O. Wasfi, Justina H. Brewington, Dr. Phyllis Edamatsu, Faye Della White and Chairman Roy Sudler, Jr.
Absent: Dr. Linda Hackett and Vice Chair, Dawn Allen-Pyne

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Chairman Roy Sudler, Jr. called the Dover Human Relations Commission Meeting to order on this day, Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 7:05 p.m.

2. **Moment of Silence:** was observed.

3. **Adoption of Minutes:**

   Chairman Sudler asked for a motion to accept the following meeting minutes:

   a. **Regular Meeting of May 22, 2013**
      Dr. Edamatsu motioned to accept the minutes of May 22, 2013 with the proper corrections.
      Commissioner White second
      Motion carried.
   b. **Regular Meeting of June 26, 2013**
      Commissioner White motioned to accept the minutes of June 26, 2013 with the proper corrections.
      Dr. Edamatsu second
      Motion carried.
   c. **Regular Meeting of July 24, 2013**
      Commissioner Wasfi motioned to accept the minutes of July 24, 2013 with the proper corrections.
      Commissioner White second
      Motion carried.

   Commissioner Wasfi reported that she contacted the National League of Cities and found out that having a Human Relations Commission is not required to be a member.

4. **Comments/Presentations from Members of the Community:** no one present from the community to present.

5. **Chair's Report:**

   On June 28, 2013, City Developer Ann Marie Townsend thanked the Dover Human Relations Commission for meeting with her in quest of obtaining the City's Procurement and Bidding Process for contractors in the City of Dover.

   On August 26, 2013, I attended the Legislative Finance Administration Committee Meeting and read the 2013 – DHRC Resolution on Cessation of Illegal Gang Activity in Dover, Delaware. The Legislative Finance and Administration Committee voted unanimously to accept and forward the resolution to City Council for final approval.

   Also that night I spoke with Donna Mitchell, City Controller about plans for a future workshop on "Best Practices for Being Awarded City Bids for Contractors in the Procurement Process".

On August 26, 2013, I was introduced to the Vice-Chair of the State Human Relations Commission, Mrs. Gail Lunay by 4th District Councilman Reverend Wallace Dixon. Mrs. Lunay expressed that "she would be more than willing and available to assist us in our new transition of mission statement and duties if needed and was looking forward to working closer with the DHRC".

That will conclude the Chair's Report for August 2013.

6. Committee Report:

a. <u>School Programs</u>

Commissioner Wasfi – informed the Commission that she made arrangements with the Dover Public Library to use one of their rooms for a tentative Study Circle for the Commission for September 21, 2013 at 10am.

b. Community Programs:

Vice Chair Dawn Allen-Pyne – not present to report at this time.

c. Assessment:

Commissioner Edamatsu – nothing to report at this time.

d. Intake Forms:

Commissioner Brewington – requested to meet with the Chairman Sudler to go over procedures.

7. New Business:

a. Discussion – DHRC Response to Legislative, Finance and Administration Committee Report – July 22, 2013 – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 58 – Human Relations Commission

Chairman Sudler suggested if the Commissioners can attend the Legislative Finance Administration Committee Meetings to go.

Commissioner Wasfi made the following presentation on July 22, 2013 at the Legislative Finance Administration Committee Meeting and again before the Mayor on August 12, 2013:

Remarks to Dover City Council on DHRC
Monday, August 12, 2013

Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am hear to address two recommendations proposed by the Legislative, Finance and Administration Committee on July 22, 2013, dealing with future meetings of the Dover Human Relations Commission. The first recommendation suggests reducing the number of Commission meetings which are currently held monthly. *[That the Number of Meetings Be Set at a Minimum of Five (5) Per Year, One (1) in Each Quarter of the Year and One (1) to Be Determined by the Commission and That Special Meetings May Be Called by the Chairperson or Three (3) Members of the Commission.]* Regularly scheduled monthly meetings provide the public with a reliable opportunity to bring their concerns to the attention of city government. The DHRC has transmitted these concerns to City Council for action on several occasions and dealing with a host of issues. The DHRC is the ear of the Council to the community.

The second recommendation is, *That All of the Meetings of the DHRC Be Held in the City Council Chambers.* The Dover Human Relations Commission has frequently held "community outreach meetings" at various sites throughout the city, including the Boys and Girls Club, the office of the Delaware Community Outreach Committee, police headquarters and local schools and churches in order to increase communication with city residents and to better assess the mood and concerns of the citizens of Dover. This activity has enabled the Commission to interact with residents more directly and fulfill its commitment under Article II, Section 58-31 of the City Code, to adopt a philosophy of inclusion, intergroup cooperation, and fair treatment. The two amendments to Chapter 58 proposed by the Legislative, Finance and Administration Committee will, if enacted, be highly counterproductive to the DHRC's mission, the essence of which is to involve all segments of the community in the problem-solving process. For the welfare of the citizens of Dover, I urge you to reject implementing these amendments. Thank you.

Ellen O. Wasfi
286 Pine Valley Road
Dover, DE 19904

8. **Scheduling of Future Meetings:**

Next DHRC Meeting Scheduled: September 25, 2013 @ 7pm at Dover City Hall

a. **Special Forum - Monitor and Review of Community and Student Reports on Alleged/Potential Hate Crime Activity in the City of Dover and Surrounding Areas**
Chairman Sudler has notes on why hate crimes should be reported. This information can be used for a Hate Crime Survey/Inquiry.
A Special Hate Crime Forum will be scheduled for the first Thursday in November 2013 at City Hall Chambers. We will invite DSU, Police Chief, ACLU, Latino Community, and the NAACP. Commissioner Wasfi was asked to help with general publicity in Dover Post and Comcast.

b. **Special Workshop – Finance Department Review of the City of Dover Purchasing Policy**

9. **Announcements:**

Commissioner Wasfi reported that the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring a meeting on the Sea Level Rise and how this will affect Delaware at the Episcopal Church on Friday, September 6, 2013 at 7pm.

Chairman Sudler reported that on October 17-20th he will be in Sacramento, California with N 'Call regarding inter city planning on Kirkwood Street.

Chairman Sudler also shared that he will be celebrating his 40th birthday on September 28, 2013.

10. **Adjournment :** Chairman Sudler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting**:**

Commissioner Wasfi motioned we adjourned the meeting

Dr. Edamatsu second

The meeting adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Belinda Talton