



LLOYD WINNECKE  
MAYOR

City of Evansville – Vanderburgh County  
**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

DIANE CLEMENTS-BOYD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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**COMMISSION BOARD MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 2018**  
**ROOM 307**

**MINUTES**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Robert Dion  
Jason Miner  
Estella Moss  
Ruby McGlown  
Henrietta Jenkins  
Tim Black  
Daniel Davis

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Diane Clements-Boyd, Executive Director  
Bonnie Fox

Kyle Biesecker, Commission Counsel

Chairperson Robert Dion called The Human Relations Commission monthly board meeting to order on the above date.

Agenda Requests – Request to add Black Barbershop Initiative under new business.

The above named commissioners and staff were present.

It was properly moved and seconded by Commissioners Black and Miner respectively to accept the minutes of the January meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Black Barbershop Initiative -

The director reported that this is an annual and signature program of the Social Status of African American Males who are under the umbrella of the HRC.

The Social Status Commission has been involved with the initiative for eight (8) years. HRC has staffed the initiative and provided monetary support that includes supplying lunches for the volunteers. HRC is exploring identifying a sponsor for the lunches but if one is not found HRC will be responsible to pay for the 50 volunteer lunches, which usually is just under \$300. The initiative involves setting up in local barbershops, an environment where black males are usually more comfortable talking about health related issues. The free screening involves testing for hypertension, diabetes and body mass. This initiative is statewide and is coordinated by the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, and is held in April each year. Commissioners McGlown and Moss moved and seconded respectively to supply the lunches for the Black Barbershop Initiative and commissioners voted unanimously.

#### 2018 Annual Dinner –

The director asked commissioners to recommend dates for the dinner or to suggest dates that should be blocked when planning the annual dinner. A date to avoid is September 15, which is a Saturday and a day that the dinner has not been scheduled in the past. Director Clements-Boyd suggested having two (2) dates to present to the mayor hoping one would coincide with his schedule. A suggestion was made to have a dinner committee. The director reported that Maura Robinson, who is a diversity trainer, has expressed an interest in being considered for the speaker.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### Election of Officers –

The director passed out ballots with names of the current officers. Additional spacing was provided to write in commissioners interested in being office holders. The commissioners voted by secret ballot. Director Clements-Boyd and Attorney Biesecker counted the ballots. The 2018 HRC officers are:

Chairperson –	Robert Dion
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair -	Ruby McGlown
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair -	Daniel Davis
Secretary -	Henrietta Jenkins

##### Racial Equity Initiative –

Director Clements-Boyd reported there in no news to report and will continue after the Black barbershop Initiative.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

The director presented her monthly report for January.

Director Clements-Boyd reported that March is Disability Awareness Month.

The director reported on legislation being considered in the Indiana Legislature, SB240, which will amend the Fair Housing Section of the Indiana statute to impose a fee or fine against renters who fraudulently request an exemption from the pet fee when renting an apartment. There is a provision in the Fair Housing Act that exempts renters from no pets policies and fees identifies with pets differently if the animal is for medical reasons. An example would be if an animal is needed for a sight impairment person or is needed as an emotional support animal. It was also reported that there are online businesses in which a person can obtain documentation that their animal is needed due to a disability. This law

is a problem for agencies such as HRC who are equivalent. When fees and fines are imposed to charging parties it presents a red flag to HUD. Amy Nelson with the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana has kept the directors informed on the legislation and there has been an amendment by Representative Washburne. If Indiana's fair housing law is deemed not equivalent to the HUD Fair Housing Act that could possibly impact the funding received by HRC. The bill has passed the Senate and is now in the House.

Open Discussion on Community Issues –  
Not in Our Town –

Chairperson Dion was the moderator for the event held on February 1. The panel participants were well versed and informative. The next discussion will possibly be in late spring. Chairperson Dion has suggested having a panel of students, preferably high school in the future.

April Is Fair Housing Month and a suggestion was made to have something on the March agenda for a special project in April as this is the 50<sup>th</sup> year for the passing of the Fair Housing Act. The director has plans to ask Stella Adams to come for Fair Housing month.

#### **COUNSEL REPORT:**

Attorney Biesecker reported there are eight (8) probable cause cases –  
Rankin v. Piston's Bar & Grill – Employment case was set for phone conference, charging party was no show.

Gary May v. Deerhead possibly has been resolved as respondent has done all changes suggested. Attorney Biesecker is waiting to hear from charging party.

Gary May v. StaC Art Gallery and Cork 'n Cleaver are in conciliation process.

Lopez v. Lowe Realty was resolved successfully.

There are three (3) housing cases and two (2) are in discovery now, and it seems apparent that all will be going to hearing. Attorney Biesecker would like the commission to set hearing dates. He would like commissioners to choose three consecutive dates in July for the companion case.

Baker v. Delaware Trace could be in late September and she is seeking counsel.

#### **Commissioners' Remarks**

Meeting adjourned @ 12:45pm.