



# CITY OF WHEELING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1500 Chapline Street, Room 305  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## COMMISSIONERS

Diana Bell, LSW

Joseph R. Blalock

Frank Calabrese

Rev. Ralph W. Dunkin

Rita Gupta

Karen Kangisser

Rosemary Ketchum

Loma Nevels

Anthony Sunseri

## Wheeling Human Rights Commission

Regular meeting of the Wheeling Human Rights Commission: February 19, 2019.

Commissioners present: Blalock, Calabrese, Dunkin, Gupta, Kangisser, Ketchum, Nevels and Sunseri.

Commissioners absent: Bell.

City of Wheeling Staff present: Humway-Warmuth, Prager and Thompson.

### **SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER:**

City Clerk Brenda Delbert administered the Oath of Office to new appointee Rosemary Ketchum. Chairman Calabrese welcomed Commissioner Ketchum and asked her to introduce herself. City Solicitor Humway-Warmuth suggested a photo.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

With a quorum present, the business meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Calabrese.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LEGAL ADVICE OF COUNSEL/PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Chairman Calabrese stated that Executive Session is necessary to discuss procedural matters related to the Agenda. Commissioner Blalock motioned, seconded by Commissioner Dunkin, to suspend the regular order of business to go out of order and enter into Executive Session. Motion passed. Time: 12:00 p.m. Executive Session concluded at 12:25 p.m. Chairman Calabrese announced that Executive Session was purely information and no decisions or votes were made. City Solicitor Humway-Warmuth requested to be excused, which was granted by the Chairman.

### **INVITED GUEST; AMY GAMBLE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)**

Chairman Calabrese welcomed Amy Gamble, the Executive Director of NAMI Greater Wheeling. Ms. Gamble talked about NAMI's efforts to address mental illness, including education, support, advocacy, a drop-in center for adults, and training. Chairman Calabrese asked if there were questions. Commissioner Gupta asked if there was a way to partner. Ms. Gamble suggested that HRC members could take NAMI's Mental Health First Aid Class, sponsor an event with NAMI, or participate in the June 6-7 Conference at the Highlands. Collaboration options were discussed, as were concerns over the HRC's funding capacity to sponsor an event. Commissioner Ketchum motioned to advance the mission of the HRC by collaborating with NAMI Greater Wheeling by taking the Mental Health First Aid training. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunkin. The motion passed. Chairman Calabrese thanked Ms. Gamble and asked her to work with Commissioner Ketchum and report back to the HRC.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Regular meeting: January 15, 2019. The minutes had been previously emailed. Commissioner Dunkin motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Blalock. The motion passed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**SWPALS 2018 Education and Outreach Project** Ms. Thompson updated that the HRC has achieved **51.5** hours of education and outreach, exceeding the committed of **33.75** hours for the 2018 Agreement, which ends March 18, 2019.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration, January 2019** Chairman Calabrese stated that he did not attend the events for health reasons. Commissioner Dunkin stated that he attended the Interfaith Service and the speakers were excellent, but that few attended the march due to weather conditions.

**Black History Month, February 2019** Ms. Thompson reminded that the HRC placed an ad in the newspaper inviting the Community to celebrate Black History Month, on February 1, 2, 7, 13, and 19, as well as in the newspaper's Sunday Showtime for the week of February 3. She previously emailed information about Black History Month events at Ohio County Public Library and WV Northern Community College, and noted that WTRF has programmed a recognition of Black History Month as well.

**Fair Housing Month, April 2019** Ms. Thompson updated that the HRC has secured six billboards in and around the City's low-moderate income neighborhoods for Fair Housing Month, and the artwork is to be determined with Lamar Advertising.

**Discussion Regarding Proper Procedure for Placing an Item on the Human Rights Commission Meeting Agenda** Chairman Calabrese stated that this issue was addressed by City Solicitor Humway-Warmuth during the Executive Session.

**Confirming Officer Election for Chairperson** Chairman Calabrese stated that he had been advised by City Solicitor Humway-Warmuth that the January election needed to be formally confirmed at this meeting, since it had been done on an emergency basis and was not actually on the January Agenda. Commissioner Dunkin motioned to confirm the Election of Frank Calabrese as Chairperson, and Commissioner Sunseri seconded. The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**WVNCC Health & Wellness Fair, March 5, 2019 from 11:00am to 1:00pm** Ms. Thompson stated that the HRC received an invitation to participate in this year's fair, and that she would be available to set up and staff the table, if any Commissioners were interested in joining at the event. Commissioner Kangisser offered to help.

**Citizen Inquiry/Complaint Activity Log through February 15, 2019** Chairman Calabrese stated that one housing complaint had been received but was withdrawn by the Complainant.

**THOSE WISHING TO BE HEARD:**

There was no one wishing to be heard.

**REMARKS FROM MEMBERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:**

Commissioner Dunkin stated that the HRC learned about Article 150 of the City code during Executive Session, and asked that it be provided to the members of the HRC.

Commissioner Ketchum announced that the NAACP is having a Meet & Greet event on February 28, 2019 at 6:30pm in at the Culinary Arts Center of WVNCC; and that she would be a speaker there, along with Rabbi Joshua Lief.

Commissioner Kangisser said that she likes that the HRC wants to partner with community organizations, but would ask to be informed in advance regarding the availability of funding when the HRC's money is being proposed for these partnership opportunities. Commissioner Dunkin suggested that a budget report would be helpful, and Chairman Calabrese asked for a budget report/treasurer's report be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Nevels stated that she usually helps at the Health & Wellness Fair, but is not available to help this time because she will be in Kingsville, Texas.

Chairman Calabrese reinforced his challenge to the other members of the HRC to come up with ideas for ways to reach out to the community and create further awareness of the existence of the HRC.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business Commissioner Nevels made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sunseri at 12:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Calabrese  
Chairperson

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