FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

: OFFICIAL MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission was held on September 6, 2018 at 4:45 p.m., at City Hall, Room 404, 419 Fulton Street, Rev. Barry Robinson, Chairperson presiding and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL
Roll call showed the following Commissioners present: Rev. Barry Robinson, Carl Holloway, Michelle Sanders – 3. Absent: Heather M. Oyler, Nicole Livsey, Christopher Bailey – 3. Staff Liaison: ShamRA Robinson, Management Analyst (City Manager) and Dr. Farris Muhammad, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer.

--Due to a lack of a quorum, no official business was taken, but the following discussion was held. --

MINUTES
July minutes were voted to be approved by the Commissioners present, and the vote was passed [with the understanding of no quorum present].

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Fire and Police

• Nothing to report.

Public Accommodation

• Commissioner Sanders plans to reach out to Four Points by Sheraton to inform them of the presences of the FEHC and would like to work with them. Staff Liaison Robinson mentioned that she spoke with the HR Director of the Marriott Pere Marquette a while ago and the HR Director wanted to wait to move forward until there was a better confirmation on acquisition before speaking to the group about hiring.

Hiring

• Nothing to report.
Housing

- Nothing to report.

Contract Compliance

- Staff Liaison Robinson received some information from Public Works Director Scott Reese regarding the racial minority (18%) and female (3%) goals and provided it to the commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor’s Awareness of Open Commissioner Positions

- Chairperson Robison would like this conversation to be revisited with the Mayor. It is important that the Mayor is updated on vacancies and attendance from the commissioners.

Brief Overview, Mission, and 2018 Structure of the Fair Employment and Housing Commission (FEHC)

NEW BUSINESS

I. Omitted (introduction of Dr. Farris Muhammad, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer).

II. Chairperson Robinson started with #2 under New Business on the agenda by introducing Councilwoman Beth Akeson. Council Woman Akeson introduced herself and her history of serving on the council since 2011. Her and her husband moved to Peoria 33 years ago after living in several other cities.

Chairperson Robinson further explains to Councilwoman Akeson the roles and responsibilities of the commission as it relates to the fair
employment and housing as well as ensuring that minorities are receiving available contract work.

Councilwoman Akeson spoke about recently meeting with Prairie State Legal Services for over 150 minutes to discuss landlord-tenant law that should result in some significant changes that will benefit the tenants. The meeting mostly focused on tenants’ rights.

III. Chairperson Robinson asked for the Steve Tarter from the Journal Star to stand and introduce himself. Steve mentioned that he seen the minutes for the previous month and wanted to attend this meeting.

IV. Staff Liaison ShamRa briefly discuss and provides an update on when Goodwill spoke about being in the community to service people with clothing, shelter, and workforce needs.

V. Chairperson Robinson spoke about accepting a special project to help reduce recidivism rates in Peoria. Goodwill will be assisting with job training and employment as a partner.

VI. Staff Liaison ShamRa provided some information on the IMHRA (Illinois Municipal Human Relations Association) Conference that will focus on legal updates and compliance on sexual harassment. Attendees will learn about the impact that sexual harassment has in the workplace. Conference cost is $30, plus addition estimated $3 for purchasing through Eventbrite.

VII. Staff Liaison Dr. Farris Muhammad introduces himself towards the of the meeting, before Commission member Sanders leave (due to another meeting obligation). Chairperson Robinson apologizes for skipping over Dr. Muhammad as the first item on the agenda under New Business.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Steve Tarter from the Journal Star spoke about the idea of liking feedback from this commission regarding stories and things to write
about, after being asked by Chairperson Robison if Steve would like to give a presentation.

- Community Member Andy Diaz spoke to the Commission regarding his concerns as a micro-developer, regarding his experience approaching the City of Peoria to purchase a vacant parcel. Mr. Diaz wanted to purchase some property and feel as if he was not treated fairly or with the same generosity that Habitat for Humanity was treated with. Mr. Diaz would like to see a more transparent process in place for purchasing property, regardless if you’re a community member or corporation.

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Nothing proposed for next meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS/OFFICIALS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Holloway motioned to adjourn the meeting; second by Chairperson Robinson at 5:54 p.m. The Fair Employment and Housing Commission Meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

October 4, 2018