



City of Virginia Beach

VBgov.com

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(757) 385-1158

MUNICIPAL CENTER
BUILDING 18

2424 COURTHOUSE DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9056

VIRGINIA BEACH HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION MEMBERS:

SYLVIANERY-STRICKLAND
CHAIRWOMAN

BEATRIZAMBERMAN

MICHAEL F. BERLUCCHI

THOMASINE CUBINE

RAJEEB ISLAM

DR. VIRGINIA JENKOT

E. FORTUNATO "JOJO"

ORENCIA JR.

FATHER JAMES E. PARKE

LUIS A. RIVERA, MA Ed.

TERESA STANLEY

RON TAYLOR

FRANCES KNIGHT THOMPSON

ALLISON WHITE

RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

STUDENT COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CHERYLL CAALLIM

NICHOLAS DINONNO

CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS:

MAYOR ROBERT DYER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

REGINA S. HILLIARD, HR DIRECTOR

LEGAL COUNSEL:

ROD INGRAM, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LIAISON:

TRACIE LIGUID

VIRGINIA BEACH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 9, 2019 – 4 p.m.

Virginia Beach Convention Center
1000 19th Street, Suites 2A/B

Members Present: Sylvia Nery-Strickland (Chairwoman), Teresa Stanley, Rabbi Israel Zoberman, JoJo Orencia Jr., Luis Rivera, Allison White, Michael Berlucchi, Dr. Virginia Jenkot, Tommie Cubine, Frances Knight-Thompson, Cheryl Caalim, David Calliott, Brother LaKendrick Coburn El and Ron Taylor

Members Absent: Beatriz Amberman, Rajeeb Islam, and Nicholas DiNonno

Guests: Hillary Plate (Cultural Affairs), Vivian Blaize (VAHR Liaison)

Staff Present: Mary Graessle (Employee Relations Manager), Regina Hilliard (Human Resources Director), Rod Ingram (Deputy City Attorney), Lt. Scott Wichtendal (VBPD), Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro (VBPD), Captain Shannon Wichtendal (VBPD), Chief Jim Cervera (VBPD), Lt. Scott Murse (VBPD), Lt. Billy Zelms (VBPD), Tracie Liguid (Liaison) and Kelly Borger (Human Resources)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes/Agenda Approval** - Chair Nery-Strickland
- II. Special Presentations**
Something in the Water 2019 (SITW) Update- Brian Solis
SITW 2019 Weekend Reflections- Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro
20 Year Trends Review- Chief Jim Cervera
- III. Chairman's Report** – Strickland
- IV. Committee, Task Force, Liaison Reports**
Oceanfront Committee- Strickland/Deputy Chief Zucaro
Nomination Committee- JoJo Orencia
Awards Committee- Michael Berlucchi
Mental Health Task Force- Tommie Cubine
Logo Task Force- JoJo Orencia
Pastors/Leadership Liaison- Teresa Stanley
LGBTQ HRC Liaison Ginger Jenkot (appointed to City Manager's work group) and Neva White, LGBTQ Liaison to City Manager
Princess Anne County Confederate Statue roundtable Liaisons- Berlucchi and Rabbi Zoberman
- V. Staff Report and Updates**
VBHRC Inquiries
- VI. Old Business**
Va. Assoc. of Human Rights Conference
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Citizens Remarks**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 13, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.
Fire Administration, 4817 Columbus Street

I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes/Agenda Approval

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Strickland at 4:03 p.m.

Roll was taken of the Commissioners. Commissioner Islam, DiNonna, and Amberman were absent. The minutes from the April 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Jenkot made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Commissioner Stanley seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from the April 11, 2019 were approved unanimously.

Commissioner Calliott and Commissioner Coburn EI were welcomed as new Commissioners.

Commissioner Father James Parke was remembered for his services as Commissioner and there was a moment of silence.

Sitting Commissioner Berlucchi was appointed to City Council. He will now serve as a City Council Liaison. Commissioner Rivera read a letter addressed to Councilman Berlucchi expressing deep appreciation towards Councilman Berlucchi for his four years of service as a Commissioner.

II. Special Presentations

- a. Something in the Water 2019 (SITW) Update- Brian Solis
Brian Solis, Assistant to the City Manager for Special Projects, presented an update of SITW. He showed a short video to recap the weekend. Highlighted were positives taken away from the festival: unparalleled atmosphere of community harmony; as a whole there was a welcoming and positive imaging on the City and state; cultural enrichment experience; Focus on wellness and meditation to achieve balance; Opportunities for community and educational experience; entrepreneurial opportunities for college students and graduates; major corporate sponsors; community clean-up.

- b. SITW 2019 Weekend Reflections- Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro/Captain Shannon Wichtendal/Lt. Scott Wichtendal
SITW was one of the biggest events for the police to cover, with assistance from the Sheriff's Office and State Police. There were 7 felonies the entire weekend committed by 4 individuals.

Observers were from the community. 70 individuals registered, 82 individuals attended, 96 observer shifts scheduled, and 86 observer shifts filled. 61 observers completed a survey at the end of shifts.

- c. 20 Year Trends Review- Chief Jim Cervera
Police Chief Jim Cervera presented a 20-year trend review of crimes within the City of Virginia Beach between 1999 and 2018.

III. Chairman's Report- Chairwoman Sylvia Nery Strickland

Commissioner Strickland was asked to contact Fairfax Human Rights Commission to schedule a presentation about the student human rights commission. Commissioner Strickland has reached out, but has not gotten a response as of yet.

IV. Committee, Task Force, Liaison Reports

- a. Oceanfront Committee- Strickland/Deputy Chief Zucaro
An Independent Observers committee that works with citizens will need to be created. Looking for volunteers from Commissioners to lead group.
- b. Nomination Committee- JoJo Orenca
Chair and Vice Chair nominations were presented to Commission. Presented for Chairperson: Commissioner Strickland, and Vice Chair: Commissioner Amberman. The next meeting is June 13, officers will be elected at that time. Commissioner Strickland explained that in absence of Chair and Vice Chair, a senior member of the commission, perhaps someone who has served as an officer before, will step in as

Chair at that time. Any input for bylaw changes goes to Commissioner Rivera.

- c. Awards Committee- Michael Berlucchi
HRC is searching for a Chair for the Awards Committee to replace Councilman Berlucchi. Awards Ceremony is scheduled for October 10th, 2019. Motion to dedicate Awards Ceremony to Commissioner Father James Parke was made by Commissioner Ruiz, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The Commission unanimously voted to dedicate Awards Ceremony to Father James Parke. Nominations are currently open; deadline for submissions is July 10th; voting by the HRC will take place August 8th. Commissioner Coburn EI volunteered to be Chair for the Awards Committee.
- d. Mental Health Task Force- Tommie Cubine
May is Mental Health Month. April 18th was the last meeting. Mental Health Task Force has been working on legislation and working with the media on ways to educate the public. Commission will create a pamphlet for educational purposes.
- e. Logo Task Force- JoJo Orenca
Logo Task Force presented a new logo to the Commission. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to vote on the recommended logo to replace the current logo; Commissioner Caalim seconded. Commissioner Ruiz and Commissioner Calliott abstained. Recommended logo was approved.
- f. Pastors/Leadership Liaison- Teresa Stanley
Commissioner Coburn EI shared information on an expo taking place in the community on June 8th. Next community round table discussion will be May 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church. Additionally, Commissioner Stanley and Ms. Hillary Plate shared information on the Iftar Friendship Dinner on Tuesday, May 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the Sandler Center of the Performing Arts.
- g. LGBTQ HRC Liaison Ginger Jenkot & Neva White, LGBTQ Liaison to City Manager
Sample of 2018 Municipal Equality Index Scorecard was given to Commissioners for review. Neva White is working to increase the City of Virginia Beach's Index Score for 2019. Draft of Index is sent to cities at the end of May/beginning of June.
- h. Princess Anne County Confederates Statue Roundtable Liaisons- Berlucchi and Rabbi Zoberman
Mark Reed is scheduled to be a guest speaker at June's HRC meeting.

V. Staff Report and Updates

- a. VBHRC Inquiries
There was one inquiry regarding SITW's ADA conditions at the entrance to the festival. The City Manager's office, along with SITW, prepared a statement to the citizen.

VI. Old Business

- a. Va. Assoc. of Human Rights Conference
Postponed, will be discussed via email.

VII. New Business

Commissioner Taylor discussed Generation P, which is a first annual Gala taking place on June 22nd. Commissioner Taylor will pass information on to Ms. Ligid to disseminate to Commissioners.

VIII. Citizens Remarks

Vivian Blaize remarked on SITW religious aspect.

Hillary Plate with the City of Virginia Beach Cultural Affairs is starting VBGIGS, Globally Inspired Gatherings Pilot season. June 28th will be the Kick-Off Event.

IX. Adjournment

Chairwoman Strickland adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.