



City of Virginia Beach

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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BUILDING 18

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VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9056

VIRGINIA BEACH HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION MEMBERS:

SYLVIANERY-STRICKLAND
CHAIRWOMAN

BEATRIZAMBERMAN

JOE BURNSWORTH

DAVID CALLIOTT

THOMASINE CUBINE

BRO. LAKENDRICK COBURN

EL, G.S., D.M.

JAMAL GUNN

CARLA HESSELTINE

RAJEEB ISLAM

DR. VIRGINIA JENKOT

E. FORTUNATO "JOJO"

ORENCIA JR.

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

MICHAEL F. BERLUCCHI

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, June 13, 2019 – 4 p.m.

Fire Administration Building
4817 Columbus Street

Members Present: Sylvia Nery-Strickland (Chairwoman), Teresa Stanley, Rabbi Israel Zoberman, JoJo Orenca Jr., Luis Rivera, Allison White, Dr. Virginia Jenkot, Tommie Cubine, Frances Knight-Thompson, Cheryl Caalim, David Calliott, Brother LaKendrick Coburn El, Rajeeb Islam, Nicholas DiNonno, Jamal Gunn and Beatriz Amberman (via phone)

Members Absent: Joe Burnsworth, Carla Hesseltine and Ron Taylor

Staff Present: Regina Hilliard (Human Resources Director), Rod Ingram (Deputy City Attorney), Lt. Michele "Shelly" Meister (VBP), Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro (VBP), Dr. LaQuiche Parrot (Education Liaison), Michael Berlucchi (City Council Liaison), Mayor Bob Dyer (City Council Liaison), Tracie Liquid (Liaison) and Kelly Borger (Human Resources)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Roll Call/Minutes/Agenda Approval** - Chair Nery-Strickland
- II. Welcome New Commissioners:** Jamal Gunn, Joe Burnsworth, Carla Hesseltine
- III. Election of Officers:** Presentation of Slate, Vote & Swear-In
- IV. Chairman's Report:** Governor's Roundtable/VB Remembers & wristbands
- V. Committee, Task Force, Liaison Reports**
Oceanfront Committee- Strickland/Deputy Chief Zucaro
Awards Committee- David Calliott
Mental Health Task Force- Tommie Cubine
Pastors/Leadership Liaison- Teresa Stanley
LGBTQ HRC Liaison Ginger Jenkot
Princess Anne County Confederate Statue roundtable Liaisons- Rabbi Zoberman
- VI. Staff Report and Updates**
Annual Report: Review & Submission
VBHRC Inquiries: 1
- VII. Old Business**
Review of Va. Assoc. of Human Rights Conference- Ginger Jenkot
Legislative packet suggestions- Rod Ingram
- VIII. New Business**
Committees review
- IX. Citizens Remarks**
- X. Adjournment**

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 11, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.
City Municipal Center, Bldg. 19, Training Room A/B

I. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Roll Call/Minutes/Agenda Approval

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Strickland at 4:11 p.m.

The 12 victims of the Virginia Beach mass shooting were remembered and there was a moment of silence.

Roll call was taken of the Commissioners. Commissioner Burnsworth, Hesseltine and Taylor were absent.

Commissioner Rivera made a motion to amend the minutes from the March 14, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Jenkot seconded the motion. Commissioner Amberman had tried 3 times to attend meetings via phone, but only succeeded twice causing one absence for Commissioner Amberman. The meeting minutes from March 14, 2019 will be amended.

Commissioner Amberman was unable to be physically present at the meeting and instead participated via telephone from a remote location in accordance with the Commission's Policy for Participation in Meetings by Electronic Communication Means and Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.1. She called from Guadalajara, Mexico.

The minutes from May 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner DiNonno made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Commissioner Knight-Thompson seconded the motion. The meeting minutes from the May 9, 2019 were approved unanimously.

II. Welcome New Commissioners

Commissioner Burnsworth, Gunn and Hesseltine were welcomed as new Commissioners.

III. Election of Officers

Commissioner Oencia presented the proposed slate of nominated officers as follows: Chairwoman Strickland for Chair and Commissioner Amberman for Vice Chair. Commissioner Amberman withdrew her name from the nominations and nominated Commissioner Jenkot for Vice Chair. Chairwoman Strickland asked if there were any nomination or comments from the floor in regards to the election of Chairman. No nominations or comments were made from the floor, so nominations were closed for Chairman by Chairwoman Strickland.

Deputy City Attorney Rod Ingram explained that since there were not multiple nominees the Chair can call for a vote on the slate. Chairwoman Strickland called for a vote on the slate which was approved unanimously.

Chairwoman Strickland and Vice Chairwoman Jenkot were sworn into office by Deputy City Attorney Rod Ingram for a one year term beginning July 1, 2019.

IV. Chairman's Report

a. Governor's Roundtable

Most of the discussion was about expanding educational opportunities. Additionally, there was discussion on the diversity of the bench and Chairwoman Strickland mentioned that the HRC will be adding the diversity of the bench as a recommended Legislative Item. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director will be hired by the state.

b. VB Remembers

HRC designed and distributed VB Strong wristbands for June 6 memorial attendees. Another supply was ordered for distribution to victims' families, first responders and City staff. HRC helped get food donated to first responders on May 31. Commissioner Stanley thanked Council members Michael Berlucchi and Jessica Abbott for their work with the community to organize the remembrance.

V. Committee, Task Force, Liaison Reports

a. Oceanfront Committee- Strickland/Deputy Chief Zucaro

Deputy Chief Zucaro informed the Commission that June 19 is final presentation on SITW. City completed final after-action report. Observer program may be used for

July 4 festivities.

- b. Awards Committee- David Calliott
Commissioner Calliott stated there is a subcommittee that consists of Commissioners Strickland, Stanley, Jenkot, Islam and Coburn EI. Nominations close July 10, 2019.
- c. Mental Health Task Force- Tommie Cubine
June meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Commissioner DiNonno, who serves on the task force, won a Congressional App Challenge Award.
- d. Pastors/Leadership Liaison- Teresa Stanley
Season of Non-Violence empowers students to have safe schools and create the type of climate they would like in their schools. Tracie will send out the minutes from the last meeting to Commissioners.
- e. LGBTQ HRC Liaison Ginger Jenkot
Commissioner Jenkot met with Parks and Recreation for a Webinar from National Parks and Recreation about creating policy for transgender youth in sport. Commissioner Jenkot will meet with Parks and Recreation on June 14, 2019 to create a draft of a policy.
- f. Princess Anne County Confederates Statue Roundtable Liaisons- Rabbi Zoberman
Rabbi Zoberman attended the latest roundtable. The fate of the statue remains unclear.

VI. Staff Report and Updates

- a. Annual Report: Review & Discussion
Tracie included a rough draft of the HRC Annual Report 2019 and asked for feedback from Commissioners by June 18, 2019. Report is due at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2019.

Mayor Dyer joined the meeting to give an inspirational speech and to thank the Commission for their help with the Remembrance and the aftermath of the Virginia Beach shooting.

- b. VBHRC Inquiries (1)
A citizen felt they were discriminated against for ADA issues in the private sector. Tracie referred them to the EEOC.

VII. Old Business

- a. Review of Va. Assoc. of Human Rights Conference- Ginger Jenkot
Commissioner Jenkot and Commissioner Coburn EI attended the conference that was held on May 31, 2019 and June 1, 2019.
- b. Legislative packet suggestions- Rod Ingram
Deputy City Attorney Rod Ingram reminded the Commission that last year six legislative items were recommended by the HRC, and four made it onto the Legislative Agenda. This year, there is an additional recommended item. Voting will take place next month to decide what will be included in the packet that will be submitted. Commissioner Cubine will assist with the draft of the item on full funding of the STEP-VA program for mental health services.

VIII. New Business

There is an opening for a Student Human Rights Commissioner. Dr. Parrot welcomed Commissioners to come and speak at Diversity Ambassador Workshop on July 9 at Ocean Lakes High School to promote the open spot on the Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Knight-Thompson volunteered to attend the workshop to speak to the students.

Chairwoman Strickland inquired about the value of having a student Human Rights Commission.

a. Committees Review

- i. Oceanfront Committee- Chairwoman Strickland
- ii. Nominating Committee- Commissioner Orenca
- iii. Awards Committee- Commissioner Calliott
- iv. By-laws/Policy Committee- Commissioner Rivera
- v. Mental Health Committee (Previously known as Mental Health Task Force) - Commissioner Cubine

b. Liaisons Review

- i. Pastors/Leadership Liaison- Commissioner Stanley and Commissioner Coburn EI
- ii. City Manager's LGBTQ Work Group- Vice Chairwoman Jenkot
- iii. Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable- Commissioner Zoberman
- iv. Virginia Association of Human Rights Commission- Vice Chairwoman Jenkot
- v. South Hampton Roads Legislative Collaborative Table Liaison- Commissioner Stanley
- vi. Minority Business Council Liaison- Commissioner Knight-Thompson
- vii. LGBTQ Public Safety Consortium Liaison- Commissioner Islam
- viii. Virginia Wesleyan University- Center for Religious Freedom Liaison- Commissioner Stanley and Commissioner Islam

c. Proposed Committees

- i. Forums/Community Dialogue Committee- Proposed Chair- Commissioner Amberman
- ii. Public Information Committee- Proposed Chair- Commissioner Calliott
- iii. Independent Observers Subcommittee- Proposed Chair- Chairwoman Strickland

Consensus: Forums/Community Dialogue Committee approved. Public Information Committee approved. Independent Observers Subcommittee has been approved as Independent Observers Committee.

IX. Citizens Remarks

Dominique Vaughn asked the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission to assist the City of Chesapeake in creating a Human Rights Commission. Mr. Vaughn was asked to leave his information with the Commission in order to continue that partnership.

A citizen spoke about the Virginia Beach Mass Shooting. He said he worked with the shooter previously and wanted to comment on mental health. Commissioner Cubine suggested creating public education forums on mental illness.

Residents from the City of Portsmouth and Chesapeake asked for assistance creating a Human Rights Commission in their cities.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Rivera attended the Virginia Complete Count Commission to discuss the upcoming census. Commissioner Rivera would like to invite a representative to come talk to the Commission to educate the HRC about the process. Permission granted.

XI. Adjournment

Vice Chairwoman Jenkot adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.