

SPOKANE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

June 23, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, 808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. Lower level, City Council Briefing Center

Commissioners present: Barbara Ann Bonner, Skyler Oberst, Blaine Stum, Kitara Johnson, Ronald Toston, Jamie SiJohn and John Lemus.

Commissioners absent: Lisa Rosier.

Also present: Dave Plemmons, Beth Beercroft

Facilitator: Blaine Stum, chair

Minutes: Blaine Stum

Call to order by Comm. Stum, 5:30pm

- 1) Quorum established.**
- 2) Guests welcomed.**
- 4) Minutes from the May and June meetings were reviewed and approved without revision.**

New Business

1) Race and Police Contact Presentation: Commissioner Stum noted that due to miscommunication, the original presenters were not able to be there. He gave a brief overview of the report that Dr. Ed Byrnes and Captain Arleth wrote, and asked the other Commissioners to weigh in on what they felt was lacking. Commissioner Oberst noted that he would like to see data on why the police made these contacts in the first place to better understand the data.

Commissioner Johnson said that she would like to see the contacts and arrest data broken down by sex. Commissioner Stum said that this had been brought up to the authors before, and that future reports may include this information. Dave questioned what form they used to collect the data. Commissioner Stum noted that the form is on the back of the report. Dave then asked about the “p values” represented in the report, and Commissioner Stum stated that these represent the “confidence interval” of the analysis; for most studies researchers try to attain a 95% CI.

Commissioner Lemus and Commissioner Bonner both said that they would like to see data on the number of people with physical and intellectual disabilities in future reports. Commissioner Lemus then asked whether Frontier Behavior Health still provides the CIT

training for Spokane Police Department. Commissioner Bonner stated that they do, and said that the community does not currently have alternative providers who can engage in that sort of training.

Commissioner Johnson mentioned that there will be a “team Conference” put on by SPD and WSU on July 28th and 29th that will focus on police contacts and mental health. She said she would mail the details to Commissioner Stum, who would then send those details to the whole commission.

2) Office of Police Ombudsman: Commissioner Stum let the full commission know that the Mayor’s office is accepting applications for the vacant positions on the OPO Commission. He encouraged commission members to reach out to qualified candidates about the opportunity.

3) Courageous Conversations: Commissioner Johnson discussed her proposal for a series of talks that would be called “Courageous Conversations.” The idea behind the proposal would be to discuss issues like racism, prejudice, homelessness, etc. in an informal, open environment in the council chambers. She said that the discussions could be up to an hour and a half long, and that we could ask people to submit topics to discuss.

Commissioners Toston and SiJohn expressed interest in the project and suggested that a small group of people meet as the Planning Subcommittee within the next week or two.

Member Updates/Announcements

1) Commissioner Toston suggested that, at the end of each meeting, commission members discuss what they plan to do in the month in-between meetings and report back to the full commission at the next meeting. Commissioners agreed to this.

- Commissioner Johnson: Help set up meeting to plan “Courageous Conversations.”
- Commissioner Toston: Talk to people in the community about
- Commissioner Stum: Finish up Fair Chance Hiring brochure and begin outreach.
- Commissioner Lemus: Discuss police contact and disability with the people at the Arc.
- Commissioner Bonner: Planning Disability Pride rally for next year.

Public Comment

N/A.

Adjourned at 7:05pm.

Next SHRC meeting:

Tuesday, July 28 at City Hall, City Council Briefing Center 5:30-7:00.