

M I N U T E S  
MICHIGAN CITY  
COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Commissioners Present:Commissioners Absent:

Albertine Allen Joan Ganschow

Marty Corley

Richard Murphy

Charles Dowdell **Excused Absence**

Arthur Payne, Jr. Lester Norvell-Car Accident

James Stemmler Rodney Washington, Job Training

Faye Moore

Jeri Jones **Others Present:** Andy Steele, ALCO Cameraman Willie Milsap  
Delvonte Potter, Mentee

Richard Murphy

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Stemmler brought his Mentee from Hours to Hours School Program.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Faye Moore called the roll - Minutes reflect attendance and absences.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Payne asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read. Motion made by Commissioner Stimmler, seconded by Commissioner Willie Milsap. Motion carried.

Commissioner asked for an introduction of our Youth Guest: Commissioner Stemmler is the Mentor for Delvontae. Delvontae Potter is 13 years old, lives at Garden Estates and attends Barker Middle School. Jim and Delvontae have been Mentor and Mentee for several months and have attended a White Sox Game.

Commissioner Payne welcomed Delvontae and asked for a motion to make Delvontae Honorary Chairman for the Day- Commissioner Corley made the motion, seconded by Rev. Dowdell. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Balance is same as last month, no additions and no withdrawals: \$4,952.00. This is money from the La Porte County Drug Free Partnership and will be used primarily for the Lakeland Estates After school Program supervised by Commissioner Marty Corley and partnership with Commissioner Allen and the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African American Males.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Honorary Commissioner Delvontae asked for Committee Reports. Commissioner Corley answered questions concerning his group: Guiding Our Descendants.

He also told us the hours of the Evonne Norvell Learning Center is open Monday-Thursday ; 2:30 p.m. -6:00 p.m. They have homework assistance; Help with ISTEP Testing; Field trips; basketball camps; soccer camps. The average daily participation is 60. In a weeks time 120-150 children come through the Center between the age of 7-17. Currently there are two part-time staff a Director and an Assistant Director along with Commissioner Corley. Twice a week GED Classes are held for adults.

**Commissioner Jeri Jones-H.O.P.E. -** H.O.P.E. and the NAACP will be working together on some projects - starting with Black History Month. There will be a Pancake Breakfast on February 20, 2010 at the H.O.P.E. Building (Old Park School) and the N.A.A.C.P. and the sponsors. Tickets are \$5.00 Free for age 5 and under.

**Commissioner Stemmler** stated that Whiting has some contracting work for licensed contractors.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Willie Milsap announced that Essence Rare & Indiana Black Expo (IBE) are sponsoring a Mini- Black Expo on Saturday, February 20, 2010 at Marquette Mall. There is still time to have a booth and the participate. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ward will be having a booth. Commissioner Payne says he also will be speaking.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** La Porte County Building Trade will be having a Holiday Party at Blue Chip on the week-end of February 20, 2010 and tickets are \$50.00.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program tonight at H.O.P.E. @ 6:30 p.m./ 222 Mc Clelland / Judy Pinkston is the Moderator -This Westside Project will be a Three Million dollar project and will include demolition of houses and buildings as well as renovations.

H.O.P.E. will be a site for CENSUS Workers to take the test and participants to have assistance in completing their CENSUS Forms when they arrive. The workers will be at H.O.P.E. 15 hours a week, possibly three hours a day during the months of April and May 2010. (This is still being organized)

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Commissioner Payne stated that Walter Gipson will be putting packets on buses to continue to partner and educate people on completing Census Forms and the importance on completing the forms when they arrive.

**AWARENESS AND PUBLIC POLICY:** Commissioner Richard Murphy stated that the Mayor and City Council and established a Local and Minority Hiring Oversight Committee to look into Contractors that are working in Michigan City and not hiring local and minority residents on their projects. The Committee is also meeting with the United Front Coalition and looking at the Hiring Ordinance. Their next meeting is 2/17/10 at City Hall. (No time given).

Commissioner Payne stated that a Sheryl Lowder contacted her for monies to send her son to Indianapolis (I believe) to receive an award that he won. If someone knows how to assist her, she can be contacted at 879-0940 or 229-1101. The young person is Shawn Gooden and the presentation is 2/18/2010.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Delvontae and Commissioner Payne asked for a motion to adjourn Commissioner Stemmler motion for adjournment, seconded by Commissioner Corley Ayes: 10 Nays: 0 Absent: 3 Vacant: 1

The meeting adjourned approximately 1:00 p.m.

***The next Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of the African American Males is scheduled for March 10, 2010, 12:00 noon at City Hall in the Mayor's Conference room.***

Respectfully Submitted: W. Faye Moore, Secretary (3-5-10)