

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Commissioners Present:

Albertine Allen
Marty Corley
Charles Dowdell
Joan Ganschow
Sherry Neal
Lester Norvell
Arthur Payne, Jr.
Rodney Washington

Commissioners Absent:

Marty Corley
Willie Milsap
Richard Murphy
James Stemmler

Others Present:

Andy Steele ALCo T.V. Cameraman

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Payne called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Secretary Neal called the roll and it was noted for the record. All attendance is noted above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Payne asked for a motion of acceptance for the July 2009 meeting minutes. Commissioner Washington motioned to accept. Commissioner Norvell seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote:

Ayes: 08 Nays: 0 Absent: 04 Vacant: 02
Motioned carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee:

No report.

Neighborhood and Social Factors:

No report.

Criminal Justice and Corrections:

No report.

Education:

No report.

Employment and Workforce:

No report.

Health and Addiction:

Commissioner Allen reported that the Minority Health Coalition participated in the city parade. Also, the mobile unit from Indianapolis was present.

In addition Commissioner Allen announces that the 5K Charity Walk will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009. The walk will begin at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The walk is to help raise breast cancer awareness and proceeds go to support mammograms for females in LaPorte County.

Commissioner Allen advised the Commission that she was seeking male models for her all male fashion show which is to help raise awareness concerning prostate cancer. She asked that anyone interested in participating in the fashion show to contact her at 219-879-1712.

Awareness and Public Policy:

No report.

Finance Committee:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

The commissioners agreed that a Commission needs to facilitate a summit on jobs for the community.

An organizational meeting has been scheduled for August 19th, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Members of the committee are: Joan Ganschow, Albertine Allen, Rodney Washington, Arthur Payne, and Ta-Tanesha Clark.

Secretary Neal will send out meeting information notices to the commissioners regarding the organizational meeting.

Chairperson Payne discussed the school board resolution which concerned the 3rd grade students who are being retained if they are unable to pass the language portion of the ISTEP tests. Additionally, he talked about issues such as mandatory summer school, parental rights and school/state law.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

Guest Speaker: Ta-Tanesha Clark, Human Rights Commission

Ms. Clark addressed minority issues in the community concerning the current and upcoming contract bids for the city.

Included in her summary were issues concerning monetary goals, fair hiring minority representation, and ordinance compliance. She also addressed the need for qualified people to fill the jobs. Adding that the people hired must be bonded, licensed, insured, possess sustainable cash flow and have access to a line of credit with a supply company to complete the bids.

A discussion followed regarding who will be called to work when the Michigan Blvd. repairs begin and if union represented jobs will receive preferential treatment. Commissioner Washington expressed concern over Michigan City residents (specifically minorities) having a fair opportunity to apply for jobs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Payne asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Allen motioned to accept. Commissioner Norvell seconded the motion.

Ayes: 08

Nays: 0

Absent: 04

Vacant: 02

Motioned carried.

Chairperson Payne called the meeting adjourned 1:10 p.m.

***** The next Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of the African American Males is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th, 2009, 12:00 noon at City Hall in the Mayor's Conference room.***