

M I N U T E S

MICHIGAN CITY
COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Commissioners Present:

Albertine Allen
Joan Ganschow
Faye moore
Geri Jones
Lester Norvell
Arthur Payne, Jr.
James Stemmler
Rodney Washington

Commissioners Absent:

Charles Dowdell
Marty Corley
Richard Murphy
Willie Milsap

Other's Present:

Andy Steele	ALCo T.V. Cameraman
Leonardo Victory	United Front
Brett Kelley	United Front
Erik Kurkendall	United Front

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Faye Moore called the roll and it was noted for the record. All attendance is noted above.

***Correction:** It should be noted that the September meeting was to be held at Minority Health Coalition office and Albertine Allen was present and waiting with refreshments, however, everyone showed up at City Hall while Mrs. Allen waited at the Marquette Mall Office. Added in September Attendance.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Payne asked for a motion of acceptance of the September minutes. Commissioner Norvell motioned to accept. Commissioner Washington seconded the motion. **The correction of Commissioner Albertine Allen added in attendance.** The chairperson asked for a vote:

Ayes: 08 Nays: 0 Absent: 04 Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Marty Corley absent, however Commissioner Washington stated that the grants have be turned in on time and we should be hearing something in the near future.

COMMTTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee:

No report.

Neighborhood and Social Factors:

Commissioner Stemmler had an article in the News-Dispatch Anvil Chorus in regards to the incident at O'Reilly's on Franklin Street.

Criminal Justice and Corrections:

Commissioner Moore reported on the "Neighborhood Court" -Judges Tom Alevisos and Magistrate Nancy Gettinger has established a restorative justice program called, "Neighborhood Court." This concept of hearing first time juvenile offenders for charges such as: Criminal Mischief, battery, trespass, etc., by a diverse board of residents living in the community. Presently the Board Members are: Mickey Ellch(Secretary), Christopher Kaufman- Laborer for the Parks Dept., Ionie Fly- Executive Director of Corner to Cornerstone and Nadine Randolph-staff at Corner to Cornerstone. We are meeting in the Community at 1709 E. Michigan Blvd., which is Corner to Cornerstone. Court is heard at the convenience of the parent and student, as well as board members. Other board members have accepted the challenge, however, have not attended the training, Robert Bell, former Police Officer and Janaia Kelley (22) recent graduate of Michigan City High School and resident of Michigan City all her life.

Education:

Commissioner Payne reported that he contacted Mario Rosa in regards to the GQE and for a speaker for the next meeting on graduation standards.

Health and Addiction:

Commissioner Allen reported on the Minority Health Coalition 5k Breast Cancer Walk- October 3, 2009. The event was successful. The money goes to all females and males in La Porte County who need a mammogram. The Minority Health Coalition will have approximately \$10,000. We received monies from the Tom Joyner Morning Show and Fannie Mae. There was also an all male fashion show at the Senior Center. Stores that provided fashions were Carson's and Wilson Leather. Also, Congressman Joe Donnelley's office and WEFM donated in-kind assistance and State Representative Scott Pelath.

Employment and Workforce:

Jim Stemmler mentioned that Apprenticeship Programs are not able to find work after trainees complete their training. South Bend is the only location nearby hiring.

Nominating Committee:

No report.

Finance Committee:

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Payne will continue to make contact with someone from the MCAS for our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members from the United Front spoke on Municipal Contracts and the lack of minorities these projects, especially African-American Males. They have a list of skilled workers- equipment operators, masonry workers, card carrying union workers, etc. If anyone knows of job openings, they can be contacted through the Social Status Commission. They presented a report from 2005- present of the number of African-Americans, Caucasians, Latino's and other. They have also met with Council members Meer, Murphy and McKee concerning the Human Rights Commission Ordinance of hiring workers from the community on all major construction and building projects where federal, state and local monies are used. Contractors are in non-compliance, but they are still receiving contracts. EEO Officer is not enforcing the ordinance. They have a petition, which they want residents to sign asking the Mayor to override the Ordinance and award jobs to minority contractors, the United Front being one of the contractors.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The above group: United Front- formed approximately 4 months.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Payne called the meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.

The next Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of the African American Males is scheduled for November 18, 12:00 noon at City Hall in the Mayor's Conference room. (Veteran's Day is the seconded Wednesday and City Hall will be closed).