MEETING MINUTES FOR  
MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  

September 4, 2012  
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Present:  
JoAnn Engquist  Commissioner  
Nancy Gonzalez  Commissioner  
James Guerrucci  Commissioner  
Judi Huber  Commissioner  
Mary Ellen Quinn  Chairperson  
Vicki Long  Commissioner  
Tyra Robinson-Walker  Commissioner  
Nila Williams  Commissioner

Absent:  
Marty Corley  Commissioner  
DeShawn Gordon  Treasurer  
Cory Soller  Vice-Chairperson  
Martin Hernández  Commissioner

Staff:  
Dr. Angela Jackson  Executive Director  
Larry Arness  Staff Attorney

Others:  
Meghan Buell  Citizen (LGBT)  
Johnny Mohamed  Citizen (Nation of Islam)

ROLL CALL:  
Chairperson Quinn called the meeting to order and asked for the roll to be called. Director Jackson called the roll and it was noted for the record Commissioners Corley, Gordon, Soller, Robinson-Walker, and Hernández were absent at time of roll call. Robinson-Walker arrived after the roll call. All attendance is noted above.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
Chairperson Quinn requested a motion of acceptance for the August 4th meeting. She asked were there any questions or comments. With none being noted, Commissioner Huber motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Commissioner Engquist seconded. Chairperson Quinn asked for a vote. 

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  Abstained: 0  Absent: 5  Vacant: 0  
Motion accepted as submitted.

TREASURER REPORT:  
No report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:  
Director Jackson presented all present with her verbal and written departmental report. She referred all present to the report. She highlighted a few key topics. She attended the City Council Meeting on August 21st to be continually informed of the different departmental topics related to the EEO bid package and contract compliance. Dr. Jackson met with the director of East Chicago Human Rights in order to share strategies and information. A new intern has started in the department: Will Bendt. The director and the intern attended Coffee with the Seniors on August 28. During the Month of September Dr. Jackson has a meeting scheduled with Fire Chief Martin. The
Director would like to inform the commissioners that on October 4, 2012: Minority Women Business Enterprises (MWBE) will be holding a Resource Fair at the Blue Chip. The fair will focus on Minority Women Business Enterprise Certification. The state certification allows businesses to have greater access to governmental contracts; so Michigan City could benefit from more MWBE certifications in our community.

Contract compliance is still high on Mayor Meer’s priority list; therefore, the staff is working with contractors awarded city funds and the public in keeping all parties updated on the cities policies.

**Events Calendar 2012**

1. The month of August in Review:

   **August 2012**
   - Daily open to Citizen Appointments/Walk-Ins
   - Board of Works biweekly meetings
   - Pre-Bid Contract Conferences
   - Pre-Award Contract Conferences
   - EEO (active cases)
   - Collaboration w Larry Arness- Contract Compliance/EEO bid package meetings, email, phone
   - EEO Bid Evals- Water Department & Park Department (70 active packages in route)
   - City Council Meeting August 21st – (What’s New)
   - Commission on Women (2nd Thursday @ 4:30pm) – Board member Sharon Carnes …Increasing women in the trade skills. (What’s New)
   - Intercultural Development Training – Police Dept (What’s New)
   - Contract Compliance Training (14th - 19th)
   - Advisory Contract Compliance Committee - 20th
   - Meeting with East Chicago Director – 23rd (What’s New)
   - New Intern (August 28th): Contract compliance (What’s New)
   - Coffee with Seniors- 28th

   **September 2012**
   - Meeting with Fire Chief Martin- 7th (What’s New)
   - LWV- 11th
   - Commission on Women- 13th (What’s New)
   - Advisory Contract Compliance Committee Mtg- 17th
   - Dept Head Meeting- 18th
   - Local Hiring Ordinance- Onsite Visits
   - Police Dept- Intercultural Development Training- Finalize 19th

2. **Contract Compliance – September Initiatives & Beyond**
      i. Northern Indiana Resource Fair Oct. 4 at the Blue Chip (What’s New)
   b. Local Hiring Registry- Updated weekly

**ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Attorney Arness continues to work with Dr. Jackson on contract compliance. Most recently, communication has been with the Park Dept. and EEO evaluations. Larry Arness attended a meeting with Mayor Meer and Shelly Dunleavy, the Head of Personal regarding the staff vacancy in the Department of Human Rights. Michigan City ordinances states that once a position has been vacated the City Council must vote on whether or not to fill the vacated position. The Mayor supports filling this position. Mr.
Arness also notified the commissioners of an effort to streamline the City ordinances as they pertain to the 
Department of Human Rights. Attorney Arness disclosed that 4 to 5 years ago the City looked at 
streamlining the ordinances, but no action was taken at that time. Arness said further investigation is 
needed to discover what action occurred 4 to 5 years ago.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Education Committee:
Commissioner Engquist reported this committee did not meet because the public was not properly informed 
in the correct amount of time. Attorney Arness indicated according to the ‘open door policy’ the proper 
amount of time to notify the public of a committee meeting is 48 hours. However, this does not include 
weekends or legal holidays.

Commissioner Engquist introduced Ms. Meghan Buell, who announced an event she is holding at the 
library in one of the conference rooms called “Being Transgendered in Small Town America” on Monday 
October 8th from 6 to 8pm. Ms. Buell also notified the committee that October is LGBT Month.

Disability Task Force Committee:
Commissioner Guerrucci reported the next meeting of the Disability Task Force Committee will be 
Wednesday October 17 at 3:30 in the east meeting room. Dr. Jackson will place an announcement in the 
newspaper regarding the upcoming meeting. Mr. Guerrucci passed out minutes from the July 18th 
meeting. Currently, the committee is discussing the budget that will be needed for the upcoming brunch in 
March.

Commissioner Guerrucci notified the commission that The Social and Learning Institute is having a couple 
of fundraisers in the near future. For example, Bingo at the American Legion post 37 on U.S. 20. Also, the 
Blue Knights, a group of retired police officers, will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday September 
30 from 7 to 12:30pm at the Senior Center. Tickets are $6 and available either at the Senior Center or 
Commissioner Guerrucci has some tickets. Commissioner Guerrucci hopes to see you there.

Housing Committee:
Commissioner Soller was absent. So, no Housing Committee was reported.

Annual Dinner Committee:
No report was given at this time.

SSAAM Committee:
No representative named and no report was given.
OLD BUSINESS:
Chairperson Quinn announced the retreat date will be Sunday October 21 at noon at her home. Chairperson Quinn promises it will be fun and would appreciate if everyone could attend. Commissioner Huber would like the commissioners to be the speakers, instead of bringing in outside speakers for the retreat.

NEW BUSINESS:
Chairperson Quinn introduced the new Commissioner Nila Williams. All welcomed Nila and wished her the best in her endeavors.

Commissioner Engquist reported that on Wednesday September 5 there is a Business after Hours Meeting of The Chamber of Commerce at Water’s Edge Restaurant from 5 to 7pm being sponsored by Nipsco. The event will focus on the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Commissioner Engquist informed the commissioners the Boys and Girls Scouts of America will be holding a Day for Kids on September 15 from 11 to 2pm at Marquette Mall.

Commissioner Engquist added that the Youth Summit has been moved from September 8 to October 20 more information to follow.

Commissioner Williams mentioned the mentoring program Girls About Progress (GAP) for girls age 7 to 16yrs old, which will be held at the First Pentecostal Baptist Church, 509 N. Karwick Rd. Michigan City on Saturday September 8 from 5 to 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Johnny Mohamed, a Michigan City resident represents the interests of the Nation of Islam. He is interested in developing a passion play on Christmas Eve to show the Nation of Islam’s Christ personification. Mr. Mohamed said that there is a rising issue in the United States regarding disinformation against the Nation of Islam community, which he would like to offset. He feels there is a lack of information available at the libraries and Mr. Mohamed would like to educate the community regarding the Nation of Islam. Currently Johnny Mohamed does a television program on channel 99.

ADJOURNMENT:
Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Guerrucci made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded. Chairperson Quinn asked for a vote:

Ayes: 7  Nays: 0  Abstained: 0  Absent: 5  Vacant:0
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.
NOTE: The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, October 2, 2012.