

**MEETING MINUTES FOR  
MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

*November 3, 2009  
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**Present:** Marty Corley  
JoAnn Engquist  
Nancy Gonzalez  
James Guerrucci  
Martin Hernandez  
Judi Huber  
Elizabeth Pacheco-Hubertz  
Hezzie Mitchell  
Faye Moore  
Mary Ellen Quinn  
Tyra Robinson-Walker

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Ta-Tanisha Clark                      Executive Director  
Sammie Phillips                              Assistant Director  
Larry Arness                                      Staff Attorney

**Others:** Andy Steele                              ALCO T.V. Cameraman  
Nora Akins

**ROLL CALL:**

Chairperson Quinn asked for the roll to be called. Assistant Director Phillips called the roll and it was noted for the record. All attendance is noted above.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of acceptance for the October meeting minutes. Commissioner Mitchell motioned to accept. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The chairperson asked for a vote.

**Ayes: 10      Nays: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 1      Vacant: 1**  
**Motion accepted as submitted.**

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Commissioner Mitchell gave all present the report for the HRC monthly budget. The HRC account beginning balance was \$5,664.69. One deposit was made in the amount of \$270. Two checks were written, one to Wrights Flowers for \$61.53 and the other to Mary Ellen Quinn for dinner reimbursements for \$157.27. The ending balance is \$5,715.89. A written report was giving to all present.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Director Clark reported on the case disposition and gave a brief updated report. She reported case #2008-04 is out to the PCC. The PCC asked for additional information on this case. Director reported she requested the information from the company and should be hearing from them shortly. She will forward the requested information to the PCC as soon as possible.

Director Clark also included information for anyone interested in participating in the Michigan City Education Association - A Day in the Life program. A Day in the Life will offer an opportunity to

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shadow a teacher for a day and share in the educational experience, challenges and opportunities that teachers and students face daily. She noted if anyone needed more information to contact Liz Schreeg by November 12, 2009 at [eschreeg@mcas.k12.in.us](mailto:eschreeg@mcas.k12.in.us) or (219) 873-2114 ext. 6847. Commissioner Engquist noted this was a very worthwhile program.

## **ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Staff Attorney Arness reported everything was quiet as of now and he had no report for this month.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS/EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

#### ***Education Committee:***

*Commissioner Engquist, who has accepted chairperson for this committee, reported they just met before the regular meeting to discuss the upcoming 2010 Black History Month contest. She noted the committee has set another meeting date on November 17, 2009 at 4:00 pm at City Hall in the East Conference room. The committee discussed collaborating with other agencies such as the NAACP and The Social Status of the African-American Males Commission for this event. The committee did set a date for the contest which will be **February 24, 2010**. A more detailed reported will be giving at next month's regular meeting,*

### **DISABILITY**

#### ***Disability Task Force Committee:***

*Commissioner Guerrucci reported the committee recently met on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. The meeting minutes were given to all present. He gave a brief updated report and noted a guest speaker was needed for the next quarterly meeting on January 20, 2010 at 3:45. Speakers are needed to talk about topics that affect the disabled in our community. The month of March 2010 will be Disability Awareness Month. He inquired if the HRC would support this committee by co-sponsor an event for the month of March. Several commissioners' noted this sounds like a great ideal. He will speak with committee members to create an outline for the event to present to the board of the HRC for approval.*

*Commissioner Guerrucci also reported he was a guest for local TV show, FYI. He reported his half-hour interview went very well and he enjoyed participating. He discussed what the HRC does and how it relates to helping the disabled and disadvantage in our community in regards to diversity topics.*

*Commissioner Guerrucci also noted the Governors Council for People with Disabilities is being held on November 16 & 17 in Indianapolis, IN. He is sorry to report he and Commissioner Huber will not be attending this years event due to prior engagements.*

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**HOUSING:**

*No Report was given*

**Ordinance Review - Adhoc**

*No Report was given*

**Annual Dinner**

*No Report was given*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Huber gave a follow-up report on an incident involving the M.C. Municipal Coach busing service. She reported she spoke directly with the director of the busing service, Mr. Walter Gibson, however, from the last survey done no ridership was once again requested in this area. Any one with concerns or comments is being asked to contact the department for further information: Municipal Coach Service, 1801 Kentucky Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 or by calling (219) 873-1502

Commissioner Robinson-Walker noted transportation has become a major issue for lower income families in the LaPorte County area. She plans on contacting Mr. Gipson to get some new surveys done to help families in need of transportation.

The Education Committee presented their recommendations regarding the Anti-Bullying Grant. The committee reported two grants were received; one from Elston Middle School and the other from Lake Hill Elementary School. After carefully reviewing the grants the committee recommended awarding the grant to Lake Hill Elementary School. The committee gave a brief report on their findings. Chairperson Quinn then asked for a motion of acceptance. Commissioner Corley motioned to accept the Education Committees recommendation to grant Lake Hills Elementary School the 2009-2010 Anti-Bullying Grant. Commissioner Huber seconded. Chairperson Quinn asked for a vote:

**Ayes: 11      Nays: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 0      Vacant: 1**  
**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Director Clark noted a nominating committee was needed for the election of officers for next month. Chairperson Quinn asked for volunteers. Commissioner Corley, Engquist and Huber volunteered to be on this committee.

Chairperson Quinn also wanted everyone to know, Mrs. Hazel Thomas, a long time community activist and supporter of the HRC, recently fell on ill health. She wanted all to know she is recuperating and wished her a speedy recovery and wanted everyone to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Akins reported she will be conducting a seminar "What all Managers should know about discrimination" at the M.C. Entrepreneurial Center on 11/19/2009 from 8:00 - 9:15 a.m. The fee to attend

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this event cost \$30/chamber of commerce members, \$40/non-members. For more information contact:  
Entrepreneur Center Michigan City (ECMC) 219-809-4200 ext.300.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Quinn asked for a motion of adjournment. Commissioner Hernandez made a motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Mitchell seconded. The Chairperson asked for a vote:

**Ayes: 10      Nays: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 0      Vacant: 1**  
**Motion carried.**

**The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room (WEST).**

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.