



**Orange County Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, April 14, 2014**  
**Orange County Animal Services Building Conference Room**

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			STAFF
Jamie Paulen	Gerald Ponder	Cynthia Stubbs	James Davis
Monica Richard	Christine Kelly-Kleese		
Dominika Baran	Joyce Preslar		
Doris Brunson	Rollin Russell		
G U E S T S			
Mark Marcoplos			

*Absent: Li-Chen Chin, Natalie Turner, Matthew Hughes, Joe Polich, and Marc Xavier*

**I. Call To Order**

Chair Christine Kelly-Kleese called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

The members, staff and guest, Mark Marcoplos, introduced themselves.

**III. Minutes Approval**

Gerald made a motion to approve the February 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Monica which carried unanimously. Rollin made a motion to approve the March 2014 minutes. Gerald seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**IV. County Updates**

*Orange County Expo:*

James commented on the success of the Orange County Expo, stating that the Department displayed information about Fair Housing.

*Fair Housing Month Proclamation and Event:*

Rollin announced that he was presented with the Fair Housing Month proclamation by the Board of County Commissioners. Rollin read the proclamation aloud and invited the Commissioners to attend the Fair Housing Month event held on Thursday, April 10, 2014. Doris stated that she attended the Fair Housing Month event and found the information about the status of fair housing in Orange County to be interesting. Doris further stated that she was surprised to learn that all of the housing discrimination complaints closed within the past two (2) years were generated from the Chapel Hill area. James shared information about the number of housing discrimination complaints closed, the basis of these complaints and the final disposition of each

case closed since January 2012. James further stated that he will provide a report of such information on a quarterly basis.

*BOCC Goals and Priorities:*

James shared the BOCC Goals and Priorities with the members, which was drafted during FY2009-2010. It was explained that the HRC strives to meet Goal 2, Priority 6 with regard to ensuring that the County develop plans and tools to improve its communication with citizens and foster a two-way exchange. Members discussed whether the BOCC goals and priorities will be amended after this year's election. It was suggested that if the goals and priorities change, the change will not take affect prior to January, 2015.

*Gender/Women Equality Issues:*

The members reviewed the draft letter to the Assistant County Manager regarding the HRC's role in addressing matters of women equality. Christine recommended that the letter should limit the use of the word "equality" and use "equity" instead. Dominika further suggested the phrase "equitable treatment." Members were invited to provide additional comments and suggestions to James by Friday, April 25, 2014.

**V. Subcommittee Updates**

*Executive Committee:*

Christine announced that Robert Ireland and Preston Scott Phillips resigned from the board. This opens up one (1) at-large seat and one (1) seat to be appointed by the Town of Chapel Hill. The members reviewed the current new member applications. Doris made a motion to recommend the BOCC to appoint Erin O'Daniel to the board. Joy seconded the motion. The members agreed that if Erin was no longer interested in joining the HRC, the Commissioners should appoint Vanessa Soleil. The remaining three (3) vacancies must be filled by appointment – two from the Town of Chapel Hill and one from the Town of Carrboro. James will contact the Town of Chapel Hill and inquire whether the applicants with a Chapel Hill address will be appointed.

*Building Integrated Communities (BIC):*

James provided information about the Chapel Hill Police Department's willingness to conduct outreach to the Karen community on public safety. Dominika expressed her interest in joining the BIC subcommittee. James will send information to Dominika about the subcommittee's current objectives. Christine stated that with Scott's resignation there is a need to appoint a member to chair the subcommittee.

*Diversity Matters:*

Rollin invited the members to suggest a book for the next Community Read which is planned for the fall. It was stated that the book should be on the subject of the equitable treatment of women. The members discussed a possible topic for the 2015 Human Relations Month Forum. It was recommended that the Forum topic to meld the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voter Rights Act and the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which granted women the right to vote. The subcommittee will have an e-meeting to further discuss planning the referenced events.

*Pauli Murray Awards:*

James presented the cost of the 2013 PMA plaques. The members discussed other award options for future PMA winners. Gerald announced his appreciation to Doris for joining the subcommittee.

*Essay Contest/Poster Contest*

These issues were tabled for discussion at the May meeting.

*Collateral Consequences:*

The subcommittee will determine whether to endeavor to create a list of resources for persons transitioning from the penal system into Orange County.

**VI. Social Justice Goal**

These issues were tabled for discussion at the May meeting.

**VII. Other Business/Announcements**

It was recommended that Ann Gerhardt, Executive Director of the Compass Center for Women and Children, be invited to make a presentation at the May meeting.

**VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.,  
Civil Rights Specialist