



**Orange County Human Relations Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, November 11, 2013**  
**Orange County Animal Services Building Conference Room**

M E M B E R S P R E S E N T			STAFF
Natalie (Wu) Turner	Gerald Ponder	Rollin Russell	James Davis
Monica Richard	Christine Kelly-Kleese	Joyce Preslar	
Robert Ireland	Matthew Hughes	Cynthia Stubbs	
G U E S T S			
Doris Hine Brunson	Vanessa Soleil		

*Absent: Li-Chen Chin, Preston Scott Phillips, Marc Xavier, Joe Polich, and Jamie Paulen*

**I. Call To Order**

Chair Christine Kelly-Kleese called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**II. Introductions**

Christine welcomed HRC applicants Doris Brunson and Vanessa Soleil. Commission members introduced themselves. Natalie recently married and announced that her last name is now “Turner.”

**III. Minutes**

Rollin made a motion to accept the October 14, 2013 minutes. Gerald seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**IV. County Updates**

Joyce presented relevant information from the October 29, 2013 BOCC meeting. She stated that there is a Japanese-based candy factory scheduled to open in 2015 within the County which might positively affect infrastructure and employment. Joyce gave the members and guests samples of the candy that will be manufactured at the factory.

Rollin, Robert and Joe attended the November 5, 2013 BOCC meeting. Rollin stated that representatives of Justice United and EmPOWERment made an appeal to the Commission to consider the endorsement of the Declaration of Tenants’ Rights and Responsibilities. The Commissioners may submit a reply to the appeal in December. Robert reported that two (2) other issues presented during the BOCC meeting may have relevance to the HRC. First, there was a resolution to discuss Medicaid expansion during an Executive Session. There was also discussion on possible changes by the Planning Commission with regard to required acreage for housing developments which might affect affordable housing within the County.

## V. Subcommittee Updates

### *Executive Committee:*

James reported that two (2) of the four (4) vacancies on the HRC must be filled by appointment by the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill, respectively. The remaining vacancies may be filled upon recommendation to the BOCC. Rollin made a motion to recommend to the BOCC the appointments of Doris Brunson and Vanessa Soleil, stating that these applicants have attended an HRC meeting. Robert seconded the motion. The members discussed the possibility of a Mebane appointee.

### *Building Integrated Communities:*

Christine explained the history of the Building Integrated Communities project at the UNC School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The intent of this project was to help North Carolina local governments successfully engage with immigrants and refugee populations in order to improve relationships. She explained that the subcommittee's goal is to continue this mission of improving immigrant relations.

### *Emancipation Proclamation/Human Relations Month:*

It was reported that the subcommittee will plan activities during the year 2014 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Human Relations Month Forum is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2014. Forum panelists include Mr. Al McSurely and Mr. John "Blackfeather" Jeffries. There was discussion to change the name of the subcommittee. Doris Brunson suggested "Diversity Matters" as the new name. Robert made a motion to change the name of the Emancipation Proclamation subcommittee to "Diversity Matters." Rollin seconded the motion. The members discussed and confirmed that the newly named subcommittee will plan events that address cultural, race, gender and disability diversity issues. The subcommittee would also plan the Human Relations Month activities.

### *Tenants' Bill of Rights:*

It was recommended that there will be no further action until after the County Commissioners determine whether to endorse the Declaration of Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities.

### *Pauli Murray Awards:*

It was reported that there is one (1) nomination for an adult individual award recipient. There are no nominations for a youth or a business award recipient. Gerald urged the members to encourage others to submit nominations.

### *Essay Contest:*

Christine reported that Joe is working with students who will be asked to enter the contest. This may increase the number of entries. Christine will recruit additional readers as necessary. The deadline for submitting essays is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

### *Poster Contest*

It was recommended that the winners be acknowledged during the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony. It was also suggested that the posters be displayed at the Human Relations Forum in January, 2014, the Pauli Murray Awards ceremony in February, 2014, and at the Orange County Library in Hillsborough throughout the month of March, 2014. Gerald recommended that the County display the overall winning poster on its Digital Messaging Monitor.

### *Collateral Consequences:*

Robert reported that the Collateral Consequences listening session at the Hargraves Center did not produce “proof positive” data to determine whether the target audience faced discrimination based on their criminal record. He stated that the attendees had other issues in addition to their criminal record that could have prevented them from gainful employment. These variables include poor job interviewing skills and etiquette. Robert suggested that the HRC seek a grant for a program that offers job interviewing and readiness training. Vanessa Soleil recommended the HRC to seek a relationship with businesses and employers. Doris Brunson recommended the HRC to contact Dennis Gaddy at the Community Success Initiative in Raleigh for advice. Community Success Initiative is a non-profit organization in Raleigh, NC that helps people transitioning from prison to discover their potential. The subcommittee will determine their achievable goals for the 2014 calendar year.

### **VI. Annual Report/Work Plan**

The members discussed the accomplishments of 2013 and the goals and events for 2014. Christine recommended that the report emphasizes how the HRC revitalized the Building Integrated Communities initiative. It was also recommended that the work plan include only the achievable goals for the year.

### **VII. Other Business/Announcements**

Christine presented information about the Rape Crisis Center’s annual fund raising event. The members discussed how they will participate in an event in January 2014 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

### **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

James E. Davis, Jr.,  
Civil Rights Specialist