

ONEONTA, NEW YORK – December 5, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Chair Miller called the regular meeting to order and called the roll.

PRESENT: Chair Joyce Miller
Commissioner Tom Kelly
Commissioner Michael Brown
Commissioner Paul Lawrence
Council Member Russ Southard

ABSENT: Commissioner Fida Mohammad
Commissioner Teresa Sivers -- excused
Commissioner Cecilia Zapata

PETITIONERS Mayor Miller & Police Chief Naylor—see New Business

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Brown that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 24, 2013 be approved.

Voting Ayes: Chair Miller
Commissioner Kelly
Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Brown

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Sivers
Commissioner Zapata
Commissioner Mohammad

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Safe Space Training – Chair Miller shared with the Commission the fliers that Barbara Ann Heegan had sent out inviting business owners and community members to the November 20 training event. The event was cancelled when no one responded to attending the event. Instead, Mary Bonderoff from SUNY

Oneonta made a presentation to the 26 member Board of the Chamber of Commerce at their regular meeting. It was well received.

Community Event on diversity -- Chair Miller shared information from the “International Market” held at Oneonta High School on November 8. No further discussion at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Concern on the SUNY Oneonta Campus and from the NAACP about the police use of facebook.

- After Police Chief Naylor used Facebook to announce persons who were arrested, there was a meeting with the Mayor Miller, Police Chief Naylor, and representatives from the NAACP and the City Commission on Community Relations & Human Rights (Commissioner Kelly). It was decided at that meeting that only persons arrested for felonies would be announced on Facebook.
- The NAACP further requested not using Facebook at all. Chief Naylor explained why he would not honor that request as it is a common practice of other police departments. It was also discussed how Facebook is now the information source that newspapers used to be.
- Question that was raised in the discussion: Is there a larger issue of profiling that needs to be addressed? Perception plays a big factor.
- For the Commission’s information, it was explained that on Monday mornings, Chief Naylor and the two enforcement officers of SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick sit down and go over the arrests that happened over the weekend. This communication process has proved very valuable.

➤ **MOTION**, made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Lawrence that the Commission support the current use of Facebook by the Oneonta Police Department. .

Voting Ayes: Chair Miller
Commissioner Kelly
Commissioner Lawrence
Commissioner Brown

Voting Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Siverson
Commissioner Zapata
Commissioner Mohammad

MOTION CARRIED

COMMENT: Commissioner Lawrence suggested that the City (HR Commission & Police) and the colleges have a conversation on how to change the perception.

2) The Commission Budget for 2014 will be \$900.

3) The MLK Birthday Celebration will be on January 19 from 2 – 4 pm at the First United Methodist Church at 66 Chestnut Street. There will be a planning meeting on December 12 at 5:30 at the Olympia Brown House on Ford Ave. Commissioners Brown and Miller will work with the NAACP to plan this event.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

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