

Human Rights Council
Friday, December 7, 2007
9th Street Office Building, 11th Floor
Conference Room
1:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Jon D. Strother, Chairman; Dyana Mason, Parliamentarian; Members Charles Baugham; Donald O. Campen, Jr.; Carolina Espinal; and Mary Studevant.

Deleted: **DRAFT**

Staff Present: Sandra D. Norman, Director; Cora M. Billings, Deputy Director; and Timothy Wilson, Administration/Operations Manager.

Deleted: ;

Council's Attorneys Present: Guy Horsley, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Teri Miles, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

The Chairman called the meeting to order. On motion by Member Baugham and seconded by Member Mason, the motion carried to adopt the draft agenda. On motion by Member Campen and seconded by Member Baugham, the motion carried to adopt the minutes as presented from the October 26, 2007 meeting.

Director's Report

Relocation

- Ms. Norman reported that in the spring or summer of 2008, all agencies within the 9th Street Office Building will relocate while the building undergoes renovation.

Annual Report

- Ms. Norman gave a status report on the Annual Report's progress. By the next Council's meeting, a draft of the report should be completed.
- The report will include a 6-year trend, 2000 – 2006.

Legislative Proposal

- For the 2008 legislative session, the Administration will not offer amendments to the Human Rights Act. The Council could draft proposals to amend the Human Rights Act for the 2009 session.

Deleted: The Human Rights Council (HRC) will not introduce legislation for the 2008 General Assembly session.

Deleted: <#>Certain sections of the Virginia Human Rights Act could be drafted for proposed amendments for the 2009 session.

Place of Public Accommodation

- A Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) has not been received for a copy of the file regarding the night club in Virginia Beach that denied entry to African-Americans, especially those with hairstyles that include corn rows and braids.

Deleted: ¶

¶
¶
¶
¶
¶
¶
¶

Deleted: ¶

Virginia Association for Human Rights (VAHR)

- The Council will host the association's annual conference planning meeting on January 21, 2008. The conference will be held in June in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Deleted: of
Deleted: Commissions
Deleted: C
Deleted: HRC

Prince William County Human Rights Commission's Illegal Resolution Sub-committee

- HRC is in receipt of the commission's report on illegal immigration concerns for the county.

Virginia Immigration Commission

- The commission last met on November 13, 2007 and copies of the minutes were distributed.

Budget

- No additional information has been received concerning the proposed budget cuts for the Human Rights Council.
- Because of the recent budget cuts, as a proactive measure, the Director Norman met with the agency's budget analyst in November instead of waiting until the normal timeframe of January.

Deleted: HRC for
Deleted: d
Deleted: as opposed to

Chairman's Report

Prince William County Human Rights Commission

- No action has been taken by local government to resolve the concerns that were raised by the Prince William Human Rights Commission's Illegal Immigration Resolution Sub-committee in response to an ordinance adopted by the county's board of supervisors.
- The Prince William Human Rights Commission will host a forum on immigration concerns sponsored by the Immigration Sub-committee of the Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights chaired by Ms. Linda Chavez. A member of the Prince William County Human Rights Commission's Illegal Immigration Resolution Sub-committee has been invited to speak. The forum will be held Friday, December 14, 2007 in Woodbridge, Virginia. The Chairman encouraged council members and staff to attend.

Deleted: C

Deleted: ¶

Forum Proposal

- Member Espinal will give a more formal report at the next meeting.
- Member Espinal also proposed conducting a forum within the next year referencing immigration concerns in local government; especially in Northern Virginia. It was suggested that the Council should first wait on the disposition of the Prince William Human Rights Commission.
- The Council's next forum is tentatively scheduled for March 28, 2008 in Staunton, Virginia as a combined effort with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Charlotte District Office.
- Ms. Linda Newman has been designated as the contact person for the Staunton area. With her assistance, the Staunton forum is expected to be a successful event.

Deleted: ¶
¶
¶
¶
¶

Deleted: It

Deleted: , especially with Ms. Newman's assistance

2008 Meeting Dates

- The Chairman presented a 2008 calendar with tentative meeting dates for council meetings. Those dates are February 8th; April 11th; June 13th; August 8th; October 10th; and December 12th.
- The 2008 calendar with certain dates to be adjusted as needed was received by general consensus.

Formatted: Superscript

Deleted:

Formatted: Superscript

Deleted:

Formatted: Superscript

Deleted:

Formatted: Superscript

Deleted:

Formatted: Superscript

Deleted:

Formatted: Superscript

Newspaper Article

- The Chairman presented a news article from the The Washington Post, entitled "Illegal Immigrants' Services in Fairfax: County Says Tallying Costs All But Impossible" dated December 2, 2007.
- A short discussion was held regarding the contents of the article.

Appeal Assignment

- The Chairman appointed an appeal panel for Case #1770 and appointed Member Studevand its chairman.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jon Strother
Chairman

Timothy Wilson
Recorder