

MINUTES	Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.	 CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
Human Relations Commission Meeting	Commission Room 1st Floor – City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Megan Grode Wolters, Brian Majerus, Anny Libengood, Kassidi Smith, Bill Wood, Sarah Bouwman, Alex Ramirez

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melinda Obach, Megan Myers, Kayla Heber, Justine Donaway

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Haggar, Valerie Schonewill, John Nelson

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bouwman and seconded by Majerus to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 11, 2019. Vote to approve: 7 Yeses. Motion passed.

BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Kira Kimball spoke to the commission about the National Diversity Council, which is an initiative that helps organizations recruit diverse employees in an intentional manner. It helps organizations to shape their language and policy to be inclusive. They are looking for 10-13 founding legacy businesses to contribute money to bring the National Diversity Council to South Dakota.

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

There are currently 50 discrimination cases open, and the top three bases are disability, race, and sex. In July the Human Relations Office had 102 calls or intakes related to housing, and 71 calls or intakes related to employment.

So far in 2019, the content of the housing calls and intakes has included:

- 126 about evictions
- 48 about mold
- 35 about landlords not doing repairs
- 24 about deposit dispute
- 23 about bedbugs or roaches

The commission asked if they could make public a list of landlords who illegally evict tenants, or reach out to them. Haggar said he would look into it.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

The Department of Justice announced a series of settlements to resolve allegations that several California-based mortgage loan providers engaged in national origin discrimination violating the Fair Housing Act by targeting Hispanic homeowners for predatory mortgage loan modification services, which interfered with those individuals' ability to keep their homes.

In August 2018 a former UPS employee filed a complaint in court citing a hostile work environment and gender discrimination. In December 2018, UPS had a \$4.9 million settlement with the EEOC on a religious discrimination complaint. In March, 2019, 19 workers at a UPS plant in Ohio claimed the facility "enabled, tolerated, and purposefully promoted and encouraged a culture of racism and racially discriminatory conduct."

Ramirez reported that the Department of Justice spoke with him about interest in doing a panel about hate crimes in Sioux Falls.

Wood reported about an upcoming South Dakotans Against Racism meeting at the library.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public present for input.

NEXT MEETING

September 12, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bouwman and seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Schonewill