

MINUTES	Thursday, September 12, 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: Anny Libengood, Megan Grode Wolters, Sarah Bouwman, Bill Wood, Melinda Obach, Kayla Heber, Megan Myers

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Alex Ramirez, Justine Donaway, Kassidi Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Haggar, Valerie Schonewill

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Grode Wolters and seconded by Obach to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 8, 2019. Vote to approve: 7 Yeses. Motion passed.

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

There are currently 47 active discrimination cases, and the top three bases are disability, race, and sex. In August the Human Relations Office had 95 walk-ins or phone calls regarding housing, and 42 regarding employment.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

The Department of Justice filed a discrimination lawsuit against Baltimore County Police Department, which alleges that they have engaged in unintended employment discrimination against African American applicants for police officer positions.

The Department of Justice reached a settlement agreement with U.S. Security Associates Inc. The investigation concluded that from 2015 to 2018, their Falls Church, Virginia, office required lawful permanent residents to provide specific documentation to prove their work authorization, while not imposing a similar requirement on U.S. citizens.

The Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in the District of Massachusetts alleging that female tenants were subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of the Fair Housing Act. The allegations against two employees of Prashad, Savton LLC included unwelcome sexual

advances, sexual exposure, sexual assault, and offering to lower rent in exchange for sexual acts.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER

Karen Gourley, the new Human Relations Commissioner, introduced herself to the commission.

The commission unanimously voted to move Public Input up on the agenda.

PUBLIC INPUT

Julian and Delinka Beaudion addressed the commission about KKK flyers that have been circulating lately in Sioux Falls. They have recently been distributed on Phillips Avenue and the McKennan Park area. The flyers have been distributed six out of the last seven years, and have sometimes included candy. Myers also noted there have been Unite the Right white nationalist flyers passed out at USD. The Beaudions expressed that there should be a serious community discussion about it and the City should make a public statement. The commission agreed that is something they would like to do, and will add it to October's agenda.

SFPD COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICERS

Officers Kyle Johnson and Brady Lieuwen spoke to the commission about their role as community resource officers. They conduct outreach to diverse groups in Sioux Falls, attend community events, and serve on local boards. They work on recruiting and bridging divides.

NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bouwman and seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Schonewill