

<b>MINUTES</b>	Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.	 <b>CITY OF SIOUX FALLS</b>
Human Relations Commission Meeting	Commission Room 1st Floor – City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Megan Grode Wolters, Kayla Heber, Megan Myers, Bill Wood, Karen Gourley, Anny Libengood, Lindy Obach, Justine Schoolmeester

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alex Ramirez, Sarah Bouwman, Kassidi Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:** Daniel Haggar, Valerie Schonewill

**GUEST PRESENT:** Jim David

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Libengood and seconded by Heber to approve the minutes from the October 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

**BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**

**City Ordinance Change Process:** Jim David, legislative manager for City Council, explained how city council passes new law. It takes two councilors or the mayor for an ordinance change to be proposed. David explained that he drafts the revision and meets with departments it will impact. Then the City Attorney’s office has to review it for legality, once they sign it Communications department looks it over for grammar and spelling. It then goes to a first reading in front of city council, then a second reading. Public can give input at both readings. Ordinance change has to be approved by five councilors, published in the Argus Leader for 20 days, then ordinance becomes effective

Libengood asked if any citizen boards tried to change an ordinance, David said not that he knows of, but they are free to contact a council member.

**Dissemination of the anti-hate statement:** The commission agreed they would like to release it to the public. The commission would like an update with what is happening with the Human Relations social media accounts, they think it would be a good opportunity to do it under the general One Sioux Falls concept. Would also like a standard press release.

Haggar said he would look into disseminating the statement through the City's social media, and creating a press release. It was also suggested the statement could be a handout for outreach, and be part of a video on CityLink.

Grode Wolters made a motion to disseminate statement however Haggar finds we can, seconded by Obach. Motion passed.

**Census:** The Mayor' office is looking for help identifying leaders in diverse/underserved and undercounted populations that can be asked to encourage their communities to participate in the 2020 census. Libengood said she knows someone on a census committee who said mobile home parks most underreported. If anyone has any names in mind they can send them to Haggar to pass along. The commission also agreed the commissioners who were not present should be emailed about this project.

### **HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS**

The Human Relations Division has 46 active discrimination cases, top three bases: disability, race, and sex. In October the Human Relations Office had 111 walk-ins or phone calls regarding housing, and 44 regarding employment. Also in October, two discrimination cases had successful mediations with settlements – one housing, one employment.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE**

The DOJ settled with two hotels in Virginia for disability discrimination. They had both told veterans with service animals that they couldn't stay there because of a no dog policy.

In South Carolina a man was sentenced to 10 years in prison and had to pay \$272,000 in restitution for forcing an African American man with intellectual disabilities to work at his restaurant for no pay.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission settled a suit against a Houston-based oil field company for racial discrimination. It subjected nine African American employees to a hostile work environment that included pervasive use of racial slurs, assigned these employees lower paying jobs, and fired them for reporting racial harassment.

At this time Myers and Obach provided an update about the Native American Day Parade – It went well, they handed out a lot of flyers and ran out of candy. People seemed interested in the information they provided. They spoke with several people who said they live outside of Sioux Falls.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Brian Gochal asked if this commission could present an ordinance to city council. Wood suggested a member of the public talk to the city attorney first, then talk to city councilors.

Myers suggested talking to the people involved in attempting ordinance change in 2016 and see what happened.

Fernando Ortiz expressed that he would like more information on the commission's project regarding organization in Sioux Falls that offer ESL/ELL classes.

**NEXT MEETING**

December 12, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Wood and seconded by Obach to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:05.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Schonewill