

<b>MINUTES</b>	Thursday, December 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:** Melinda Obach, Anny Libengood, Justine Schoolmeester, Sarah Bouwman, Bill Wood, Megan Grode Wolters, Alex Ramirez

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kassidi Smith, Megan Myers, Karen Gourley, Kayla Heber

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

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Wood and seconded by Bouwman to approve the minutes from the November 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

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

Transformation Project – Susan Bill presented on this organization. She created a support group for parents of transgender youth in South Dakota, which meets monthly and provides education and support. 50% of transgender individuals in SD have attempted suicide. She provided definitions on gender expression and gender dysphoria.

ESL Project – Libengood and Obach reported on the list they had compiled, and said that they sent it to TJ Nelson.

TJ Nelson reported to the commission that they are hoping to include the anti-hate statement in the first or second City Council meeting in January 2020. They are hoping to do a press release beforehand. He said they will do a press release and share on social media.

## **HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS**

The Human Relations Division has 46 active discrimination cases, top three bases: disability, race, and sex. In November the Human Relations Office had 86 walk-ins or phone calls regarding housing, and 42 regarding employment. In November three discrimination cases successfully resolved through mediation with settlements. All three housing complaints, two were based on disability, one on race.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE**

The Department of Justice settled with a daycare in New Jersey that expelled a three year old child with Down Syndrome because she wasn't fully toilet trained.

The Department of Education is investigating elite universities for anti-Semitism. At a Hanukkah celebration in the White House Trump stated they were broadening the civil rights protection of Judaism to include race or national origin, not just religion.

Five Kennesaw State University cheerleaders took a knee during the national anthem at a college football team, and were then prohibited from appearing on the field during the national anthem during the next two football games. One of the cheerleaders filed a lawsuit saying they were violating her civil rights, and was awarded \$145,000.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

No public present for input.

## **NEXT MEETING**

January 9, 2020.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ramirez and seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Schonewill