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VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 4, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Mary Marzec-Gerrior, Chair, Nathan Besio, Donald Vickers, Mary Brodsky. Staff: Nelson Campbell, Ellen Maxon, and Kate Spence, Administrative Law Examiners, Tamar Cole, Executive Staff Assistant (minutes). Karen Richards, Executive Director, was away on family matters.

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 by the Commission Chair, Mary Marzec-Gerrior.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Chair introduced Kate Spence, the new Administrative Law Examiner, and welcomed her to the Human Rights Commission.

Because the Executive Director was unable to attend the Commission Meeting, it was determined that the Vermont Legal Aid testing program discussion, scheduled for December 4, 2014, would be moved to the January 22, 2015 meeting.

Commissioner Besio stated he will not be able to attend the January 22nd, meeting. Commissioner Vickers stated he will be available by phone.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes of October 30, 2014 was made by the chair, Commissioner Marzec-Gerrior. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Besio.

Approved: Vote: 4-0

Executive Director's Report:

Commissioner Brodsky stated she appreciated that Michael Duane and Executive Director Karen Richards are working together with an MOU in place concerning the HRC/AG's office.

Commissioner Vickers inquired about how long it will take the Silloway appeal to be heard at the Supreme Court. Staff stated many months.

Budget:

Commissioner Vickers asked if the budget did or did not reflect the latest budget rescission. The Staff will get back to the Commissioners regarding that issue.

Outreach:

Commissioner Vickers asked about Administrative Law Examiner (A.L.E.) Campbell's training in the Springfield School District. A.L.E. Campbell stated her training was a sexual harassment training focused on the custodial staff and not the students and teachers. She stated continues to make herself available for future trainings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair moved to go into executive session to hear a confidential case. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Besio. Vote passed 4-0.

The Commissioners came out of executive session to vote on case PA14-0023. Commissioner Brodsky moved to accept Administrative Law Examiner Ellen Maxon's recommendation of reasonable grounds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Besio. Vote 4-0. The Commissioners indicated that they wanted to go on record to commend the city of Montpelier and Capitol Plaza for taking reasonable steps to improve the snow removal and accessibility issues in the parking lot of Capitol Plaza.

BUSINESS MEETING RESUMED

The Commissioners voted to come out of executive session. The Commissioners suggested the HRC do public service announcements regarding snow removal in accessible parking areas.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of having newspapers write an article regarding the issue of snow removal in accessible parking spots or posting phone numbers on the parking signs for people to call if an accessible parking space is inaccessible due to snow or other objects.

The Commissioners discussed whether there should be a law passed stating snow cannot be pushed into accessible parking spots.

The discussion wrapped up with a few final comments:

All Commissioners would like to see more public information available, especially in snow season with regard to accessible parking spaces. Commissioners suggested that the Executive Director talk to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Commissioners suggested that the HRC generate a newsletter on the issue.

Pre-Determination Conciliation Agreement

Name of Case: Schoolcraft v. Willinbachker, Winooski Housing Authority

Case Number(s): HRC Case no: HV15-0006

HUD Case No: 01-15-0025-8

Approved by the Commissioners 4-0

Pre-Determination Conciliation Agreement

Name of Case: Berthiaume v. Bennington Housing Authority

Case Number(s): HRC Case No. HV15-0003

HUD Case No. 01-14-0438-8

Approved by the Commissioners 4-0

Break for lunch: 12:00

Business Meeting was resumed at 12:40

Discussion about Vision and Value Statement.

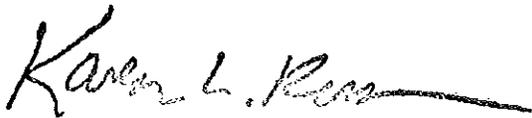
After a brief discussion it was agreed that since the Executive Director was not present the Commissioners would hold off on the discussion and revisit this issue at the January 22, 2015 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tamar Cole, Executive Staff Assistant



Karen L. Richards, Executive Director