



VT Human Rights Commission
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ATTACHMENT 1

VERMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 11, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners: Mary Marzec-Gerrior, Chair, Donald Vickers, Nathan Besio, and Chuck Kletecka (arriving at 9:46 a.m.), Substitute Commissioner. Staff: Karen Richards, Executive Director, Nelson Campbell, Administrative Law Examiner, Jocelyn Bolduc, Executive Staff Assistant (minutes).

Commissioner Marzec called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES: Vickers moved to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Ellis. Vote 4-0 (Kletecka not yet present)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

BUDGET

The VHRC General Fund is currently projected to be under budget by \$34K. We also had somewhat of a boon when we discovered that the Attorney General's Office has failed to pay us for our employment (EEOC) cases for the last three federal fiscal years due to an expired MOU. It appears that they owe us about \$19,575. Federal Funds are projected to over spend by about \$4K but we will be receiving an additional \$7500 from a FHAP Partnership grant so that will close all of this gap. Our proposed FY18 GF target is \$479,657- total budget \$549,758. The House Appropriations Committee (HAC) has asked HRC to do a two-year budget. There does not appear to be any particular advantage doing this nor is it clear whether the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) is in agreement with this concept.

HUD GRANT

We received an Addendum to our Memorandum of Understanding from HUD on April 21, 2017. We signed the document and sent it back to HUD for their signature. The Addendum will be effective for five (5) years from the date of the last signature so until sometime in 2022.

Both ALE Yang and ALE Lee Sing attended a one-week fair housing training in Washington D.C. the week of March 27-31.

Housing case intake has increased dramatically in the meantime. We are presently at 23 new cases. We need to process (i.e. complete) 15 cases this year. We have processed 10-12 as of the date of this report. As of July 1, 2017, HUD has increased that number to 20 cases per year for FFY17. ED Richards has shifted some housing cases to ALE Yang to assist with meeting this number. Additionally, ED Richards has been doing all fair housing trainings to keep ALE time free for cases. A full statistical report will be provided to the Commissioners at the May 25th meeting.

UPDATES

Newsletter- We now have the ability to track website hits. We will provide this information in the Outreach and Statistics Report for the May 25th meeting. The newsletters are or will be relabeled to indicate the topic covered thus making them more accessible. April's issue addressed fair housing issues.

AG/DHR Agreements- ED Richards and the new Senior Attorney overseeing the civil division at the AGO reached an agreement on a final Confidentiality Agreement. We continue to work collaboratively on other issues between our respective agencies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Vickers made a motion to go into executive session at 9:25 a.m. to discuss litigation where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the HRC at substantial disadvantage. The motion was seconded by Besio. Vote 4-0 (Kletecka not yet present)

EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued): To hear confidential cases at 10:09 a.m.

VHRC Case No. E17-0004
EEOC Case No. 16K-2017-00028C

Marzec-Gerrior brought the VHRC out of executive session at 10:50 a.m. Kletecka moved to accept the recommendation of No Reasonable Grounds. The motion was seconded by Besio. Vote 5-0

Ellis made a motion to go into executive session to hear confidential cases at 10:52 a.m. The motion was seconded by Vickers. Vote 5-0

Jeff Nolan v. Wesco, Inc. d/b/a Champlain Farms "Capital Deli"
VHRC Case No. PA17-0002

Marzec-Gerrior brought the VHRC out of executive session at 12:14 p.m. Kletecka moved to accept the recommendation of Reasonable Grounds. The motion was seconded by Besio. Vote 4-1 (Marzec-Gerrior opposed).

BUSINESS MEETING (continued):

PRE-DETERMINATION CONCILIATION AGREEMENTS (by staff)

Tenant v. Private Property Owner
VHRC Case No. HV17-0015
HUD Case No. 01-17-6013-8


Discussion with ED Richards and Commissioners about April 2018 being the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 30th anniversary of the VHRC. Looking for ideas from Commissioners on thoughts for celebrating each. ED Richards will write up notes of the discussion and provide them for the May 25th meeting. The Commissioners will take the lead on the 30th Anniversary planning.

Commissioners Meeting with Marc Wennberg; Restorative Justice discussion in preparation for Friday, May 12, 2017 retreat.

NEXT MEETING May 25, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. *16th*
Dated at Montpelier, Vermont this ~~11th~~ day of May 2017.

Respectfully submitted:



Karen L. Richards
Executive Director