

St Cloud Area Regional Human Rights Commission

Wed June 21, 2017

St Cloud City Hall Conference Room One

6 pm – 7 pm

Commissioners Present: Eunice Aadjei (Chair), Sarah Drake (Vice Chair), Judy Foster (Housing Working Group), Rachel Wexelbaum (Secretary / Expect Resistance: RRIP!), Heidi Hovis (St Cloud Human Rights Officer / Community Policing Agreement), Jonathan Wong (St Cloud Human Rights Office Intern / Community Policing Agreement)

Guests: Meredith Barth (Expect Resistance! / Community Policing Agreement), Tina Gross (Expect Resistance! / SCSU), Tim Hamburger (Expect Resistance: RRIP!), Jenny Kalpin (Expect Resistance: RRIP!), Melissa Prescott (Expect Resistance: RRIP! / SCSU), Britton Mikkelsen (SCSU / DFL / Expect Resistance), Aric Putnam (Expect Resistance: RRIP! / St Johns-St Bens), Natalie Ringsmuth (Expect Resistance: RRIP! / UniteCloud / SCSU), Monica Segura-Schwartz (Community Policing Agreement / Expect Resistance: RRIP!)

1. Welcome and introduction

Eunice asked everyone to introduce themselves and share what they liked to do over the summer.

2. Debrief Housing forum

Rachel gave brief summary of the tenant's rights forum. Commission thought it went well—good information and satisfactory attendance, but will shoot for more widespread promotion at next event. Commission will organize this event again in 2018, and will reach out to the Somali community again and have the interpreters there. A BIG THANK YOU to Judy Foster for organizing it—it was great!

3. Budget for Pride and Main Street

Rachel will provide the registration fees to Eunice and she will give them to Matt Glaesman.

4. Proposal for racial profiling forum.

Rachel introduced the concept of a combined racial profiling/Community Policing Agreement education forum or discussion session, based on discussions in RRIP in response to reported racial profiling incidents in the region and the work that people in the Community Policing Agreement group are doing. RRIP, Community Policing Agreement, and Human Rights Commission officers discussed different approaches to education sessions and the pros and cons of having an open forum to discuss racial profiling. Those working on the Community Policing Agreement gave background on the agreement, information on who is currently involved in working on it, how they are organized (three subgroups: Community Engagement, Complaint Process, **and one more**), and what needs to be done. The St Cloud Human Rights Office is supportive of having one educational session on the Community Policing Agreement, as two of their roles is to provide community education and to communicate with law enforcement about discrimination within law enforcement. The main goal—to educate the community about this agreement and for what the community will hold the police accountable. Members of Community Policing Agreement stressed that the document was still in draft form, and that they were seeking input on it and edits from all communities impacted by bias (transgender

community, those experiencing homelessness, others). Rachel was asked to reach out to PFLAG to find out who in the trans community would be willing to participate in the process. While undecided about police presence at the event, the Chief Human Rights Officer Kevin Lindsey would be invited. The Human Rights Office invited those involved in the agreement, RRIP, and human rights commissioners to collaborate and plan the event. The commission will continue discussion about planning the event on Wednesday July 19, 6 pm, St Cloud City Hall.

Human Rights Office Update: Heidi will be out on maternity leave between July and August, but there will always be someone in the office during business hours. There will be a Human Rights Officer coming from the Cities to St Cloud every Wednesday. Jonathan works in the office full time, so it will always be staffed while Heidi is away.

Action Items for Next Meeting:

1. Read the draft Community Policing Agreement to get familiar with it and to comment on it;
2. Draft ideas for the Community Policing Agreement education session.

Meeting Adjourned 7 pm

Human Rights Commission debriefed after the meeting—believed that the discussion went well and that we are moving in the right direction.

5. Housing Workgroup Update
6. Other
7. Adjourn