

**PROPOSED MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
January 6, 2016**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the third floor conference room #337 in City Hall. Members present denoted by *, members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Isaac Chemmanam-x	Isaac Blount-*	Lloyd Horton -x
Byung Lee -*	Prudencio Martinez-Mengel-*	Franchine Peña-*	
Heena Shah-*	Bonnie Snyder-*	Jake Srednicki-*	Rajesh Verma-*
Ritvik Verma-x	Kathy Moore-*	Rose Glover, Council Member-x	
Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*			

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Several announcements were provided about upcoming community events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Franchine Peña, seconded by Rajesh Verma, to approve the December 2015 minutes with any corrections, if there be any. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Senior Citizens Christmas Celebration

The fourth annual Senior Citizens Christmas Celebration was held on Thursday, December 3, 2015, at the Barnes-Ebron-Taft Community Center at 11:00 am. Employees of the Greenville Police Department and the Pitt County Sheriff's Department served as volunteers. Music was provided by Minister Ernest Silver and words of encouragement was provided by the Police Chief Mark Holtzman, Sheriff Neil Elks and County Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn. Members of the Council agreed that it was one of the best terms of attendance and food. It was suggested that various strategies are created for reaching a more diverse audience.

Annual Award Ceremony

Cassandra Daniels stated the Forty-Fourth Anniversary of the Council and the award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2016. The event will take place at the Greenville Hilton at 5:30 pm. The theme: "Celebrating and Honoring Those Who Make a Difference". It's important that the Council continue their efforts in rewarding individuals and organizations/businesses for their time and energy in helping others. There are many who donate their time and expertise for the good of the Greenville community.

Also, the subcommittee discussed and decided the following should remain the same: (1) the theme - "Celebrating and Honoring Those Who Make A Difference" should remain the same, and (2) the menu. The subcommittee discussed social media strategies that would allow information regarding the event to reach a wider audience. Cassandra Daniels stated she spoke with the IT Department about residents having difficulty navigating through the City's website and requested other options for retrieving the information. According to the IT Department, if the web address coghrc.greenvillenc.gov (without the www.) is used and included in the Council's marketing material, it would be easier for them to access the information. The city's social media sites is another resource that can be used. Cassandra Daniels stated she would contact subcommittee members via e-mail for the next meeting.

Motivational Speaker – Boxer James “Boncrusher” Smith

Byung Lee stated it would be rewarding to have Mr. Smith visit Greenville to speak with our youth. He is a motivational speaker and minister. He is someone that our youth could gain valuable lessons from. Champion for Kids is a nonprofit organization, developed by Mr. Smith to mentor kids around the world. Through his mentoring program, he teaches youth to be all they can be every day. Whether you are a world boxing champion, businessman, student or whatever your career path is, life is full of losses and setbacks. The success of anyone depends on what we do next.

This event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Boys and Girls Club, located in Winterville. Subcommittee members are: Connor Woods, Byung Lee, Rejesh Verma, Isaac Chemmanam, Samar Badwan, and Kathy Moore.

After much discussion, Cassandra Daniels stated she would send a meeting notification to subcommittee members for a meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Relations Council Meeting Date/Time

Cassandra Daniels stated there has been a growing interest in changing the meeting night and time for the Council’s regular meeting. After checking the city’s calendar, Conference Room 337, is available for the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Jake Srednicki, seconded by Franchine Peña, to change the Council’s, regular meetings from the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm, to the Fourth Thursday at 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Cuny Institute

Cassandra Daniels stated a member of the Dismantling Racism Working Group provided information to the group about the Cuny Institute. The organization is paid by various grants to work with local governments. Web address are listed for this Council to visit their site and determine if this is something that is of interest to us and if we can use their services.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Rajesh Verma, seconded by Samar Badwan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer