

**MINUTES
BY GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
JANUARY 23, 2020**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 6:00 PM in Conference Room 337, located on the third floor of City Hall. Members present denoted by *, members absent denoted by x.

Samar Badwan-*	Olive Barrett-*	Montez Bishop-*	Jim Cox-*
Rod Debs-*	Todd Fraley-*	Roopa Gandhi-x	Shane Knight-*
Francisco Limon-*	Antoinette Litz-*	Antonio Milton-*	Lomax Mizzelle-*
Franchine Peña-*	Mark Rasdorf-x	LaQuon Rogers-*	Heena Shah-*
Deborah Shepard-*			

Rose Glover, Council Member-x Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*

Samar Badwan called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the January 23rd meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcement was made:

- Heena Shah: Republic Day of India will take place at Wahl-Coats Elementary School on Saturday, January 26th at 4:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No minutes were available.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Celebrating the Heartbeat of our Greenville Community

Samar Badwan stated she believe the event was well attended; approximately 95-100 people and it was a great event. The proclamation presented by Mayor P. J. Connelly was the highlight of the event. After the event, many were asking for a copy of the proclamation. Samar Badwan also stated that the proclamation was one of the priorities from the list of items developed from a community leaders meeting that was held by Mayor P. J. Connelly and City Manager, Ann Wall, after President Trump visited the City in July of 2019.

Lomax Mizzelle stated it was a good event; but wish there were more in attendance to witness the reading of the proclamation – which was well put together. **Rod Deb** stated it was a wonderful event. A question was raised regarding the prayer. People should be able to pray out of their own integrity and own faith tradition; and that should be honored. However, if possible, nonsectarian prayers should be offered in public prayers. It's a balancing act when inviting someone to pray, we should let them know this is an interfaith community; and that should be reflected in the prayer. **Todd Fraley** asked if there was any pushback and if any media present. **Samar Badwan**, as well as **Franchine Pena** replied the media was present (The Daily Reflector, WNCT, WITN) and the event was broadcasted live via GTV-9. **Jim Cox**, stated the video was great; and asked if the City will use it for different events, especially for branding? **Cassandra Daniels** stated not sure if it could or would be used for different events. However, the video will be placed in rotation with

other videos created for various events for the City. **Franchine Pena** agreed with Jim Cox and stated, the video is an excellent vehicle that can be utilized as part of the City's branding, "finding yourself in good company," and an excellent tool. Also, there is a meeting on Monday with the City Manager and will ask if the video could be used to assist with the City's branding efforts. Other **Councilmembers** felt the proclamation and diversity video was very good. In addition, **Kelvin Thomas**, did an awesome job in putting the video together.

B. GAME P.L.A.Y (POLICE, LIFE AND YOUTH)

Samar Badwan stated the City's second GAME P.L.A.Y event was held **Thursday, November 7th** at Eppes Recreation Center, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. GAME P.L.A.Y (police, life and youth) is a community program designed to change the lives of youth in our community by providing opportunities for youth and law enforcement to come together and interact with one another. Also, the follow-up meeting was held on Thursday, November 21st at 1:30 pm to examine the effectiveness of the November 7th event.

Cassandra Daniels reported that at the follow-up meeting held on Thursday, November 21st at 1:30 pm; that 272 students attended the event, and that number does not include any of the volunteers or law enforcement officers attending. Again, there were more students than expected for age groups, especially among middle and high school students. There was a number of concerns regarding breakout rooms and some equipment not working. In addition, members of the Youth Council communicated the same concerns as those serving on the committee; such as, breakout rooms not large enough and some equipment not working.

Samar Badwan, Lomax Mizzelle, and Franchine Pena agreed that it was a great event and there is some discussion that the 2020 event may take place at the Girls and Boys Club. **Rod Debs** stated it was a great media event and very effective. He questioned if it would be easier if the event was hosted at each school. This will allow for adequate spacing and fewer officers at one time. **Cassandra Daniels** stated this is an event sponsored by the City and the co-creators of GAME P.L.A.Y (Dion Dail and Gera Miles). The co-creators are not paid; and the financial obligations are provided by the City.

C. Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon

Franchine Pena stated the Senior Citizens Christmas luncheon was held at the Drew Steele Center on Thursday, December 5, 2019. Rev. Eve Rogers was the presenter and her topic was "encouragement". Mayor Connelly, Police Chief Holtzman, Fire/Rescue Chief Griffith, and Sheriff Paula Dance gave brief remarks. The seniors were served by public safety officers from Greenville Police and Fire/Rescue and Pitt County Sherriff's office. Event was catered by Seahorse Restaurant. Media from three television stations attended. **Todd Fraley**, suggested that a vacant chair is placed at each table so a public safety officer is seated at each table and have an opportunity be have conversations with officers. **Rod Debs** asked if there was a way the Council can make this event more inclusive/diverse with the attendance. The Council agreed the experience has to broaden so others can attend and feel included in some way. A diverse group of people sits on this Council. Hopefully, the Council will be able to find a way to make this not only diverse, but enjoyable for all who attend. It was suggested the name be changed to "Senior Citizens Holiday Celebration or Luncheon". Not everyone believes in or celebrate Christmas. Since the Special Olympics have their event the night before; it has been suggested the City's event be changed to the second Thursday in December.

D. Annual Award Ceremony and Reception

Franchine Pena stated the award ceremony will take place on Saturday, February 22nd at the Hilton. The deadline to submit nominations has been changed from Sunday, February 2nd to Sunday, February 9th at 11:59pm.

Cassandra Daniels informed the Council of the need to change/cancel their February 27th meeting; because it occurs after the event; and to have a special call meeting on February 13th at 6:30 pm to discuss/accept recommendations of the subcommittee award winners. Motion was made by Todd Fraley, seconded by Montez Bishop, to cancel the February 27th meeting; and the Council meet on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 pm to hear recommendations of the subcommittee for award winners. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Lifetime Achievement Award

Cassandra Daniels reminded the Council of the criteria for the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, which is to recognize and promote individuals who have made a significant contribution to human relations and humanitarian efforts over a sustained period of time. The Award acknowledges an individual who has an established history of distinguished service; made a lasting contribution to inclusive communities and helping to ensure every voice is heard; exhibited leadership and provided inspiration to others; and, positively influenced diverse and equal opportunities for mankind. Only members of the Council can make recommendations for this award.

NEW BUSINESS

Cassandra Daniels reminded the Council that Fair Housing Month is in April. The subcommittee will be contacted regarding a date/time for meetings.

Subcommittee Meetings

Cassandra Daniels suggested that subcommittee meetings take place an hour prior to the Council's regular meeting.

Comments – No comments

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Antonio Milton, seconded by Jim Cox, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Human Relations Officer