

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
June 22, 2023**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held in COMPSTAT Conference Room. Members absent denoted by x.

Zykeiah Allen-x	Deninisa Allsbrook-*	Samar Badwan-*
Olive Barrett-*	Todd Fraley-*	Tyleik Harris-*
Logan Harrison-*	Antonio Milton-x	Lomax Mizzelle-*
Franchine Peña-*	LaQuon Rogers-x	Procopio Serrano-*
Tyrone Walston-x		

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

ROLL CALL: *Ms. Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison*, called the roll and quorum was ascertained.

Ms. Samar Badwan, Chair called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mrs. Franchine Pena, seconded by Mr. Logan Harrison, to approve the February 23, 2023 minutes with the necessary correction, if there be any. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

GHRC Fiftieth Anniversary

Members of the Council stated the Fiftieth Anniversary was a huge success. The presenter, Mr. Toussaint Romain, the Chief Executive Officer for Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, was very engaging and did an excellent job. Also, they were equally impressed with Mr. Procopio Serrano's daughter and other performers who provided entertainment for the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Hybrid Meetings

Staff Liaison, Cassandra Daniels, stated she was asked by the City Clerk, Ms. Valerie Shiuwegar, about hybrid meetings. Before COVID, there were no issues with members of the Council attending meetings, events, etc. Since COVID and the implementation of ZOOM (no longer an option) meetings, everything has changed. A hybrid method will help members to maintain their flexibility which allows them to juggle personal and professional lifestyles. Essentially, volunteers are given an opportunity to decide which choice is best for them.

Members of the Council believe it would be great if an option was in place to meet in person or via zoom. It was expressed by some that a choice would increase attendance for those who are traveling or just stuck in traffic, if someone's child is sick or if a parent is running late to relieve the other parent. Having flexibility is a better choice for everyone.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Tyleik Harris, seconded by Mrs. Deninisa Allsbrook, that a request is made to management via the Leadership Team (includes the Human Relations Council members, City Manager and the Mayor) that a pilot study is conducted with the Human Relations Council regarding the effectiveness of hybrid meetings. Motion was unanimously approved.

GHRC Annual Award Ceremony – Saturday, February 24, 2024

Staff informed the Council that the Hilton has another event scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2024. If the Council would like to keep the award ceremony there, they would have to change the date. Alternate dates at the Hilton are: February 3rd or 10th; or March 2nd of 2024. The option is to for the Council to host the event at a different venue. Staff has contacted the Convention Center and space is available. Two options at the Convention Center are: the Emerald Room and the Exhibit Hall.

After much discussion regarding the capacity of the Emerald Room and the Exhibit Hall, Mr. Procopio Serrano, made a motion that the Human Relations Council reserve the Exhibit Hall at the Convention Center for the 2024 Annual Awards Ceremony. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Franchine Pena.

Inclusive Community Breakfast

Mr. Logan Harrison, Chairperson for the breakfast, stated the subcommittee met, Tuesday, June 20th to discuss the event. The breakfast will take place at the Hilton on Thursday, September 28th at 8:30 am. The theme is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in the Arts. This will be a round-table discussion, consisting of four (4) or five (5) panel members. Four panel members have confirmed their availability and attendance are: (1) Ms. Regina Garcia, an Instructor at Pitt Community College; (2) Mr. Russell Knight, Art Teacher with Pitt County Schools; (3) Ms. Pamela Jordan-Mayo, Director of Black Creatives of Pitt County; and Mr. Randall Leach, Art Teacher with Pitt County Schools and community activist. A list of questions will be provided to the panelist prior to the event.

Council members expressed their concerns regarding diversifying the breakfast more. There should be more Asians, Hispanics, Indians, etc. attending the event. There are some; but there should be more.

Juneteenth Celebration

Staff stated she attended the Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the West Greenville Health Center Committee. The event was well attended; however, there were some drawbacks with the location and/or site for the event. Of course, there was not enough parking and the location itself is not large enough. There was food trucks and vendors. Also, there were steppers, spoken-word, and a high school drumline along with other entertainment. Again, a drawback for me was the availability of space.

The West Greenville Health Center would like to partner with the Human Relations Council for the 2024 Juneteenth event. A motion was made by Mr. Logan Harrison, seconded by Mr. Tyleik Harris, the Human Relations Council partner with the West Greenville Health Center in celebration of the 2024 Juneteenth event. Motion passed unanimously.

Multicultural Arts Festival

Staff stated that Ms. Holly Garriott, with Emerge Art Gallery contacted her regarding assisting with preparing and implementing a Multicultural Arts Festival for the City of Greenville. They are looking for partnerships and for others to serve on the planning committee. A motion was made by Mrs. Lomax Mizzell, seconded by Mrs. Franchine Pena that the Council partner with Emerge Arts Gallery to assist with hosting this event. Motion carried unanimously.

Racial Equity Task Forces Report

Staff reported the Council has been provided with the full report, the executive summary and the MOU (between the City and PCC) of the Racial Equity Task Forces Report. The Connecting People: Planting Seeds to Dismantle Racism hosted a July 16, 2020 Critical Conversation held in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Parish Hall. The Critical Conversation sparked lively and productive insight. With the question: *"What does racial equity look like to you?"*, four (4) Task Forces were created - each with a mission to work towards racial equity in 1) Education; 2) Business & Economic Opportunities 3) Law Enforcement; and 4) Criminal Justice. The following is a brief narrative and the recommendations of this year-long initiative. Each task force report consist of a list of recommendations. However, not all recommendations apply to the City of Greenville. The Business and Economic Opportunities, sphere headed by Rev. Bob Hudak, directly impacts the City and Pitt Community College. The MOU which has been approved by all parties (City and PCC) is provided for us to move forward in the next step.

Neighborhood and Business Services Department – Effective July 1, 2023

Staff informed the Council of the new department, "Neighborhood and Business Services", where the liaison for the Council will be a part of. The Director is Mrs. Tiana Berryman.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Procopio Serrano seconded by Mr. Logan Harrison, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer