

Allentown

*435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101*



Minutes

Thursday, June 3, 2021

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

Human Relations Commission

ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS MINUTES
THURSDAY JUNE 3, 2021
435 HAMILTON STREET-CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Meeting was called to order by Treasurer Sharon Frasier at 6:05 after some technical issues were resolved with the virtual participants. Pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence were followed by roll call.

Commissioners present: Carmen Roman, Sukwon Lee, Hamp Smith, Linda Vega, Connie Santos, Tatiana Tooley, and new PT investigator Ciera Villalobos. Attending virtually were Sharon Fraser, Louis Holzman, and new Commissioner Shane Gill.

Excused: Janet Morillo

Unexcused: Tracie Springe and William Seng

Guest: attendees included: Tyrone Russell, Kevin Greene, Kellie Greene, Delia Marrero, and Camilla Greene.

Tatiana introduced our newest commissioner, Shane Gill.

As there was no quorum for the May meeting, there were no minutes to approve.

Invited guest speaker, Kevin Greene, presented a short video and spoke about the meaning and origins of Juneteenth which is a Celebration of Freedom and Fight for Continued Justice. Allentown will celebrate on June nineteenth for the first time at various locations with planned activities, music and food. We are all encouraged to participate.

HRC officer, Tatiana took the floor to introduce Ciera Villalobos our new PT investigator. She has assisted in one investigation thus far. Ciera has also been tasked with helping to organize the upcoming banquet. She reported on the following and presented the documents and spreadsheets she created to be used going forward. They include: 1) Nomination Letter 2) Requirements for nominees 3) Nominee tracking form 4) Guest tracker 5) Sponsor letter 6) Food selection document and 7) Event invite with link to purchase tickets. Capacity at Barristers has been increased to 112. Questions were posed regarding eligibility of nominees by Sharon and Linda. Nominees may be individuals or organizations as long as their work is done within the city. Carmen inquired about an official seal. There is no commission seal yet, but the document will have the city seal. Sharon asked how we will get the word out. We will rely on our commissioners, outreach and social media. Linda noted that she was a former recipient and that we should take this seriously as it was a great honor to her.

Tatiana summarized an incident that occurred a week and a half ago involving La Mega, a local radio station, and its owner Victor Martinez. Derogatory remarks were made, and a portion of the community were offended. A meeting was held with Martinez and community leaders and he apologized. Recognizing that a divide exists between the Latinx community and the African American community, suggestions were made to implement certain activities to bring them together. A drum circle was suggested by Camilla Greene.

A motion was made by Sharon Fraser: The HRC will partner with other organizations to discuss and put into place training to confront racism, Colorism, etc. when it occurs. Linda Vega seconded. This will be put into practice within 30 days.

Linda thanked Camilla and Kevin for their voices and for educating us. Hamp motioned to adjourn, and Connie seconded. Next meeting is July 1st.

