



COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION AGENDA
June 21, 2018 at 12 p.m.
City Hall, 222 Meigs Street

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**Charlene Adams, Wendy Dobyons, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy,
Taylor Sutphen, Jennifer Washington & Dominic Wells**

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

- March 15, 2018

Staff Remarks

- **Neighborhood Initiative Coordinator Talon Flohr**
Update on Neighborhood Initiative

Open Discussion

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING(S)

September 20 at 12 p.m.

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 12 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Anthony Harris, Jennifer Washington, Dominic Wells and Taylor Sutphen

Members Absent: Charlene Adams, Wendy Dobyms and Jennifer Washington

Ex-Officio members present: Chief John Orzech, Police Department and Talon Flohr, Community Development Department

Liaison: Naomi Twine

Staff Present: Kelly Kresser (Clerk)

CURRENT BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Dominic Wells and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2017, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Election of Officers

Kelly Kresser asked if there were **nominations from the floor for the office of Chairperson**. Jennifer Washington nominated Dominic Wells who declined the nomination. Jennifer Washington nominated Anthony Harris who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations from the floor, **Anthony Harris was named to the position of Chairperson of the CRC for calendar year 2018.**

Kelly Kresser asked if there were **nominations from the floor for the office of Vice Chairperson**. Anthony Harris nominated Jennifer Washington who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations from the floor, **Jennifer Washington was named to the position of Vice Chairperson of the CRC for calendar year 2018.**

Staff Remarks

John Orzech, Police Chief, **introduced five new Police Officers** who started working for the City of Sandusky during the past two years and each provided a brief introduction:

Officer Logan DeMuth
Officer Zachary Blair
Officer Brett Bird
Officer Elijah Coe
Officer Darian Cook

Chief Orzech provided a recap of the training provided for each of the new Police Officers and said they must complete a one-year probationary period. Dominic Wells asked if training is provided concerning unconscious bias and Chief Orzech said diversity and “humanizing the badge” is part of training provided at the Police Academy. Naomi Twine said Chief Orzech has focused on developing relationships with members of the community and this has been a major goal since in the position of Chief. Taylor Sutphen said living in the city limits is another way to diversify and Chief Orzech said more than half of the department’s new hires live in the city.

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, said there have been two public meetings for projects within two of the identified neighborhoods including the Cove District and the Cleveland Road/Erie Boulevard Parklet. Dominic Wells said it is good we are putting new uses in the community which we all care so much about. Taylor Sutphen noted while downtown development is great, it is also good the city is looking to improve other neighborhoods. Anthony Harris asked about the stops for the Sandusky Transit System and if more of them could be enclosed so riders do not have to wait outside in the elements. Talon Flohr said he would be happy to have the STS Administrator Tim Bergeman attend the next CRC meeting to talk about improvements planned for these stops. Naomi Twine said the STS shelters are a work in progress and the administrator could speak to this.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Shameka Moore-Owens said she is here today as **her family is facing harassment and feels they have been discriminated against**. Her 17-year old son is a junior at Sandusky Central Catholic High School and his vehicle was rear-ended in an auto accident and the drivers of the vehicle which hit him (two older Caucasian men) physically assaulted him. In the police report, they stated, “I know his type, he was going to run.” Further, they admitted to the assault but were not charged. Shameka Moore-Owens said a Prosecutor’s form was filled out but to date, nothing has been done about this (the accident occurred on December 23, 2017). Additionally, Shameka Moore-Owens said she is not being treated similar to other residents of the community by staff in the city’s Code Enforcement and Building offices. She and her husband own property at 816 West Market Street which was rented; the tenant called the city in after destroying the home and the city later condemned it even though the Code Enforcement Officer Dante Shipp said everything was okay upon visual inspection. Ms. Moore-Owens said George Poulos (Building Official) has been harassing her since 2012 and has sent letters to her which are not being sent to other property owners/landlords. She attended a previous Human Relations Commission meeting, but this harassment has continued and she did not feel as if she could get a fair inspection by Mr. Poulos and requested Scott Thom inspect this unit. Anthony Harris said he would like to set up a meeting with Ms. Owens and Code Enforcement officials along with a representative from the CRC who could mediate the issue. Trevor Hayberger indicated Chief Development Officer Matt Lasko could attend prior to the next inspection date as he oversees

both the Code Enforcement and Building Departments. Anthony Harris asked if a list of repairs could be made so Ms. Moore-Owens knows what the city is requesting as well as to be given an adequate time to make the repairs. Trevor Hayberger said properties over fifty percent deteriorated are not provided a list while those less than fifty percent deteriorated are given this information. With regard to the issue involving Ms. Moore-Owens son, Trevor Hayberger said he would follow up with the Prosecutor as he understood it was difficult to determine if charges could be made due to conflicting stories; there are also two unnamed witnesses. Trevor Hayberger said he did not know if this rose to the criminal definition of assault but will follow up with Ms. Moore-Owens. Anthony Harris thanked Ms. Moore-Owens for attending and bringing this matter to the attention of the CRC members and said this will hopefully open the door to resolve the issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Dominic Wells and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to adjourn at 1:20 p.m. Chairperson Harris declared the motion passed.

Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk

Date: ____/____/____

Anthony Harris, Chairperson

Date: ____/____/____