

City of Sandusky  
Human Relations Commission  
October 30, 2008

Members present: Lacy Davis, Barb Wagner, Wendy Dempsey, Chris Perrin, James Timmerburg, Richard Koonce

Members absent: Henrietta Whelan, Rufus Sanders, Dora Grant

Staff Members: Administrative Services - Warrennett Parthemore, Police - Acting Chief Charlie Sams, Clerk - Mary Grendow

Guests: Lt. Chris Hofacker, Lt. Phil Frost, Officer Rob Gardin, Officer Kristopher Parsons

**New Business:** All voted in favor of passing the minutes.

Lt. Chris Hofacker gave a powerpoint presentation of tasers and there was a physical demonstration on tasers.

Lt. Hofacker said the Police Department currently had three tasers and he hopes to be able to get enough so each officer on the shift could have one.

**Old Business:** Chairman Davis commented that an article on Mrs. Aaron and her son had been in the Sandusky Register. Mr. Perrin stated that even though the article didn't report it, Mrs. Aaron has mentioned to the reporter that Asst. Chief Sams and the HRC had been very cooperative and helpful. He stated that he speaks weekly with Mrs. Aaron and she was still looking for closure.

Acting Chief Sams stated that he had recently spoken with Kevin Baxter and one of the reasons why Baxter was reluctant to pursue indicting anyone was because all three of the people who had been in the car at the time of the shooting were now in prison serving sentences. He stated that if they were charged and given sentences, the sentence would run concurrently and they would still get out of prison at the same time. They couldn't charge anyone with murder at this time since no one would admit to anything. If they did try it now and if in the future, more information came to light, they wouldn't be able to be recharged.

Mr. Perrin suggested that it would be a good idea to have Mr. Baxter meet with Mrs. Aaron and explain that to her.

The members discussed the issue and everyone felt that it would be good to have Mr. Baxter come to a special meeting of the HRC to discuss the matter with the Commission. Chairman Davis asked staff to find out if the HRC had to abide by the sunshine laws or if they could meet Mr. Baxter without it being an open meeting. They could then invite him and see if he would be available.

Mr. Koonce asked if there was any information on the HRC that he could be given to find out what their mission and role in the City was. Chairman Davis directed the Clerk to send Mr. Koonce and Ms. Dempsey information.

Mr. Koonce talked about the situation with the former housing employees and he asked if there was a way that the HRC could get involved. He commented that he knew one of the employees was not able to collect unemployment and there seemed to be disparate treatment. Mr. Davis stated that anyone could lodge a complaint with the HRC and ask them to intervene and conduct a fact finding mission.

Mrs. Parthemore commented that the City employees were either covered by a union contract or by civil service and there were specific avenues they could take. She stated that the unemployment board makes their decisions based on the facts of the case and that was out of the City's hands.

Mr. Perrin commented that the HRC members really needed to contact the Clerk if they were not going to be able to attend the meetings. He asked if that could be added to the bottom of the agenda so that everyone saw it and remembered to do so.

There was no further business before the Commission and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Mary L. Grendow, Clerk

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Lacy Davis, Chairman