



**AGENDA**  
**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 – 4:00 PM**  
**COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM – CITY HALL**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

\_\_\_ Joe Allen \_\_\_ David Dove\* \_\_\_ Jerome Kahn \_\_\_ Olivia Martinez  
\_\_\_ Carrie Myer \_\_\_ Natasha Russell-Iverson \_\_\_ Mike Sullivan \_\_\_ Sue Wray\*\*

(1 Vacancy)

**STAFF LIAISON: Meryl Dye, Assistant City Manager**

**\* Chairperson \*\* Vice Chair-Person**

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY AUDIENCE** – Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2018**
- 4. CONSIDERATION OF HHRC APPLICANT**
- 5. REPORTS**
  - A. HHRC Attendance Record
  - B. Informal Complaint Report – None for December 2017.
- 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS** - Discussion with Hutch in Harmony Representatives
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMENTS**
  - A. Commissioners
  - B. Staff
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting: February 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. – Council Conference Room**



**MINUTES**  
**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, December 20, 2017 – Council Conference Room**

1. **Call to Order** – Present: Joe Allen, David Dove (Chair), Jerome Kahn, Olivia Martinez, Natasha Russell-Iverson, and Mike Sullivan. Meryl Dye (Staff Liaison) was also present. Absent: Carrie Myer and Sue Wray (V. Chair). (One vacancy.)
2. **Oral Communications by Audience** – None.
3. **Minutes** – Russell-Iverson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2017. Kahn seconded the motion and the motion passed.
4. **Reports** – The attendance and informal complaint reports were provided. There was one informal complaint in November from a man calling on behalf of his brother who has Schizophrenia. His brother’s employer was treating him differently from other employees and refused to pay him for working overtime. Dye referred him to the KS Human Rights Commission and the Employment Standards Division of the Kansas Department of Labor. On follow-up, the man said his brother had to be hospitalized and that he would pursue the matter once his brother has recovered.
5. **Unfinished Business** – Sullivan asked for an update on plans for a public viewing of the video titled “Walking While Black: L.O.V.E is the Answer.” Dye said a group who viewed the video on November 6<sup>th</sup> decided the video is not suited for public viewing and may lead to misunderstandings and breakdown relationships built by local enforcement. Attendees included local law enforcement, the local NAACP, local clergy, the citizen advisory board to law enforcement, the Human Relations Commission and city staff. The consensus of the group was to continue using the video for training and discussion by local law enforcement.
6. **New Business** – Discussion was had about exploring collaborations with other groups for outreach efforts aimed at breaking down cultural divides and building community. The recent candlelight vigil at George Pyle Park and Unity in Diversity were successful events well attended by diverse groups of citizens. Both events were organized by several groups including the NAACP, local clergy and Hutch in Harmony. HHRC members suggested inviting representatives of Hutch in Harmony to the next meeting for further discussion.
7. **Communications and Comments** – Celebrations for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be coming up January 14 and 15. Dye will send HHRC members the details. February is Black History Month with book discussions taking place at the Hutchinson Public Library. A video viewing of “Black Candle” will at be at the library in celebration of Kwanza.
8. **Adjournment** – Kahn made a motion to adjourn. Sullivan seconded the motion that passed.

Minutes prepared by Meryl Dye, Staff Liaison.

**Next Meeting: January 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Conf. Room**

### HHRC Attendance Record

		2017											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>HHRC MEMBERS</b>													
1	Allen, Joe G. - (second 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2020)	C	---	X	N	X	X	X	X	A	X	C	X
2	Dove, David (second 3 yr term expires 9/11/2018)	A	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X
3	Kahn, Jerome (first 3-yr term expires 9/11/2019)	N	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	A	N	X
4	Martin, J.W., Jr. (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018) resigned 5/18/2017)	C	X	A	Q	A	---	---	---	---	C	---	---
5	Martinez, Olivia (second 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018)	E	X	X	U	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X
6	Myer, Carrie (first 3-r. term expires 9/11/2020)	L	---	---	O	---	---	---	---	X	X	L	A
7	Russell-Iverson, Natasha (first 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2018)	L	X	X	R	A	X	X	X	X	A	L	X
8	Sullivan, Mike (second 3 yr. term expires 9/11/2019)	E	X	X	U	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	X
9	Wray, Sue (first 3 year term expires 9/11/2019)	D	X	X	M	X	A	X	X	X	X	D	A
		Key											
		Quorum=5											
		No Quorum <5											
		Cancelled											
		Vacant											

**HUTCHINSON HUMAN RELATIONS  
INFORMAL COMPLAINT SUMMARY - 2017**

**December** – No Complaints

**November** – A young man called on behalf of his younger brother who lives with him. He said his brother has Schizophrenia, but functions just fine because he is on regular medication. Regardless he has always tried to look out for his brother and is protective of him. His brother works at a local retail store where his brother's store manager requires him to work extra hours without paying him for the time. The manager also will not give his brother a regular work schedule. The manager talks to his brother in a disrespectful tone of voice and treats him badly. He believes the manager is rude to his brother because of his disability. He says his brother is the nicest guy you would want to meet, and does not have a temper or any other problems holding him back at work. His brother asked the manager about his paycheck, but the manager rudely said he would let him know. But he never got back to his brother about it. Dye provided information about helping his brother make a disability complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission, and making a wage-payment complaint with the Employment Standards Division of the Kansas Department of Labor. On follow-up, the gentleman said his brother has been hospitalized for his condition for a while as doctors adjust his medication. He said his brother is coming home that day, but he thinks it is best if brother doesn't work for a while. In the meantime, he still plans to pursue formal complaints on behalf of this brother. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Disability; Wage Payment.*

**October** – No Complaints

**September** – No Complaints

**August** – A 61-year old White female was fired from her cleaning job with a Texas-based cleaning company after the local manager of a client company complained about her to the corporate headquarters of her employer. Her employer offered no reason for her firing. But she believes her age may have been a factor, because an older African-American male told her the same local manager influenced his firing by the employer. The employer is also fighting her on unemployment benefits. Dye advised Complainant to file an appeal on her unemployment, and is assisting her making a formal age discrimination charge with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Age*

**July** – No Complaints

**June** – No Complaints

**May** – No Complaints

**April** – No Complaints

**March** – No Complaints

**February** – An African American male worked for a local restaurant wherein he had requested some time off to attend court over child custody issues, and the manager agreed. However, he was removed from the schedule altogether. When he spoke with the manager, he didn't get a response about the schedule. In discussion he mentioned to the manager some racist comments toward him made by a white female coworker as he helped her with a customer who had a nose bleed. He also told the manager about another coworker coming to work high. The manager then fired him on the spot and told him to get off the property before calling the police on him. Dye referred Complainant to make a formal discrimination complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Race and Retaliation.*

An African American male said he suffers from bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia. During an episode related to his disabilities, he had an incident involving police when he damaged another person's property. He was charged with a misdemeanor and has to pay restitution. He was also sent to the state hospital for treatment. He is now is on medications. He was recently refused access to a local employment agency, and told to stay off their property. He believes this denial is due not only to his criminal record, but also due to his disability. Dye referred Complainant to make a formal discrimination complaint with the Kansas Human Rights Commission. *Area of Jurisdiction = Employment; Basis = Disability.*

**January** – No Complaints