

Raul Torres Executive Director

April 10, 2025

Minutes of February 13, 2025 Human Rights Commission Jame J McCoart Building – Board Chambers

#### **Human Rights Commission**

Curtis Porter, Chairman
Evelyn BruMar, Vice Chair
Ramunda Young, Parliamentarian
William A. Johnston, III
Padreus D. Pratter
Benjamin Baldwin
Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.
Kimberly Sparkes
Victoria D. Staubly

# **MINUTES**

Chair
Curtis O. Porter
Vice Chair
Evelyn BruMar
Parliamentarian
Ramunda Young

Members
William Johnston
Kimberly Sparkes
Padreus D. Pratter
Aaron Muz
Benjamin Baldwin

Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

<u>Present</u>: Commissioners: Benjamin Baldwin, Victor Ginoba, Kimberly Sparkes, Ramunda Young, William Johnston, Vice Chair, Evelyn BruMar Chair, Curtis Porter Director Raul Torres, Assistant Director Shelia Venning, and Administrative Specialist Tiffany Jones.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

#### **Citizens Time**

Three citizens were present.

# **Old Business**

 The minutes of the February 13, 2025, meeting was approved (Young moved/Johnson – second) unanimously.

#### **New Business**

- All commissioners believed that the 2025 Universal Human Rights Day Program (UHRD) was a success. Next year, the event will be held on Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday weekend.
- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the month of March of 2025 as Women's History Month (Ginoba moved/Johnston second). The resolution passed 7/0.

- A motion was made to adopt Chair Porter's Statement addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. (Young moved/Ginoba seconded) The motion passed 5/2. The statement was posted to the HRC website and was sent to the local media outlets for publication.
- The Commission agreed to hold preliminary meetings with the PWC Police Department and PWC Schools to address hate/bias incidents that are occurring within Prince William County.

# **Committee Reports**

# **Unity in the Community**

• Nothing to report.

#### Jail Board

- From January to December 2024, the average number of inmates held in the detention center was 571.
- There were 10 transfers of inmates for the month of November, and 11 transfers for December 2024.
- 606 inmates were committed in November, and 619 inmates were committed in December 2024.
- In November, there were 612 inmates released, and 613 inmates were released for the month of December 2024.
- Capt. Allen West was promoted as the next Superintendent of the Adult Detention Center.

#### **Racial Social Justice Committee**

- Nothing to Report.
- The next RSJC meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

#### **Student Leadership Council**

- On January 13<sup>th</sup> the Student Leadership Council held their 3<sup>rd</sup> session. This session was on Fair Housing. Mahalia "Mally" Dryden-Mason was the guest speaker.
- The February session of the SLC will take place on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm to 6 pm at the Kelly Leadership Center. The guest speaker will be Dr. McDade from PWC Public Schools, who will be answering questions from the students as part of the guided discussion.

- On March 13<sup>th,</sup> some of the students will be presenting their human and civil rights essays to the Human Rights Commission.
- Finally, graduation will be held on April 3, 2025, at 6 pm in the Ferlazzo Building Auditorium.

### **Director's Report**

• The Human Rights Office has completed its annual report for FY2024. An electronic copy has been sent to commissioners for your review. A hard copy of the report will be distributed at the next Commission meeting.

## **COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

William Johnson – Nothing to Report.

<u>Victor Ginoba</u> – February is Black History Month, and advises everyone to learn more about black history and enjoy the activities celebrating black history.

<u>Kimberly Sparkes</u> – The Black History Month Committee moved their annual Black History Month program to February 27<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is African Americans in the Workforce; 100 Black Women in Prince William County will also be hosting their Black History Month event the same weekend and encourage everyone to attend.

<u>Benjamin Baldwin</u> – Would like to thank the Chair and Commissioners for being able to disagree with each other and still be able to come together and serve the community.

<u>Ramunda Young</u> – Would like to congratulate Chair Porter and Commissioner Pratter for being recognized by the Town of Dumfries for their Services to the Community.

<u>Evelyn BruMar</u> – In the Commonwealth of Virginia, Marriage Equality is currently going through the general assembly to be codified to protect same sex marriages; Casa BruMar Foundation is collaborating with law enforcement agencies in Prince William County to conduct Crisis Intervention Training (CIT); Casa BruMar will be conducting a training in the ADC for the Sheriff's department on the services offered by Casa BruMar. Casa BruMar is receiving an influx of community members contacting them worried about being picked up by ICE.

<u>Curtis Porter</u> – Chair Porter would like to thank the commission and congratulate Commissioner Young for being recognized in the Town of Dumfries for her services to the community. On February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, the NAACP will be holding their 2025 Winter Open House at the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Manassas.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

### **ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE	STATUS
PERSON		

# PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	2	3	
Housing			
Public Accommodation			
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL			27

# PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR MARCH 2025

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	2	2	
Housing			
<b>Public Accommodation</b>			
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL		•	27