



Raul Torres  
Executive Director

October 12, 2023,

Minutes of September 14, 2023  
Human Rights Commission  
Powells Creeks A&B

**MINUTES**

Chair

Curtis O. Porter

Vice Chair

Evelyn BruMar

Parliamentarian

Ramunda Young

Members

William Johnston

Dr. Erika Laos

Padreus D. Pratter

Aaron Muz

Benjamin Baldwin

Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

**Present:** Commissioners Ramunda Young, Victor Ginoba, William Johnston, Aaron Muz, Benjamin Baldwin, Erika Laos, Padreus Pratter, Vice Chair Evelyn BruMar, Chairman Curtis Porter, Director Raul Torres, Manager Shelia Venning, Administrative Specialist Tiffany Jones, and Deputy County Executive Quintin Haynes.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

**Citizens Time**

- No citizens were present.

**Old Business**

- Minutes of September 14, 2023, were approved (Baldwin moved/Laos-second)

**New Business**

- Resolution to Declare, Affirm and Recognize the month of September 15 to October 15 of 2023 as Hispanic Heritage Month (BruMar moved/Baldwin second) Resolution passed 8/0, 1 abstained.
- Director Torres presented the Fair Housing Testing Report to the Commission. Sixty (60) rental tests were conducted on the western end of Prince William County. There were no differences in treatment found in either the race or national origin tests.

- The Human Rights Commission will be hosting an Anti-Semitism Forum on October 23, 2023, at 7 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Ferlazzo Building. Rabbi Goldstein with the Congregation Ner Shalom will be partnering with the HRC on this activity. The office is still in the planning phase and will update with more information at a later date.
- The Commission passed a Motion to support Unity in the Community and the NAACP, for the screening of *Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life* from Not in Our Town on October 15, 2023. (Laos moved/Johnston second).
- Universal Human Rights Day (UHRD) will be held on January 13, 2024, at 10am in the Board Chambers of the McCort Building. The theme will be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education historic ruling. We are in discussions with Councilman Ralph Smith, Manassas City Governing body, to be the keynote speaker.
  - Notification will go out to the community by late October.
  - The UHRD committee will present their selection to the commission at its December meeting.
  - Commissioners Baldwin and Pratter will join the UHRD committee.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Unity in the Community**

- Unity in the community and NAACP will be hosting a screening and discussion on *Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life*, from Not in our Town at Dar Al Noor Islamic Community Center in Manassas, VA on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 3pm.
- Chair Porter will be one of the guest speakers.

#### **VAHR**

- VAHR will host its final conference on September 23, 2023, at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. 24 people from various commissions will be in attendance. VAHR will be closing after 28 years of service.

#### **PWC Jail Board**

- The Jail Board meeting was held on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Jail has a capacity of 871 inmates and if necessary could hold as many as 1,320 inmates. Currently the Jail is under capacity.
- Since May 2023, there have been no reported COVID cases in the facility. There are about 179 inmates that are vaccinated to date.
- The next Jail Board meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Human Rights Student Leadership Council**

- Student leadership Council is gearing up for Cohort 8. This year's theme is "Your Vision, Your Voice on Human Rights".
- Flyers and applications have been distributed to all of Prince William County Schools as well as private schools and home school's organizations. The deadline for applications will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- We will be selecting 1-2 students from each public school within the county.
- Caroline Custard will be our liaison to the schools again this year.
- Orientation will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Ferlazzo Building, and PWC DCXO Quintin Haynes will be the guest speaker for the event.

### **Director's Report**

- The Human Rights office has closed a total of 31 cases thus far this fiscal year.
- September 9<sup>th</sup>, Director Torres attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LGBTQ+ Symposium at George Mason University where he spoke about the Human Rights office.
- September 16<sup>th</sup>, the office will participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Police Community Fair held at on the Plaza at the McCoart Building from 11am – 4pm.
- On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the HRO will be attending the VAHR Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
- On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the Human Rights Staff will present its FY25 Budget to county leadership.

### **COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

**Erika Laos** – Commissioner Laos would like to thank the staff for all their hard work. She would like to collaborate through her nonprofit with the Community Liaison Program.

**William Johnston** – Nothing to report.

**Padreus Pratter** – Nothing to report.

**Benjamin Baldwin** – Commissioner Baldwin would like to remind everyone to get out and vote, early voting starts September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Victor Ginoba** – Commissioner Ginoba requested we replenish the office brochures at the Montclair Library.

**Ramunda Young** – October 1-7<sup>th</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banned Books Read Out week. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Read".

**Evelyn BurMar** – Casa BruMar hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LGBTQ+ Symposium on September 9, 2023. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be two Latino Festivals in Manassas, one at the Harris Pavilion from 11am – 2pm, and the other at Metz Middle School from 12pm – 6pm.

**Curtis Porter** – Chair Porter will not be able to attend the Community Fair or the Latino Festival because of a prior engagement. Prince William County elected to hold early voting again this year on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.**

**ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS
To replenish brochures in Montclair Library	Kimberly Sparkes	September 30, 2023	

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
<b>Employment</b>	4	1	
<b>Housing</b>		1	
<b>Public Accommodation</b>			
<b>Education</b>			
<b>Credit</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9</b>