



Raul Torres
Executive Director

March 14, 2024,

Minutes of February 8, 2024
Human Rights Commission
J McCoart Building – Board Chambers

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 William Johnston, Benjamin Baldwin, Padreus Pratter, Aaron Muz, Victor Ginoba, Ramunda Young, Vice Chair Evelyn BruMar, Chairman Curtis Porter, Director Raul Torres, and Administrative Specialist Tiffany Jones.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Citizens Time

- No citizens were present.

Old Business

- The minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting was approved (Baldwin moved/Johnston -second)

New Business

- Wesley Dawson, Director of Community Safety, presented his new office's mission and community safety initiative approach before the commission.
- Resolution to Declare, Affirm, and Recognize the month of March of 2024 as Women's History Month (Baldwin moved/Johnston second) Resolution passed 8/0, 1 absent.

Committee Reports

Unity in the Community

- Unity in the Community has appointed John Steinbeck as the new president, and Padreus Pratter is the Acting Vice Chair.
- On February 25, 2024, Unity is planning a community day with Myles Lanier, winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Competition. The location is to be determined.

Human Rights Student Leadership Council

- The next session of the SLC will be on February 13, 4:30-6:30, at Kelly Leadership Center. It will focus on Fair Housing with Mally Dryson-Mason of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) as the presenter.
- The deadline for the students to submit their essays on a human or civil rights issue is February 29.

Racial and Social Justice Commission (RSJC)

- Nothing to Report

Director's Report

- On January 31, the HRO and Chair Porter met with Chairwoman Deshundra Jefferson for an introductory meeting. We plan to meet with all the county supervisors in the coming weeks.
- On February 13, the HRO will hold its second planning meeting with representatives of the Muslim Association of Virginia to continue planning the Community Dialogue, which is to be held in April.
- The Jail Board met on January 17 and consider items in a closed session. The next Jail Board meeting will be held on March 20.
- On January 31, the HRO held a webinar on Mental Health in the workplace. The HRO partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the Prince William Community Services Board to present this webinar.

- At the end of February, the office will release its first newsletter of the year, which will be titled "Focus on Mental Health." It will discuss mental health in the workplace and provide a list of mental health resources.

COMMISSIONER'S TIME

William Johnston – We would like to recognize February as Black History Month.

Victor Ginoba – First anniversary on the commission, enjoy serving.

Benjamin Baldwin – I had a great time at the SLC session. I am looking forward to reading the students' essays.

Padreus Pratter – On February 24, 2024, the Town of Dumfries will be celebrating Black History Month from 11 am to 1 pm at The Little Union Baptist Church; Supervisor Margaret Franklin will host her annual Black History Month event at the Open Space Arts Center on February 19.

Aaron Muz – Thank you to Wesley Dawson and all his work.

Ramunda Young – Thank you to Wesley Dawson for your great work Recognizing Black History Month. Staff did a great job at the Universal Human Rights Day program; Appreciates the work the HRO staff does daily; requested commissioners to be included in the meetings with their respective Board of County Supervisors.

Evelyn BruMar – Nothing to report.

Curtis Porter – Thank you for all your hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

ACTIONABLE ITEMS

	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR FEBRUARY 2024**

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
Employment	1	1	
Housing			
Public Accommodation			
Education			
Credit			
TOTAL			20