



## Carbondale Human Relations Commission

Minutes – August 3, 2015  
Carbondale Civic Center ~ 5:00 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Joshua Kyle Brandon, Joseph Brown, Peg Falcone, Ted Gutierrez, Eric McMillan, Faith Miller, Karriem Shariati, Dora Weaver

**Commissioners Excused:**

**Study Circle Staff Present:**

**Guests Present:** Molly Parker, Elius Reed

**Staff Present:** City Manager Kevin Baity, Acting Chief Grubbs, Mayor Mike Henry, Commission Secretary Deborah McCoy

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### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Hennrich.

### MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Falcone and seconded by Commissioner McMillan to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Hennrich announced that former Commissioner Josh Phillips accepted a position in Philadelphia and has already relocated.

City Manager Baity read his memo regarding the Carbondale Police Chief selection process. He stated that the first round of reviews would submission of applications opened July 24, 2015. Today, August 3, 2015, was the first round of review. City Manager Baity requested HRC provide a list of five questions, no later than August 14, 2015, to be utilized during the interview process.

Mr. Reed commented that Plumbers' Union Local 150 was accepting applications. The application fee is \$25.00.

The Racial Justice Coalition will meet on Thursday, August 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

### ISSUES

#### *Police in the Schools*

Chair Hennrich commented that Superintendent Shimshak has placed a moratorium on the Police in Schools program. Chair Hennrich suggested forums be held to discuss the program. Commissioner Gutierrez inquired about an August 28, 2015, date to begin discussions. Interim Chief Grubbs indicated that he felt it was

August 3, 2015

premature to hold a forum during the month of August with the focus of Districts #95, #165, and the college being their students. He commented that he has not had an opportunity to sit down with Superintendent Shimshak, and to have a broader conversation would not be advisable at this point. Interim Chief Grubbs recommended that the forum discussion be tabled for now. Chair Hennrich stated that the Commission would discuss the forum at the next meeting. Commissioners suggested that the forum be as inclusive of as many of the public as possible, especially the parents, and getting the information to them through the schools. Commissioner Gutierrez suggested that an invitation be extended to Mr. Shimshak to attend the September meeting to discuss the possibility of the forum. Commissioner Falcone commented that she was in favor of the idea of inviting the Superintendent and felt the forum should be co-sponsored by District #95, the Police Department and HRC.

The Mayor stated that he would like for the HRC to reach out to Mr. Shimshak to share information and to strengthen that relationship. The Police Department makes changes in their procedures daily, and stays on top of some of those things such as training, that don't always get publicized. Perhaps HRC can help spread the word which will help with the Department with publicity. He stated that Commissioner Miller shared the link to the U.S. Department of Justice website and he has reviewed their recommendations, and found some that could work in this community.

### *Public Education/HRC Website*

Commissioner Shariati inquired whether Commissioners could get a bulk number to distribute at places such as the Carbondale Public Library. Copies will be available from Ms. McCoy, along with labels for each Commissioner.

Chair Hennrich reminded Commissioners that the HRC deals with discrimination complaints regarding housing, and the complaint form is on the website. Other forms and information are on the website as well. Interim Chief Grubbs commented on the partnership the Carbondale Police Department has with the SIU Department of Public Safety to get the word out on and off campus regarding the various policies.

### *Public Forums/Events – Community Policing*

Commissioner McMillan stated that he did not think community policing should focus on more than policing in the schools. There should be public involvement in what kind of policing should be done. People in the community need to step up rather than rely on the police to do everything. Commissioner Falcone commented that information could be collected from the community on how they feel. Commissioner McMillan expressed that community policing is an ongoing process and community policing helps to meet the core objective of protecting and serving. Commissioner Falcone suggested and Commissioners agreed that the summary from the Forum be posted on the website.

Mrs. Nesbitt commented that she recognizes the HRC for having the Forum round tables, and it was reported at the last HRC meeting that those points would be prioritized. She indicated that she would like to see some publicity from those points. She recalled that the Police Department came out to show what kind of equipment they have, and it is time to show what kinds of things they have done and are doing in line with the recommendations of the U.S. Justice Department. What is being done differently in the Police Department? The community should see some of the positive things the Police Department is doing, and not just focus on police in the schools.

Commissioner Shariati spoke about the possibility of getting feedback from police about their concerns and issues, and how that could be approached. Interim Chief Grubbs indicated that he would need to think about how that could be handled. Commissioner McMillan suggested that one consideration could be to conduct a Forum similar to the last. Chair Hennrich suggested that it tentatively be set for October, and Commissioner Miller suggested that the October 5 meeting be a special meeting to bring together people to talk about concerns. Commissioners Gutierrez, Falcone, McMillan and a designated member(s) of PD will pull together plans for the special meeting. Questions for break outs should be forwarded to Ms. McCoy to be distributed and thoughts for tables could include youth, college students, retirees, homeowners, renters, age, etc. August 20, 2015, is the date for the draft program with questions.

### *HRC Annual Retreat*

Chair Hennrich reviewed some of the Retreat discussion including subpoena power. He stated that one reason he would be in favor of subpoena power is the acquisition of reports from the Police Department, and the ability to identify trends based on the information received. Commissioner Falcone commented that she is opposed to subpoena power because of her experience with DCFS administration that would deny subpoenas because they were not from the courts, and she wondered what it would really get the HRC except being placed in an adversarial position with other organizations and agencies. She would rather focus on building community relationships. Chair Hennrich stated that he wants to be able to get information without having to file a FOIA request, and then still not get the information.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **PROCESS ASSESSMENTS**

#### *Neighborhood Action Group*

No report

#### *Non-Violent Carbondale Project*

No report

#### *Racial Justice Coalition*

No report

#### *Sparrow Coalition Report*

No report

#### *Law Enforcement*

Interim Chief Grubbs reported that the Department is close to having the new software in place, and that it should be up and running sometimes in September. October is a very busy month for law enforcement with  
HRC Meeting Notes - Page 4  
July 6, 2015

SIUC's homecoming, unofficial Halloween, and official Halloween weekends. He stated that nothing is being different on Halloween than what has been done in the last two years. Interim Chief Grubbs indicated that all four law enforcement agencies (Murphysboro, SIUC, Jackson County Sheriff and Carbondale) are participating in Crimestoppers. Interim Chief Grubbs commented that he needs help from all parts of the community in helping to reduce the need for law enforcement presence. He spoke about the many community events/activities the Department has participated in, and some that are planned for the near future.

*Items for City Council*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting – October 5, 2015. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Recorded by Deborah McCoy \_\_\_\_\_