

MINUTES OF MURRAY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
December 9, 2013
4:00 P.M.

The Murray Human Rights Commission met in regular session on Monday, December 9th, at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers of City Hall with Chair Jody Cofer Randall presiding.

Members Present: Chair Jody Cofer Randall, Linda Cherry, Paula Compton, Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke, Jane Shoemaker, Dr. Brian Clardy, Tung Dinh

Members Absent: Connie Payne

Staff Present: Mayor Bill Wells, Matt Mattingly, June Batts

Others in Attendance: Dr. Bogal-Allbritten, Reverend Matt Bradley, St. John's Episcopal Church; Melinda Johnson

Chair Cofer Randall welcomed members and the meeting began at 4:06 p.m.

The Minutes of November 11, 2013 were presented for approval. **Ms. Shoemaker motioned** to accept the minutes as presented; **seconded by Dr. Clardy**. All members present were in favor of the motion.

Old business:

Chair Cofer Randall presented information regarding the Bully Free Community Education Campaign. He said he would follow up with MSU athletics regarding the video production.

Chair Cofer Randall said the Human Rights Ordinance was on hold until January 2014.

Dr. Clardy asked if there were a problem with either the intent or semantics of the ordinance. Matt Mattingly stated there was no problem; the City Attorney was very busy at this time, but the ordinance was a priority.

Chair Cofer Randall recognized Jane Shoemaker for a report on the second meeting of the Committee on Poverty. Ms. Shoemaker stated the Committee met at Dr. Pittman-Munke's house, shared information that was gathered, and was still in the process of gathering data. Commission Members discussed data on free and reduced lunch rolls and dropout/graduation rates for area schools.

Chair Cofer Randall stated members of the Gentry House Board of Directors were present and recognized Dr. Bogal-Allbritten who gave an overview of the organization, its mission, clientele, and the financial challenges it currently faces. Commission Members discussed the homeless population, reasons for homelessness, Gentry House board, facility, and staffing, and the challenges of short and long-term funding.

Gentry House Board Member, Reverend Bradley, stated for the Gentry House to continue beyond its scheduled closing date of January 31st, there must be an assurance of long-term viable funding, staff support, and community participation on the board.

Mayor Wells stated he would set up a meeting with Chair Cofer Randall and Calloway County Judge Executive Elkins before the next Commission meeting in January to address these issues. He said the City appropriated \$5000 to the Gentry House for FY2014, and only half was disbursed at this time.

Commission Members committed to follow up with possible funding sources.

Chair Cofer Randall called for comments from Commission Members. Hearing none, he reminded them of the next Human Rights Commission Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014.

Chair Cofer Randall acknowledged the recent passing of Nelson Mandela, anti-apartheid revolutionary, former president of South Africa, and great advocate of human rights.

With no further business before the Commission, **Dr. Clardy motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Shoemaker.** The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.