



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

August 21, 2024, ONONDAGA COUNTY/SYRACUSE HRC MEETING

Draft Meeting Notes: pending approval

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| _Hassina Adams | _Agnes McCray |
| _H. Bernard Alex | _Liam O'Connor |
| _Roosevelt Baums | _Lauren Rosenstein |
| _Paul Harvey | _Leo Sanchez |
| _LaToya Jones | _Mia Wade |

Absent: LaToya Jones, Liam O'Connor, Mia Wade, Leo Sanchez, Lauren Rosenstein

Present: Hassina Adams, H. Bernard Alex, Roosevelt Baums, Paul Harvey, Agnes McCray

County staff present: CDO Monica Williams and Exec. Dir. Montanette Murphy and new Human Rights Specialist Anthony Heard Sr.

Welcome – Greetings to everyone

Introduction – Introduce new Human Rights Specialist

Community Members present: None

Opening: Discussion began at 5:36 at Beauchamp Library.

Chair's report: Commissioner Alex gave an update on the upcoming Aug. 22, 2024, DEIB monthly committee meeting with Jordan-Elbridge Central School District leaders.

Executive Director's report: Annual Report 2024 has been uploaded online.

Discussion: Paul Harvey spoke about his experience with two or three students whose parents said they were leaving the J-E School District. Harvey also discussed attending the J-E School Board meeting, which was covered extensively by local media. Commissioner Harvey spoke with a J-E high school administrator who told him that the high school has "zero tolerance," for racism. Commissioners continued to discuss the JECSD issue. Commissioner Alex said the NYS Education Department, who received a copy of the letter from Commissioners to JECSD was told to ask the J-E District for the desired DASA information or submit a FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) request to the district. Commissioner Harvey would like to bring the FOIL request regarding the DASA information to a HRC vote. Commissioners Baums, Alex, and Harvey discussed how the Cicero-North Syracuse School District put forth an Antiracist Statement and that districts must be intentional about preventing racism and bullying.

Flag Raising: The Commission said it wants to be made aware of flag-raising ceremonies for any upcoming events, including any Pride celebrations, the Americans with Disabilities anniversary (ADA) and cultural ceremonies highlighting countries who are celebrating their independence.

New HRC Initiatives: Commissioners discussed possibly collaborating with local agencies to host a food justice summit. Interfaith Works was discussed as a possible nonprofit organization to team up with. The Commission also discussed attending the Annual Dinner of the Deaf New Americans Asha Laaya farm fundraiser.

Discussion ended at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Montanette Murphy on September 27, 2024