



County of Onondaga  
**Office of Diversity and Inclusion**

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J. Ryan McMahon, II  
*County Executive*

Monica Williams  
*Chief Diversity Officer*

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 20, 2022 **VIRTUAL** HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

**Human Rights Commissioners Present:** Rasheada Caldwell, Agnes McCray, John Rushing III, Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Mbonimpa Banabas

**Human Rights Commissioners Absent:** Al-amin Muhammad, Barbara Johnson, Chris Gilkes, Mia Wade, Lanessa Chaplin, Liban Mohammed, Nodesia Hernandez, Leo Sanchez

**Community members present:** Liam O'Connor, Lael Pierce, Sora Iriye, Anna Zoodsma, Lucreaty Love, Samuel Gruber, Tyler Johnson, Matthew Mayers, Mary Kuhn, Peggy Chase

**County staff present:** Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams, Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy, Human Rights Specialist/Onondaga County Johanna Sellers

**Attendance:** Meeting began at 5:37 p.m.

**Greetings and Welcome**

**Recognition of Commissioners**

**Recognition of Community Members (no public comment)**

**Approval of March minutes:** No approval. No quorum.

**Approval of April Agenda:** No approval. No quorum.

**Chair's Report:**

1. **Summer Youth Program** – CNY Works is now accepting applications, ages of 14-21, for those who are seeking summer employment. CNY Works is also looking for work sites the youth can work at. Chair Rasheada Caldwell will send information to Montanette Murphy or Johanna Sellers.
2. **Summer Fellowship Program** – Youth will receive information pertaining to their community, mental health, education, financial literacy, conflict resolution, and CPR/First Aid training. This is an opportunity for the 26 organizations, grass-root organizations, and churches involved to get youth at their centers. Youth will get paid as well; ages 10-13 will get 299.00 and ages 14-18 will get

599.99. Chair Rasheada Caldwell will send out a list with the organizations, grass-root organizations, and churches involved. Each place handles their own application process.

**Administrator's Report:  
Announcements:**

1. We Rise Above the Streets annual BBQ is coming up in May. Commissioner Al-Amin Mohammed is looking for volunteers to help that day and business's to donate their services. Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy will send out an email with information on it after she talks to Commissioner Al-Amin Mohammed.
2. Coming up we will be discussing public hearing information.
3. The Human Rights Commission will not be meeting in the month of July.
4. The Human Rights Commission website is a way to keep in touch with current even information. The web address is [www.ongov.net/diversity](http://www.ongov.net/diversity).

**New business:**

- We will continue to hold the Human Rights Commission meetings virtually for now due to COVID cases inclining.
- If any commissioners need a new name tag printed, please let Human Rights Specialist/Onondaga County Johanna Sellers know.

**Old business:**

- **Public hearing topics**  
We will continue to discuss public hearing topics, times, and dates at the Human Rights Commission meeting May 18, 2022.
- **Subcommittees**  
We will continue to discuss subcommittee assignments at the Human Rights Commission meeting May 18, 2022. We will discuss what committee the Commissioners would like to be on.

## **Announcements:**

- 1) Commissioner Mbonimpa Banabas announced there will be a community meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. Members of the community will be able to discuss things happening in our neighborhoods, have questions answered, and express their concerns. He is inviting the Human Rights Commission to attend and be available to answer any questions the community has.
- 2) Commissioner Rasheada Caldwell announced the last 2 final redistricting meetings for the city of Syracuse on April 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at Corcoran High School and on April 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at Nottingham High School. It's important that community members attend these so they can be a part of the discussion redistricting and learn about what it is and how they are affected by it. Redistricting affects everything from city funding to who will be your counselor, to city schools, to who will be county legislatures. It's important for people to take part of it.
- 3) Human Rights Commissioner Agnes McCray announced that Commissioner Al-Amin Mohammed will be holding his annual BBQ and another event for fathers and sons. Commissioner Agnes McCray announced she has an upcoming event honoring the men and work they do in our community. When she has more information on it she will contact us to advertise. It will be in June. There will be food, public officials, and public speakers.
- 4) Community member Liam O'Connor informed the Human Rights Commission of some Syracuse history in regards to Oakwood Cemetery. He said in the past the entrance to the cemetery was cut off by route 81 and currently it's not in the plans to be reopened. He said this is the access point to the cemetery from the south side. This could be an equity issue in the future and it's something to keep in mind for our I-81 public hearing.

**Meeting ended at 6:04 p.m.**

**\*\*Minutes submitted by Human Rights Specialist Johanna Sellers\*\***