



County of Onondaga
Office of Diversity and Inclusion

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

December 16, 2020 *VIRTUAL* Human Rights Commission Meeting

This *DRAFT* was approved in the HRC Meeting on _____

Human Rights Commissioners Present: Rabbi Dan Fellman, Suzette Melendez, Leo Sanchez, Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Tricia Wittkowski, Rosalie Young, John Rushing, Dave Pasinski, Barbara Johnson, Mia Wade (new) and Nodesia Hernandez (new)

Commissioners absent: Al-Amin Muhammed, Liban Mohammed, Mbonimpa Banabas

Community members present: Legislators Peggy Chase and Mary Kuhn and Mikiel Anderson

County staff present: Montanette Murphy and Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams

- 1) **Attendance**
- 2) **Moment of silence:** Commissioners honored former Human Rights Commissioner Mary Alice Smothers.
- 3) **Introduction and Welcome:** Introduced new Commissioners Mia Wade and Nodesia Hernandez.
- 4) **Minutes:** Approved August and October 2020 minutes. Motioned. Seconded.
- 5) **Recognition of visitors:** Mary Kuhn, Peggy Chase, Mikiel Anderson
- 6) **Update/Follow up to November Covid-19 hearing** – Commissioners expressed disappointment with public hearing turnout but grateful for the community leaders who attended. Mary K. and commissioners wondered whether the lack of internet access for some might have been the reason for low attendance. Both Kuhn and commissioners would like to see local libraries open again. Commissioners also discussed topics for 2021 related to Covid, including reaching out to the disability community.
- 7) **Administrator's Report:** Montanette discussed items needed for the 2020 HRC annual report; advocacy for one community member; and term updates. Montanette thanked outgoing commissioners Suzette Melendez, Rosalie Young and Dave Pasinski for their involvement and time with the HRC. Commissioners went on to discuss items for the 2020 annual report.
- 8) **Meeting was adjourned:** Meeting ended _____.