



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

May 18, 2022 **VIRTUAL** HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Human Rights Commissioners Present: Agnes McCray, Chris Gilkes, Rev. Roosevelt Baums, Mbonimpa Banabas, Leo Sanchez

Human Rights Commissioners Absent: Rasheada Caldwell, Al-amin Muhammad, John Rushing III, Barbara Johnson, Mia Wade, Lanessa Chaplin, Liban Mohammed, Nodesia Hernandez

Community members present: Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex, Liam O'Connor, Lael Pierce, Tai Shaw, Sora Iriye, 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 5:35 p.m.

Greetings and Welcome

Recognition of Commissioners

Recognition of Community Members (no public comment)

Approval of March and April minutes: No approval. No quorum.

Approval of April and May Agenda: No approval. No quorum.

Chair's Report: No Chair's Report.

Administrator's Report:

1. Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy and Human Rights Specialist/Onondaga County Johanna Sellers attend meetings with NYS and other Human Rights Commissions throughout the state to share what every commission is doing and their ideas on how to serve communities better. This gives a better understanding of what is working in other counties and creates opportunity for other commissioners to meet each other and get an idea of what everyone else is doing.

2. Summer season is coming up and it's the time to get out and attend events that are happening in the community. As our office gets invitations, we will pass that information along to commissioners so we can attend events.

Guest Speaker Tai Shaw -

- **Owner of CNY Uniforms Plus**
- **Community Organizer**
- **President of the Vietnamese Community**
- **Vice President for New American Forum**
- **Founder and Organizer for World Refugee Day**
- **Co CNY Blessing Box**
- **runs AAPI**

1. Guest Speaker Tai Shaw has invited the Human Rights Commission and community members to World Refugee Day July 9th, 2022. It is a huge event located at Schiller Park where in the past 1500 people have showed up, there were 7-10 performers, and 7 countries were serving food. Organizations who provide services for New Americans will be there. The purpose is for organizations in the community to meet and to share and exchange cultures. You can find more information on this event on their Facebook page under World Refugee Day CNY. This year the theme is diversity. There will be a flag raising event at City Hall and then a march to the Salt City Market between the hours of 10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m. This will be the first year Tai Shaw will be working with the Onondaga Nation at these events as well.
2. Guest Speaker Tai Shaw extended an invitation to everyone to attend the World Refugee zoom meeting tomorrow night (5/19/2022) at 6:00p.m. It's a chance to participate in World Refugee Day and bring ideas in. Tai Shaw will provide the zoom link if you send him an email. His email is cnyuniformsplus@yahoo.com.

Old business:

- **Public hearing topics**

We will continue to discuss public hearing topics, times, and dates at the Human Rights Commission meeting June 15, 2022.

- **Subcommittees**

We will continue to discuss subcommittee assignments at the Human Rights Commission meeting June 15, 2022. We will discuss what committee the Commissioners would like to be on.

Commissioner Leonardo Sanchez would like to be a part of the subcommittee for Healthcare. He stated if there is a need for more commissioners to be on Outreach, he will be happy to assist with that as well.

New business:

1. Commissioner Agnes McCray stated in order for there to be more progress with the meetings, the attendance of the commission has to improve. We have to discuss ways to connect because there is a lot of business that needs to get done. When every commissioner is present we can discuss what our roles should be and how we can assist the community because there is a lot happening right now. The Human Rights Commission should be the example on what to do in the community.

2. Commissioner Leonardo Sanchez asked if our office will be sending out notices about particular events coming up so the commission can have tables there to discuss the HRC and hand out pamphlets. Commissioner Leonardo Sanchez asked about us having a table at Pride this year like we have in the past. Chief Diversity Monica Williams said we will provide the materials the commission needs to have tables at events. It is up to the commission to decide which events they need assistance with. Once the commissioners discuss with one another the events they want to participate in, we will get them with what they need.

3. Commissioner Agnes McCray suggested that we notify people where the commissioners are and what events they will be attending because there are so many events going on at once. Commissioner Agnes McCray said she attended the woman's rally last weekend about the right to choose and the crowd was so big that it would have been nice for it to be known that commissioners were there from the HRC. She suggested we put this information up on our website. Chief Diversity Monica Williams confirmed

that our office can let organizers of these events know that commissioners from the HRC will be attending. Commissioner Agnes McCray also reminded us about Commissioner Al-amin Muhammad's events approaching on May 28th, 2022 and June 26th, 2022. Executive Director of Human Rights/Onondaga County Montanette Murphy suggested we set up a system like they have in the past where the commissioners are able to see who is attending which events.

Announcements:

Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams thanks Commissioner Agnes McCray for her statement and announces that 3 new commissioners will be joining the commission. It will go in front of the full legislature body next month. The new commissioner's names are Dr. Rev. H. Bernard Alex, Lauren Rosenstein, and Liam O'Connor. Sora Iriye will also be joining around the month of July.

Chief Diversity Officer Monica Williams believes that with the new addition of commissioners, and with what they represent in the community, will help with the progress of the commission and what should be done will be happen. There are significant things happening in our community, such as the Buffalo mass shooting that just occurred, and how Syracuse was considered as a target, that the commission needs to be discussing. Many emotions are running in our community and people are hurting so we have to really figure out what we will be doing as a commission to assist. It's important to understand that many of the commissioners are out in the community doing work on their own and have other meetings the same time as this one.

Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

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