



Raul Torres  
Executive Director

March 9, 2023,

Board Chambers

Minutes of February 9, 2023

Human Rights Commission

**MINUTES**

Chair

Curtis O. Porter

Vice Chair

Evelyn BruMar

Parliamentarian

Ramunda Young

Members

William Johnston

Dr. Erika Laos

Padreus D. Pratter

Aaron Muz

Benjamin Baldwin

Victor L. Ginoba, Jr.

**Present:** Commissioners, Benjamin Baldwin, Padreus Pratter, Aaron Muz, Victor Ginoba, and Curtis Porter, Chair, Director Raul Torres, Shelia Venning, and Tiffany Jones. There were no citizens present. Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm.

**Citizens Time**

- No public comment.

**Old Business**

- Minutes of February 9, 2023, were approved (Baldwin /Muz-second/Ginoba-abstained)

**New Business**

- Resolution to declare, affirm and recognize the month of February as Black History Month (Porter moved/Baldwin-second) Resloultion passed 5/0 - 4 absent.
- Resolution to declare, affirm and recognize the month of March as Women’s History Month (Muz moved/Pratter-second) Reslution passed 5/0 - 4 absent.

**Committee Reports**

**Unity in the Community**

- Unity in the Community met January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Dar Alnoor Islamic Community Center. The topic was centered around Peace.

*30 Years of Eliminating Discrimination and Establishing Equal Opportunity*

- Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> Unity in the Community has been invited to the General Assembly in Richmond to be recognized during the 11am legislative session.

#### **VAHR**

- Nothing to report; VAHR has been inactive for a several of years; the executive committee will need to determine its future.

#### **Racial Social Justice Commission (RSJC)**

- The Racial Social Justice Commission did not meet in January, but will be meeting Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the commission will be voting to send the revised report to the BOCS.

#### **PWC Jail Board**

- Jail Board met January 18<sup>th</sup>, at that meeting Sheriff Hill was re-elected as Chairman.
- Jail Board meets every other month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Next meeting will be held March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Student Leadership Council**

- The Student Leadership Council will meet on February 16<sup>th</sup>. This session will be a guided discussion facilitated by Dr. Richmond Hill. Students will be asked a series of questions to encourage them to reflect on their own experiences, explore alternative ways of thinking, connect to a topic, and improve their analytical skills.
- The upcoming March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, students will present before the Human Rights Commission.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> will be Cohort 7 Graduation.

#### **Director's Report**

- Director Torres incorporated feedback he received into the 2023 Work Plan. The updated work plan will be circulated to the staff and commission.
- The office will also circulate the 5 year Strategic Plan to the commission.
- Michelle Casciato, The Deputy County Executive, will be retiring on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Director Torres will provide orientation/ordinance training to the new commissioners soon.

### **COMMISSIONER'S TIME**

**Benjamin Baldwin** – Commended the staff on the success of the Universal Human Rights Day program; There was a motion presented at the BOCS meeting, to limit public speaking time. This motion failed.

**Aaron Muz** – Sorry he was unable to attend UHRD program, he is looking forward to next year event.

**Padresus Pratter** – A bill has been presented to the General Assembly to include Mental Health courses in Virginia schools.

**Victor Ginoba** – He is looking forward to doing great work in the community.

**Curtis Porter** – Welcomed Commissioner Ginoba; Prince William County employees will be hosting a Black History Month program on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the program is Black Resistance, and he will be one of the guest speakers at the program.

The African American festival will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Metz Middle School in Manassas. The festival will be in person this year.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.**

**ACTIONABLE ITEMS**

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	DUE DATE	STATUS

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
CHARGES AND OUTCOMES FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

	Case Closures	Cases Opened	Inventory
<b>Employment</b>	3	1	
<b>Housing</b>			
<b>Public Accommodation</b>			
<b>Education</b>			
<b>Credit</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12</b>